

WELCOME TO TAHLEQUAH

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Facebook:



Instagram:



A genuine destination that boasts a historical, authentic, and adventurous culture enjoyed by all who venture through. Tahlequah is more than just one attraction, from the Cherokee museums to Northeastern State University, Lake Tenkiller to the Illinois River, there is an abundance of sights to see and experiences to be made.

Nestled in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains, Tahlequah is known for its deep-rooted Cherokee culture, respect for higher education and its majestic hills and bodies of water.

SINCE **1839**

The Cherokee people established their lives in Tahlequah, as a community, before statehood took place.

It is truly a town of diversity with unique dining, shopping, river adventures, lake sports, and much more. The broad spectrum of activities has earned Tahlequah the privilege of hosting a wide array of festivals and events.



UNEXPECTEDLY OKLAHOMA!



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TOURISM SERVICES



OPEN
ALL
YEAR

WE PROVIDE

- ✓ TRAVEL GUIDES
- ✓ SELF-GUIDED TOURS
- ✓ HISTORICAL INFORMATION
- ✓ HELP WITH RESERVATIONS
- ✓ TRIP PLANNING ADVICE
- ✓ CONTACT INFORMATION
- ✓ EVENT PLANNING SERVICES
- ✓ EVENT AND FESTIVAL INFORMATION

GREEN COUNTRY

Tahlequah is the unique destination of Cherokee culture, history, art, and adventure. Established as the Cherokee capitol in 1839, the town soon became a community that planned for the future through developing prosperous businesses, a commitment to higher education, and a desire to grow in Indian Territory.

TRADITION

Tahlequah is brimming with Native American culture. The Cherokee Nation and United Keetowah Band of the Cherokee Indians are the two federally recognized tribes with headquarters in Cherokee County. Check out the culture page for a list of all the museums in the area. Pictured is the Cherokee National History Museum.

CUISINE

Linney Breaux's Cajun Grill is home to Louisiana descendant Chef Linney who serves quality interpretations of classic cajun dishes.

The restaurant offers the choice to observe passers-byers in the glass-encased dining area, or if you get lucky enough, you might be able to take a peek into the kitchen and watch as Chef Linney *laissez les bon temps roulez!*



ATTRACTIONS

ON THE WATER

Cherokee County offers an abundance of freshwater activities during the summer. With over 30 campgrounds available for RV and primitive camping and two great places to jump-in, adventure-seekers can spend the perfect night in the foothills of the great Ozark Mountains.



FLOAT THE ILLINOIS RIVER

Four miles east of Tahlequah, along Highway 10 North, lies the Illinois River. Visitors come from all over to enjoy the scenery, hiking, and floating experiences offered by the river and its surrounding shores and hills.

Outfitters along the river provide visitors the chance to float by way of tube, raft, canoe, or kayak. Most rentals include a shuttle service, paddles, and life jackets.

OR BOAT LAKE TENKILLER

Located just 15 miles from the heart of Tahlequah, Lake Tenkiller spans nearly 13,000 acres. Visitors have the opportunity to sail, scuba dive, water ski, wakeboard, inner-tube, fish, cruise or just relax. It's the perfect location for a weekend of fun.



Along the shores of Lake Tenkiller, visitors will find full-service marinas to fulfill their every need. For those wishing to enjoy all Lake Tenkiller has to offer, there are resorts, cabins and bed and breakfasts around the lake.

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS



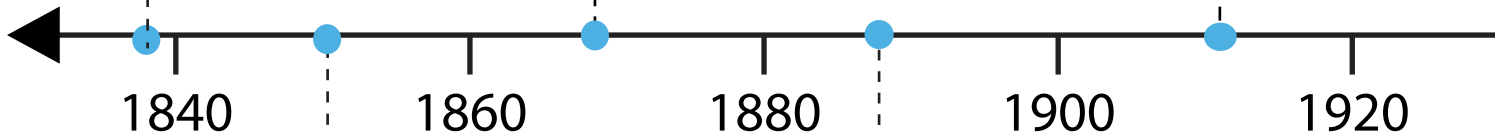
1839 - Tahlequah is established as the Cherokee Nation Capitol

After the forced removal, known as the Trail of Tears and settling in Tahlequah, the Cherokees formed their own constitution as a Declaration of Independence from the U.S. government. The constitution declared tribal laws and modeled the U.S. three branches of government.



