Our Past Is In Your Future.

Nestled among the oak, fir, and flowered valleys – half shrouded in the blue mist that is the namesake of the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains – is a culture whose history reaches back in an unbroken chain to a time when even the great pyramids of Egypt had yet to rise out of the African sands. Theirs is a culture whose legends of the creation were common knowledge among even their youngest tribe members, a thousand generations before the first Aztec calendar was chiseled into stone. They were a thoughtful people who established democracy and equality many centuries before Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence. A people so attuned to their natural environment and the spirits of their plants that their medicine men had a cure for every known ailment, millennia before the discovery of penicillin. This great people were the Cherokee – Ani-kituhwa-gi as they called themselves – and they reigned supreme over the southeastern mountains of the North American continent for over 11,000 years. A people so proud that even great armies could not force them from their homeland among the streams and forests of what is called today Western North Carolina.

Their was a history nearly lost. Just waiting for you to discover it. But unlike many great cultures of the ancient past, theirs has not been relegated to the dusty catacombs, inside some forgotten vault of some forsaken museum of antiquities. Quite the contrary, they are one of the few Native American tribes to still occupy their original homelands – the Qualla Boundary – and they invented a written language without being literate in any language beforehand. Such bravery, foresight, tenacity, and intelligence has resulted in the vibrant Cherokee culture of today. A culture that thrives amid the demands of modern existence while honoring, preserving, and, in some cases, resurrecting aeons-old traditions.

Today the 100-square-mile sovereign nation of Cherokee welcomes visitors, researchers, artisans, and heads of state equally to enjoy their legendary hospitality, living culture, rich tradition of art, and ancient history. Such warmth and openness is just an extension of the silver thread of harmonious coexistence that stretches back to the days of glaciers and the mastodon, and reaches forward into a future that can only be imagined – or perhaps anticipated – by their legends and prophecies.
To truly understand a people, you need to see the world through their eyes. At the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, you will be treated to such an experience. You’ll be amazed at how this glorious sweep of days gone can be so magnificent and engaging at the same time.

Enter and be transported through 11,000 years of history, including the most extensive collection of Cherokee artifacts in the world, state-of-the-art interactive displays, artist series and award-winning permanent and traveling exhibits. All of which will spark the imagination and inspire the soul.

You’ll begin by hearing ancient Cherokee myths in the Story Lodge, like how the water beetle Dayunisi brought up mud from under water to form the earth and how the great buzzard shaped the Great Smoky Mountains with his wings. As you travel chronologically, you’ll learn how the ancestors of today’s Cherokees prevailed against climates much harsher than ours and about game animals that outweighed their spear-throwing hunters by 80 to one. You’ll hear about the origins of Cherokee medicine and the sacred festivals still observed today.

The Museum of the Cherokee Indian is definitely a museum with a difference. In this Museum, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians present themselves and their history to you from a firsthand point of view. Other Experiences Offered by the Museum:

**The Warriors of AniKituhwa**

See this dance group, designated official Cherokee cultural ambassadors, re-create the thrilling War Dance and Eagle Tail Dance described by Lt. Henry Timberlake in 1762. For schedule information, visit us at cherokeemuseum.org.

**Cherokee Voices Festival June 13**

The best of living history demonstrations, traditional dance, including the Warriors of AniKituhwa, flute music, storytelling, gospel music in English and Cherokee. This event is free to the public and is sponsored by the North Carolina Arts Council.

**Southeastern Tribes Cultural Arts Celebration September 18-19**

A celebration of the unique cultures, arts, ceremonies, dance, regalia, and language of many Civilized Tribes, including Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Seminole and Choctaw tribes that attended in 2008.

**Cherokee History and Culture Institute for Educators July 13-18**

Spend six intensive days learning about Cherokee archaeology, anthropology, history, folklore, and geography. Level II Seminar August 3-8.

**Cherokee Language Immersion Course July 20-31**

Speak the basics in two weeks! Taught by Bo Taylor, museum archivist, and Cherokee elders.

**Hands-On Opportunities**

The Museum sponsors a wide range of open-to-the-public events, programs, and classes (please visit cherokeemuseum.org or call 828.497.3481 for more information, schedules, and to arrange your participation).

**Groups: Cherokee Experience**

In addition to touring the museum, your group can delve more deeply into Cherokee culture through the “Cherokee Experience.” Customize your experience to include storytelling, Cherokee history and culture, music and dance, nature walks, Hands-On crafts workshops, lectures by scholars, Cherokee Heritage Trails tours, traditional Cherokee Indian dinner and more.

**Thirteen Moons: Removal Translation**

“Thirteen Moons: Removal,” Charles Frazier’s (bestselling author of “Cold Mountain”) novel about the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, is the first work of literature in the English language to be translated into the Cherokee dialect in 175 years. The book was translated by Myrtle Driver Johnson, the only living member of the Beloved Women of Cherokee – the highest honor a Cherokee woman can receive. An audio book is now available online.
The Village you’re about to enter is more than a place. It is also a time: 1759. The best way to get there is to untether yourself from the world you know. Sit under the trees, breathe the pure mountain air. The faint tang of wood smoke wafts by on the breeze. Follow it. Embrace it at your own pace.

As you step into the Oconaluftee Indian Village, you’re transported back to witness the challenges of Cherokee life at a time of rapid cultural change. The Village reopens on May 1 to host new live reenactments, “Hands-On Cherokee” arts and crafts classes, self-guided audio tours, villager clothing rentals for children, and evening storytelling performances.

All new season presentations at the Village will include three new reenactments depicting the historical events between the Cherokee and their neighbors that transpired in 1759, which ultimately led to the arrival of British delegate Henry Timberlake. Village events will include reenactments of Cherokee war council meetings, conflicts with military expeditions, and demonstrations of period arts and crafts. Audiences will have a chance to participate in council meetings and diplomacy decisions. Visitors will thrill to the sights and sounds of traditional Cherokee dancing in the Village square grounds.

This year for the first time, visitors will be able to take self-guided tours to explore the authentic working Village with villagers outfitted in authentic 1750s clothing. Visitors can interact with villagers as they hull canoes, make pottery, weave baskets, and participate in their daily activities.

Managing Burnout
You’ll see Cherokee patience in action at the next source of wood smoke. In a clearing, a man creates a huge canoe by the traditional Cherokee method: burning away the core of the log.

Elsewhere in the Village, another key Cherokee craft – “knapping” flint arrowheads and blades – can take minutes, but requires great skill and patience to master.

The Cherokee weapon you see demonstrated in the Village, the blowgun, is less fearsome. Though no longer used to hunt game in Cherokee, the annual Cherokee blowgun championship is still a spirited contest.

In fact, spirit abounds everywhere in the Village. In the seven-sided Council House, you gather where the sacred fire burns and the seven clans convene to discuss and vote on Village matters. On the square grounds, authentic Cherokee drumming, song, and traditional dance performances will put you under their spell. In the botanical gardens, your senses will revel in the textures and aromas from the herb garden and the 16,000+ native and cultivated plants. The word “awesome” keeps coming to mind.

2009 Season Programs
• Audio cell phone tours and guided tours will also be available.

Guided tours are offered daily on the hour between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., except noon. Guided tours cost $20 per adult, $12 children 6–12, 5 and under free.

• “Time of War” is a live reenactment that depicts a conflict between the Cherokee and encroaching militant settlers. Included with the price of admission, the 30-minute audience interactive mini-drama is performed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. Performances run June 16 through August 29.

• “Hands-On Cherokee” pottery experiential learning classes are offered on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m., basketry classes are also offered on Tuesday and Thursday at 10 a.m.; cost is $35 per person and participants must be thirteen years of age or older (ticket price includes self-guided tour All Day Pass). Children will enjoy the all new “Pottery for Kids.” The class is for children age twelve and under and teaches basic pinch-pottery techniques. Kids can make their own one-of-a-kind piece of Cherokee art to take home. Kids classes are offered Monday through Saturday at 2 p.m.; cost $5. All classes begin for the season on June 1.

• Children can rent traditional Cherokee attire for $15 per day plus deposit, available 7 days a week. Jewelry, pretend weaponry, and other accessories are available to purchase in the gift shop.