1869 - Cherokee Nation Capitol Built

Standing in the courthouse square, this two-story neoclassical style brick building originally housed the three branches of Cherokee Nation government. After statehood in 1907, it was converted to the Cherokee County Courthouse. Reopened in 2019, it is now the interactive Cherokee National History Museum.



1851 - Cherokee Male and Female Seminaries open

The Female Seminary was located in Park Hill and served as the first institution of higher learning for women west of the Mississippi. The Male Seminary was identical to the Female Seminary but located southwest of Tahlequah. Prestigious educators



recruited from New England taught courses in Greek, Latin, chemistry, astrology, economics, philosophy

1886 - First telephone system built in Indian territory

Making a giant step toward the future, a group of Cherokees founded and built a 35-mile long-distance commercial telephone line - the first of its kind in the state. It connected the Cherokee Nation capitol with the headquarters of the Five



Civilized Tribes in Muskogee. It is said to have paid for itself in 6 months.



1912 - Ozark and Cherokee Central Railway arrived

The train depot was at West Choctaw St. and Lee Ave. and connected Tahlequah to Fayetteville, Arkansas - about an hour's distance. It was a means of transportation for citizens and agricultural goods.

1985 - Wilma Mankiller becomes first female tribal chief

Wilma Mankiller became the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation and made her mark on history by advocating for Native American and women's rights. As of 2022, she is now featured on the third coin of the American Womens Quarters™ Program from the U.S. Mint.

1940

1960

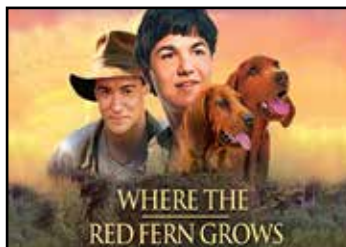
1980

2000

2020

1974 - Where the Red Fern Grows Film Debut

Filmed in Tahlequah and nearby areas, this film tells the story of a young boy, Billy, and his two red-bone hound hunting dogs, Old Dan and Little Ann. Now an annually celebrated festival of the same name occurs every April in the streets of downtown Tahlequah. Please see page 17 for more information.



2021 - W.W. Hastings becomes largest tribal outpatient center

Cherokee Nation added on to the original tribal hospital with a state-of-the-art, \$400 million, 469,000 square foot health care facility that sees nearly 500,000 patients per year.



TAHLEQUAH BY THE NUMBERS

POPULATION

17,164

COUNTY

CHEROKEE

AREA CODE

918

LOCAL AIRPORTS

**TAHLEQUAH &
COOKSON**

AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL

50 INCHES

AVERAGE SUMMER TEMPERATURE

JUNE

HIGH 86 LOW 65

AVERAGE WINTER TEMPERATURE

DECEMBER

HIGH 51 LOW 30

AVERAGE DAYS OF SUNSHINE

225 DAYS

DESCRIPTION OF TERRAIN

**FOOTHILLS OF OZARK
MOUNTAIN RANGE**

ELEVATION

797 FEET

FROST DATES

FIRST

OCTOBER 21

Tulsa, OK

1 HOUR

Fayetteville, AR

1 HOUR
20 MINUTES

Oklahoma City, OK

2 HOURS
45 MINUTES

Little Rock, AR

3 HOURS
30 MINUTES

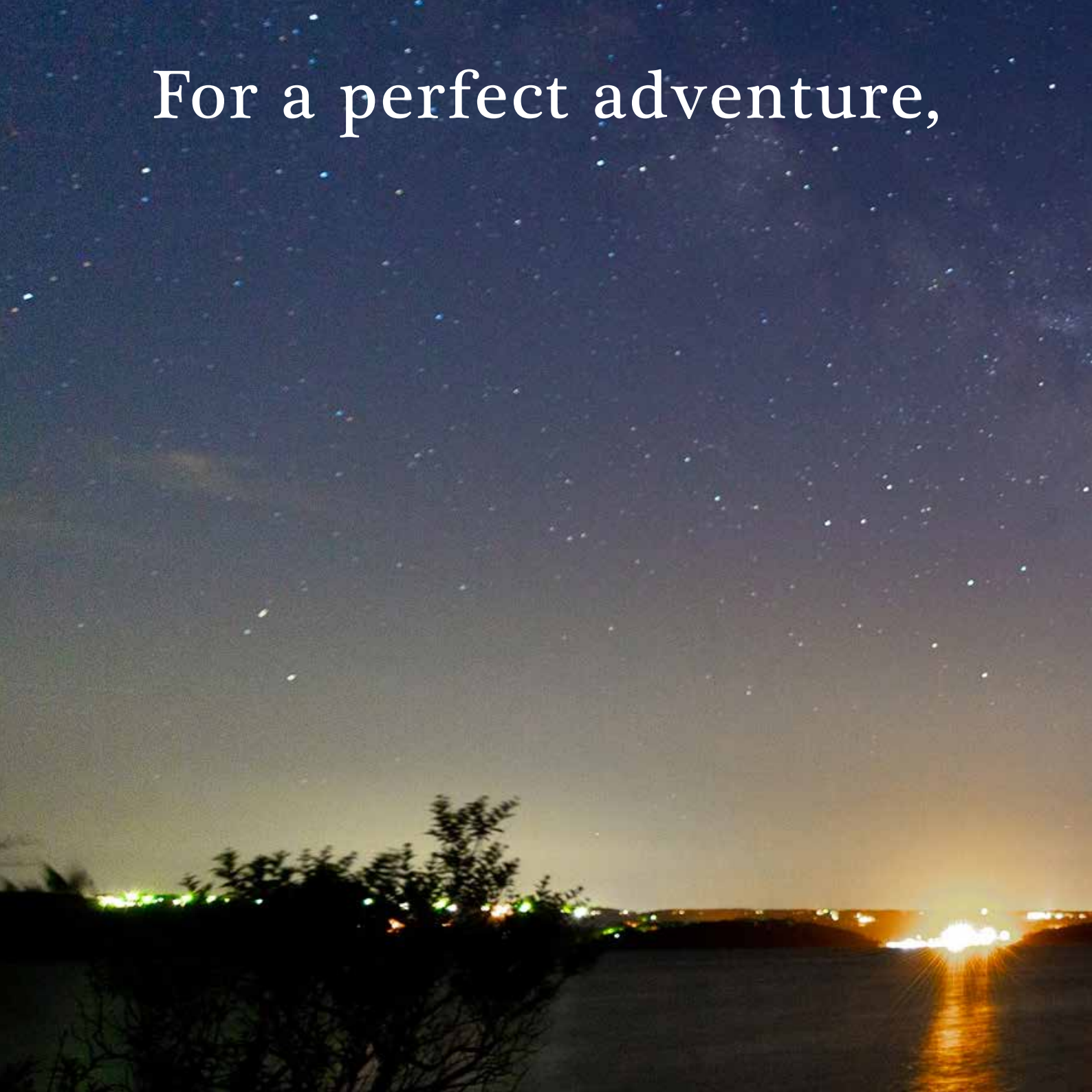
Wichita, KS

3 HOURS
45 MINUTES

Dallas, TX

4 HOURS
45 MINUTES

For a perfect adventure,



you need a good night's rest.



TAHLEQUAH



Located in the lobby of the Tru by Hilton.