• “Myths and Legends” storytelling will be offered Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Adult tickets $10, children twelve and under $5. Performances begin June 11. Season passes now available online.

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Oconaluftee INDIAN VILLAGE
Season: May 1–October 24, 2009; 7 days/wk, Hours: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Admission: Adults 13+, $15; Children 6–12, $6; 5 and under free
Group Rates Available
Location: Drama Road
Phone: 866.554.4557 | 828.497.2111
800.438.1601 | c h e r o k e e - n c . c o m
The moon rises over the Mountainside Theatre in Cherokee. The murmers throughout the packed house start to bush. You can feel an ever so slight chill run up your spine.

But it isn’t from the mountain winds shifting their direction in anticipation of the coming dusk, it is from your anticipation of the coming drama. As the story unfolds, your everyday world disappears, and the world of the Cherokee engulfs you. You are experiencing “Unto These Hills” – a vital drama telling the Cherokee story. And one of the longest running outdoor dramas in the U.S.

An Epic Success

While this outdoor drama in Cherokee is marking its 60th season, today’s “Unto These Hills” is guided by a new vision, a more culturally authentic, historically accurate, and Cherokee-centered experience. Such sweeping change transforms this drama – from history-book tales of what happened to the Cherokees to Oklahoma on the infamous Trail of Tears.

In 1951, the Cherokee Historical Association sent an expedition of tribal leaders from the Eastern Band to retrace the Trail of Tears. When the Cherokees were driven west on the Trail of Tears, their direction in anticipation of the coming dusk, it is from your anticipation of the coming drama. As the story unfolds, your everyday world disappears, and the world of the Cherokee engulfs you. You are experiencing “Unto These Hills” – a vital drama telling the Cherokee story. And one of the longest running outdoor dramas in the U.S.

One of the biggest changes is that the majority of the cast are of Cherokee descent. Not actors and dancers by trade, but skilled performers who perfect their art through regular, rigorous training with a renowned group out of New York. The play centers on the arrival of Europeans and the forced exile of the Cherokees to Oklahoma on the infamous Trail of Tears in 1838–1839.

Our Eternal Flame

When the Cherokees were driven west on the Trail of Tears, the caretaker of the Sacred Fire, an eternal flame, went with his people into exile. This flame was then maintained in Oklahoma for succeeding generations.

In 1951, the Cherokee Historical Association sent an expedition of tribal leaders from the Eastern Band to retrace the Trail of Tears. In Oklahoma, these leaders lit a charcoal-filled bucket with live coals from the Sacred Fire and brought it all the way back to Cherokee.

On the 1951 opening night of “Unto These Hills,” a torch lit from these coals transferred the Sacred Fire to light a new Cherokee Eternal Flame, located just offstage. This flame still burns today, proclaiming the unquenchable Cherokee spirit to all who see its light.

60th Makes It Even Better

Mountainside Theatre experienced renovations and improvements that will make this season especially memorable. New amenities include VIP seating, a variety of concessions, and a golf cart shuttle service. Make sure to inquire about our new VIP experience and Chief’s Box Seats for something extra special.

The Cherokee Little Theater – July 1-August 1

The myths and legends of the Cherokee are much more than a children’s fairy tale. Be immersed in the stories and legends of the Cherokee passed down from generation to generation. The Cherokee Little Theater gives new life to the legends of old and children of all ages can truly enjoy being immersed in traditional stories and dance of the Cherokee. From the story of creation to why the opossum's tail is bare to the traditional ant dance and children of all ages can truly enjoy being immersed in traditional stories and dance of the Cherokee. From the story of creation to why the opossum’s tail is bare to the traditional ant dance, the Cherokee Little Theater is an experience like no other. Show starts July 1, 2009-August 1, 2009.

Cultural & Event Value Package:

Oconaluftee Indian Village, “Unto These Hills” Outdoor Drama, the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Qualla Arts & Crafts Performance and Gallery Tour, event of your choice, and hotel discount. Adult – General Admission

Cherokee Chief’s Pass: Oconaluftee Indian Village, “Unto These Hills” Outdoor Drama, and the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. Adult – General Admission

Cherokee Villager’s Pass: Oconaluftee Indian Village and “Unto These Hills” Outdoor Drama. Adult – General Admission

Cherokee Storyteller Pass: “Unto These Hills” Outdoor Drama and the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. Adult – General Admission

Cherokee Scout’s Pass: Oconaluftee Indian Village and the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. Adult – General Admission
When you spend time in Cherokee and immerse yourself in a world so distinct from your own, you’ll want to bring back more than memories and pictures.

Bring home authentic Cherokee handicrafts. As stunning additions to your home and one-of-a-kind gifts, these works capture the spirit of the Cherokee people and land. What’s more, the craftworks that await you in Cherokee now are the equal of any in history. They are not only authentic; they are authentically good.

Preserving a Treasure

For this, great thanks go to Qualla Arts & Crafts Mutual, Inc., the nation’s oldest and foremost Native American cooperative. With the establishment of neighboring Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1934 and the postwar growth of highways and family travel, the outside world came to Cherokee as never before. At this point, modern distractions and mass-produced goods might have swept away tribal traditions. Instead, visionary Cherokee craftspeople and leaders saw that Cherokee crafts – if preserved and promoted – could strengthen tribal values and provide livelihoods while offering unique beauty to the wider world.

Since 1946, Qualla has truly realized this vision. You can see it throughout Qualla’s beautifully redesigned artists’ gallery store, as you feel the warmth and brilliance of the basketry, pottery, weaving, carving, beadwork, sculpture, toys, musical instruments, and other works of art that surround you. These pieces look and feel different than mall and big-box merchandise because they are different. Here, every craftwork you see is handmade by nameable, knowledgeable individuals who blend timeless traditions with individual expression. No two things are alike, yet all form a harmonious whole.

Rub Shoulders with the Masters

The member artists of Qualla have learned from their families and community, calling on materials and traditions passed down for many generations. You’ll be treated to an amazing palette of artistry, including international, national, and locally acclaimed works representing a variety of practices — many that go back eleven thousand years. The arts represented include pottery, basket weaving, beadworking, silver-smithing, stone carving, wood carving, and visual arts.

These master crafters make up a unique collection of elder artisans as well as contemporary masters following in the footsteps of the past. Without question, they are among the very best practitioners — and preservers — of Cherokee culture on the planet. They are potters, painters, master wood carvers, basketweavers, and jewelry artisans. Many of their works grace museums across the country, including the Smithsonian and abroad. Some are willing to travel, and often do, to share their knowledge and artistry with audiences outside the reservation.

You’re invited to rub shoulders with them daily throughout the year. Maybe you’d even like to schedule a custom experience for your group. However you decide to weave their long-standing practices and new interpretations of ancient arts into your visit, there is little doubt the spirit of their work will speak to your own.

Qualla Arts & Crafts also holds two yearly Open-Air Indian Art Markets (Sept. 5 and Oct. 17, 2009) where you can witness Cherokee artisans practicing centuries-old art techniques. Then take a piece of this fine art with you to grace your home. Why not? Many of the pieces produced by Qualla artists grace museums worldwide!

If you miss Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, Inc., on your next visit, we’re online now at quallaartsandcrafts.com. Have your favorite collectible delivered right to your door.
2009 Cherokee Special Events

Celebration, ceremony, and plain old fun are integral parts of the Cherokee culture. Hospitality is, too. Which means that the Special Events in Cherokee aren’t truly complete until you’ve had the chance to share them. And you have a wealth of choices throughout the year.

**Cruise the Smokies - Cherokee Rod Runs**
May 15–17 & Oct. 30–Nov. 1
Cherokee Indian Fair Grounds

There’s no better combination than the scenery and roads of the world’s oldest mountains and the sight and sound of vintage, pre-1972 vehicles. Come and let these vintage wheels take you on a ride you will never forget.

**Tailgate Jamboree**
May 22–23 Cherokee Indian Fair Grounds - “Extreme Off-Road Exhibition” Mud trucks, monster trucks, ATV’s, hot rods, low riders, and Grave Digger - like you’ve never seen before! Come grab yourself a big day of fun!