WHERE TO STAY

TRU BY HILTON

3457 Cherokee Springs Rd.
(918) 871-4791

DAYS INN & SUITES

701 Holiday Dr.
(918) 456-7800

CHEROKEE INN

501 E. Downing St.
(918) 456-3621

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

2142 Mahaney Ave.
(918) 506-4545

RODEWAY INN

3296 S. Muskogee Ave.
(918) 458-1818

OAK PARK MOTEL

706 E. Downing St.
(918) 456-2571

BEST WESTERN

101 Reasor St.
(918) 431-0600

OAK HILL INN

2600 Muskogee Ave.
(918) 458-1200

The city of Tahlequah also offers Airbnb rentals. Please scan the QR code with a phone for more information.





HISTORIC





1973

DOWNTOWN



PRESENT DAY

LOCAL FESTIVALS



Crawfish Festival

Presented by Linney Breaux's restaurant and Kroner & Baer Pub, this two-day event hosts local music, speciality cocktails, Louisiana beer, Gulf shrimp, festival merchandise and a specialty Cajun dessert.



Red Fern Festival

Wilson Rawl's heart-touching novel and movie "Where the Red Fern Grows" was set in the Tahlequah area. The festival pays tribute with hound dog field trials, over 7 blocks of vendors, live music and much more. This festival truly gives a taste of true Tahlequah culture.



IN TAHLEQUAH



OKsWAGEN Festival

Tahlequah and Volkswagen seemingly go hand-in-hand and are both loved by locals and tourists. What started out as a quiet and intimate get together has grown into a full blown festival. Join us in downtown Tahlequah for a weekend in mid-October!



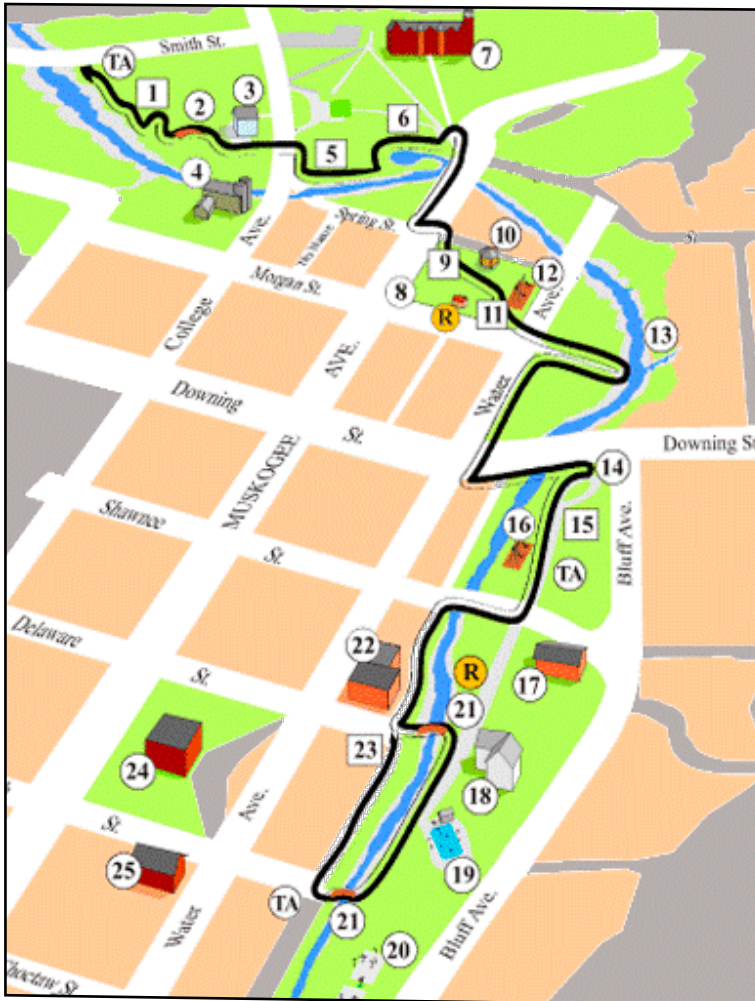
Cherokee National Holiday

The signing of the 1839 Cherokee Nation Constitution solidified the tribe's sovereignty and provided a framework for governance. This is an annual celebration of the shared history and heritage of Cherokee people. It hosts art shows, pow wows, a fireworks show, and more.



TAHLEQUAH HISTORY TRAIL

Walk, bike, or enjoy playing disc golf along our 10-foot wide trail while learning about Tahlequah through the historical markers along the route. Geared with lighting and phone stations throughout, the trail extends to three different city parks.



1. Cherokee Settlement History Sign
2. Wooden Pedestrian Bridge
3. Rosamund House
4. Franklin Castle
5. Franklin Castle History Sign
6. Seminary Hall History Sign
7. Seminary Hall
8. Norris Park
9. History Sign of Tahlequah Part I
10. Gazebo
11. History Sign of Tahlequah Part II
12. Norris Park Playground
13. Bailey Falls
14. Sequoyah Park
15. Sequoyah History Sign
16. Sequoyah Park Playground
17. WPA American Legion
18. Brookside House
19. Skate Park
20. Skate Park
21. Truss Bridges
22. WPA Armory Building
23. Capitol Square History Sign
24. Capitol Square
25. Supreme Court Building



BEGINNING OF TRAIL



TOWN BRANCH CREEK



SEQUOYAH PARK



FRANKLIN CASTLE

PUBLIC ART

"BELOW THE SURFACE"

Located at the corner of Morgan Street and Muskogee Avenue
Created by local artist Lance Hunter



GALLERIES



NSU ART GALLERY

HOURS: TUESDAY - FRIDAY 3 - 7 P.M.

SATURDAY 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.

232 N. MUSKOGEE AVE.

TAHLEQUAH CREATES

HOURS: TUESDAY - SATURDAY

11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

215 N. MUSKOGEE AVE.



SPIDER GALLERY

HOURS: TUESDAY - FRIDAY 3 - 5:30 P.M.

SATURDAY 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

215 S. MUSKOGEE AVE.

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Northeastern State University's history begins long before Oklahoma's first governor officially created Northeastern State Normal School. Instead, it originates with a deep understanding of the importance of education shared by the Cherokees who settled this land long ago.

In 1851, the Cherokees ignited the lamp of learning in the wilderness. The light still burns brightly and this has been a gathering place where dreams find direction.

The roots of NSU run deepest through the bricks and mortar of Seminary Hall (see picture below). Built to ensure that the fire that destroyed its predecessor would not prevent students from achieving their dreams of higher education, the building was dedicated on May 7, 1889.

Today Seminary Hall houses a combination of offices, classrooms and a museum on the third floor.





Rising 11 feet from the ground on a marble base that measures six feet in diameter, the Sequoyah statue stands as the focal point to the Centennial Plaza. Sequoyah, also known as George Guess, was the noted 19th century Cherokee diplomat and educator who created the Cherokee syllabary.



NSU is home to two murals painted by the Kiowa Five, pioneers in modern Native American Art. One, on the wall opposite the entrance of Seminary Hall, depicts Plains Indian warriors in a buffalo hunt, while the other above the main staircase features four American Indian war dancers around five drummers.



Located on Northeastern State University's campus, this statue captures all branches of the U.S. Military and the time periods stipulated. All six bronze figures are arranged on a representation of the world, signifying the United States' widespread role and history over the years.





BAILEY

CHEROKEE NATION CAPITOL



CULTURAL MUSEUMS

Cherokee National History Museum

Experience Cherokee culture and history through this unforgettable destination. Through Smithsonian-level artifacts and interactive exhibits, visitors will find an extraordinary account of Cherokee life before European contact, the Trail of Tears, Civil War and modern-day Cherokee Nation.

101 S. Muskogee Ave.
Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Cherokee National Supreme Court Museum

The Cherokee National Supreme Court Museum is the oldest government building still standing in Oklahoma. Discover the history of Cherokee Nation's judicial system, newspapers and language at the Cherokee National Supreme Court Museum.

122 E. Keetowah St.
Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.





Cherokee National Prison Museum

Experience 19th century Indian Territory crime and punishment through the interactive displays and artifacts at the Cherokee National Prison Museum.