**Southeastern Tribes Cultural Arts Celebration**
September 18–19 Cherokee Indian Fair Grounds

This 4th annual event brings together artists and craftsmen representing the Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Choctaw tribes to present traditional tribal dance, storytelling performances, craft demonstrations, primitive skills encampment, contests, games, and traditional foods. At this special sort of “extended family reunion,” the spirit of friendship runs deep.

**Gospel Jubilee Weekend**
June 12–14 Cherokee Indian Fair Grounds

Local and international Christian groups will converge to share the “Good News” through song at this first Cherokee Gospel Jubilee. Mark it down – a weekend of Christian contemporary music sure to please the young and young at heart. Hear the Crabb Family Revival, Jars of Clay, and other Southern Gospel greats, including local groups. The Sunday service at heart. Hear the Crabb Family Revival, Jars of Clay, and other Southern Gospel greats, including local groups. The Sunday service will feature U.S. Congressman Heath Shuler as the guest inspirational speaker and more gospel music favorites. Crafts, vendors, food awaits – you have a wealth of choices throughout the year.

**97th Annual Cherokee Indian Fair**
October 6–10 Cherokee Indian Fair Grounds - This nearly century-old October celebration includes artwork, crafts, agricultural items, and traditional food items made by Cherokee artisans. Vendors from throughout the region participate in craft sales, and top entertainment complements the visual feast.

**ATHS Big Rigs Show**
October 16–18 Cherokee Indian Fair Grounds

Enjoy a gorgeously restored and customized old and antique trucks. You’ll see everything from classic pickups to complete big rigs, with buffed paint, pinstripes, and chrome by the acre. Truckloads of good food and music round out the fun!

Indian Georges. Inimitable. Irresistible. Our special brand of fireworks happen as a three-day explosion of authentic Indian drumming and dancing.

**5th Annual Festival of Native People & Cherokee Indian Art Market**
July 17–18 Cherokee Indian Fair Grounds

This year our annual gathering of tribes from throughout the Americas expands into a showcase of native dance, art, and culture. The Festival of Native Peoples is an exposition of non-competitive dance, storytelling, and song performances expressing the collected history, culture, tradition, and wisdom of the indigenous peoples of the Americas. And here in one place is the chance to admire and bring home the authentic masterworks of many cultures.

**Cherokee Rod Runs**
May 15–17 & Oct. 30–Nov. 1
Cherokee Indian Fair Grounds

A nearly century-old October celebration includes artwork, crafts, agricultural items, and traditional food items made by Cherokee artisans. Vendors from throughout the region participate in craft sales, and top entertainment complements the visual feast.

**Abduction of the Natchez**
August 4–7
Festival of Native Peoples

This 4th annual event brings together artists and craftsmen representing the Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Seminole, and Choctaw tribes to present traditional tribal dance, storytelling performances, craft demonstrations, primitive skills encampment, contests, games, and traditional foods. At this special sort of “extended family reunion,” the spirit of friendship runs deep.

**Ramp It Up**
March 28
KOA Fishing Tournament

**Red Clay Reunion**
April 16–18
Surfest Motorcycle Rally

**Children’s Mixed Bear**
May 14–15
Cherokee Arts & Crafts Festival

**Bear on the Little Tennessee**
May 22–23
Grand Festival - June 5–7

**Bear on the Little Tennessee**
May 22–23

**Spring Cherokee Rod Run**
May 22–23

**Tailgate Jamboree**
May 22–23

**Cherokee Gospel Jubilee**
June 12–14

**Cherokee Oktoberfest**
October 17–19
Festival of Native Peoples & Cherokee Indian Art Market - July 17–18

**Talking Trees Chili Cook-off Derby**
August 1

**Volkswagen Show**
August 14–16

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park 75th Anniversary Event**
June 15

**Summerfestival Carnival**
June 16–20

**35th Annual NC State Bluegrass Festival**
June 18–20

**2nd Annual Housing Fair**
June 26–27

**Qualla Open-Air Indian Art Market**
September 5

**Cherokee Survival Motorcycle Rally**
September 11–13

**Southeastern Tribes Cultural Arts Celebration**
September 18–19

**Cherokee Indian Fair**
October 6–10

**Celebration – September 18-19**

**Qualla Open-Air Indian Art Market**
October 17

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