124 E. Choctaw St.

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

John Ross Museum

Explore the life of the legendary Principal Chief John Ross as he led the Cherokee Nation through some of its most trying and prosperous times at the John Ross Museum.

22366 S. 530 Rd.

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Hunter's Home

Hunter's Home is the only remaining pre-Civil War plantation home in Oklahoma. A kitchen garden, field crops, orchards, animals, and a mercantile store give visitors a window back in time to life on an antebellum plantation.

19479 E. Murrell Home Rd.

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



CHEROKEE NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Annually celebrated during Labor Day Weekend, there is no prouder time of year for Cherokee Nation. Visit Tahlequah and experience the tribe's rich culture and heritage. The holiday features an intertribal pow wow, traditional arts and crafts, stickball tournament, fishing competition and more. Thousands of visitors come from all over the world for this fun celebration.





The signing of the 1839 Cherokee Nation Constitution solidified the tribe's sovereignty and provided a framework for governance. This is an annual celebration of the shared American history and heritage of Cherokee people. It hosts art shows, pow wows, a firework show, and more.

For more information, please visit www.thecherokeeholiday.com.

DON'T MISS OUT ON...

Cherokee Square Monuments

Several monuments of interest have been erected on Cherokee Square surrounding the Capitol Building. Some of the monuments include:

- John Ross, Chief of the Cherokee Nation during the Trail of Tears and thereafter.
- Oklahoma's first legal newspaper, The Cherokee Advocate, was established in 1844 in a building approximately 100' from the location of the marker.
- Statue of Liberty Replica



Kawi Cafe

Located in downtown Tahlequah, the word Kawi means coffee in the Cherokee language and they take Kawi very seriously. Known for its gourmet coffee, visitors can also enjoy an authentic infused breakfast and lunch menu. It is located in the downtown Cort Mall.

Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
215 Muskogee Ave.



Cultural Pathways

The north entrance of the newly constructed pathway in downtown Tahlequah connects the Cherokee National Historical museum to other Cherokee museums and sites. The pathway was designed and planned out of necessity to create a safe passageway for visitors.



Cherokee National Research Center

The Cherokee National Research Center is a state-of-the-art facility that is home to a collection of thousands of Cherokee artifacts and archives formerly housed at the Cherokee Heritage Center.

In addition to protecting and preserving Cherokee assets, the center provides access to archival materials, a research library, and genealogical services to assist in family history research.

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
3377 Cherokee Springs Rd.







EXPLORE
CHEROKEE
COUNTY



EXPLORE

There is no heaven on Earth, but there sure are pieces of it in Cherokee County. Let nature refresh your mind among the fresh forests of the Ozark Mountains. Cherokee Landing State Park and Sequoyah State Park both offer direct access to water, camping, hiking and more.

Hiking

Home to one of the best views in Oklahoma, Sparrow Hawk trail lies just 10 minutes from downtown and sports a sweeping view that overlooks the Illinois River. This moderate 3.8-mile trail with several adjoining paths is the ideal place for hiking, bird watching or simply basking in the views. Bald Eagles are often spotted near the river.



Camping

Camp next to the beautiful Illinois River and fall asleep to the gentle sounds of flowing water or camp along one of our beautiful lakes. The river offers plenty of spaces to camp with US Army Corps of Engineers campgrounds, public access areas and float outfitters. Cherokee Landing and Sequoyah State Park offer visitors activities from hiking to scuba diving.



THE OUTDOORS

Boating

The Tahlequah area is a boater's paradise with direct access to over 350 miles of shoreline at both Tenkiller Ferry Lake and Fort Gibson Lake. Both lakes are within a thirty-minute drive from downtown Tahlequah and sport an array of activities. Lake Tenkiller is known for its huge catfish and "Goat Island" where there is a population of goats living on an island in the middle of the lake.



Horseback Riding

Only a 20 minute drive from downtown, visitors can prance through Oklahoma's wilderness on Sequoyah State Park's 300 acres of open woods. A family-friendly choice, experience up-close Oklahoma's natural forests and fauna. A 1-hour guided trail ride is provided at \$30 per person with reservations required. The riding stables are open on the weekends except when the heat index reaches 98 degrees. Call to book a reservation at (918) 772-3906 or visit their website at sequoyahridingstables.com



WELCOME TO THE ILLINOIS RIVER

Visitors to the Illinois River are treated to the cool water flowing freely through picturesque landscapes as it winds its way for more than 60 miles through the Oklahoma Ozark foothills. Steep, rocky bluffs, lush forests abundant with birds and other wildlife are just some of the natural attractions to be seen along the river.

Recreational opportunities abound along the portion of the river that flows parallel to Scenic Highway 10 northeast of Tahlequah. A float trip is the most popular way to experience the Illinois River. Many outfitters are open during the warm weather months offering float trips with canoes, kayaks, rafts and tubes. Please take advantage of the many cabins, motels and camping or RV sites available for short term rentals. Some of these lodging spaces are open year-round. Anglers of all skill levels will want to bring their rods and tackle to try their hand at catching a few fish, but be sure to have a valid Oklahoma fishing license. When not on the water, other local experiences might include hiking, biking or a drive through the J.T. Nickel Preserve.





BRING THIS

adventurous spirit
waterproof speaker
coolers smaller than 52 quarts
extra clothing

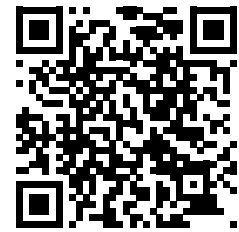
sunscreen
dry bag
water shoes
drinking water

NOT THIS

glass bottles
styrofoam coolers
coolers bigger than 52 quarts

car keys
camera
hard liquor

ILLINOIS RIVER OUTFITTERS



An outfitter is an establishment that sells clothing, equipment, and services such as rafting and kayaking. Some offer lodging options as well. All outfitters provide shuttle service for float rentals. For additional lodging options, please scan the QR code to find available Airbnbs and other accommodations on the river.

ALL AMERICAN FLOATS

17170 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456. 6949

DIAMONDHEAD RESORT

12081 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-4545

ECHOTA VILLAGE

16315 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 453-9060

HANGING ROCK FLOATS

7453 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-3088

PEYTON'S PLACE

10298 N. Hwy. 10
(800) 359.0866

RIVERBEND FLOATS

15693 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 708-6800

SPARROW HAWK CAMP

21985 N. Ben George Rd.
(918) 456-8371

ARROWHEAD RESORT

7704 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-1140

EAGLE BLUFF

9800 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-3031

FALCON FLOATS

16326 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-8058

ILLINOIS RIVER OUTFITTERS

11555 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 822-3528

RIVERBEND BY THE BRIDGE

17252 N. Hwy. 10
918-708-6430

RIVERSIDE RESORT

5116 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-4787

WAR EAGLE RESORT

13020 N. Hwy. 10
(918)-456-6272



OUTFITTER SERVICES

	CANOES	RAFTS	KAYAKS	INNER TUBES	CAMPING	HOOK-UP/RV	MOTEL	CABINS	BUNKHOUSES	GROUP LODGE	MEETING ROOM	SUPPLIES	FOOD SERVICE	SHUTTLE FOR PRIVATE CANOES	GAMEROOM	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES	BAR	SHOWERS	POOL	FIREWOOD
ALL AMERICAN FLOATS	•	•	•	•	•							•		•						•
ARROWHEAD RESORT	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•						•		
DIAMONDHEAD RESORT	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•		
EAGLE BLUFF RESORT	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•		
ECHOTA VILLAGE		•	•		•	•						•	•	•				•		
FALCON FLOATS	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•			•				•	•	
HANGING ROCK CAMP	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					•	•					•		
ILLINOIS RIVER OUTFITTERS	•	•	•		•									•						
PEYTON'S PLACE RESORT	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•						
RIVERBEND BY THE BRIDGE		•	•	•								•								
RIVERBEND FLOATS	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•		•				•		
RIVERSIDE RESORT	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•		•
TOWN BRANCH GUEST RANCH	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•				•				•		
SPARROW HAWK CAMP	•	•	•	•	•		•				•	•	•					•		•
WAR EAGLE RESORT	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	

FLOATERS' GUIDE

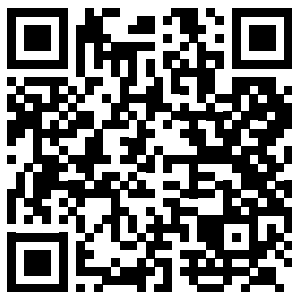
FEES

Visitors with their own kayak, canoe, raft, inner tube, or other flotation device must purchase a private float permit.

- Day use permits (wristband dated for the day of your trip) are \$1 per device/day and can be purchased ahead of time. They can be purchased at the GRDA Scenic Rivers Operations Office, Peyton's Place Resort, Hanging Rock Camp, from the GRDA Scenic Rivers Operations Police or a campground host.
- Annual use permits are \$10 per device and are good from January—December. They are decals to be placed to the front right-hand side of your vessel.

Annual permits can be purchased at the GRDA Scenic Rivers Operations Office.

FOR ILLINOIS RIVER MAP, WATER LEVELS AND MORE SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



RIVER RULES

Please keep GRDA Scenic Rivers Operations rules in mind while visiting. Fines may be assessed for violations such as littering or possessing glass or styrofoam.

- Glass and styrofoam are prohibited on the river and gravel bars.
- Do not drive on gravel bars, streambeds or into the river.
- To minimize environmental damage to streambanks and gravel bars, do not tie flotation devices together.
- To prevent litter, ice chests should be secured by a strap to keep from spilling its contents and limited to 52 quarts or less. Free trash bags are available at commercial flotation device operations, the GRDA Scenic Rivers Operations field staff and GRDA Scenic Rivers Operations Office.
- Jet skis, airboats, hovercrafts, and boats with motors over 10hp are prohibited. Only during the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) authorized gigging season are motors up to 25 hp allowed.
- Children 12 and under are required to wear life jackets.



PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS

GRDA Scenic Rivers Operations maintain access areas which can be used for picnicking, fishing, swimming, floating and camping.

- Camping is \$14 per night. This fee is per camp site with no more than two tents and two vehicles.
- One RV spot is available, electric only (110 volt, 20 amp), at Round Hollow Public Access Area for \$28 per night.
- Fees are collected on site by GRDA Scenic Rivers Operations Staff.

The following access areas are alcohol-free, meaning alcohol cannot be consumed in the area: Round Hollow, Todd, US 62 Bridge Access on Flint Creek, Lake Frances Dam Public Access Site, US 59 Illinois River Bridge Crossing Access Area, and Carnes Ford Area. Please help the GRDA Scenic Rivers Operations keep these areas clean and safe so others can enjoy the access area.

ALCOHOL (DISTILLED SPIRITS) RULES

(A) Possession of an open container, or consumption, of alcohol (including Spirits, wine, beer and light or 3.2 beer) is prohibited in seven public access areas: Round Hollow, Todd, US 62 Bridge Access on the Illinois River, US 412 Bridge Access on Flint Creek, Lake Frances Dam Public Access Site, US 59 Illinois River Bridge Crossing Access Area, and Carnes Ford Area.

(B)(1) Possession of any beverage defined as "Spirits" in the Oklahoma Alcoliolic Beverage Control Act is prohibited on the Scenic Rivers and in public access areas at all times.

(2) Wine, beer and light beer in the original, non-glass packaging may be possessed and consumed by persons 21 years of age or older while floating on Scenic Rivers and in the Stunkard, Peavine, Edmondson, New Combs Bridge, No Head and Echota public access areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact GRDA - Scenic River Operations.
15971 N. Hwy 10
918-456-3251



STAY AT THE RIVER

The Scenic Illinois River meanders through the hills surrounding Tahlequah, Oklahoma and provides countless opportunities for recreation and relaxation along its shores.



Purdy Cabin



Arrowhead Resort



For an online list of available lodging options near the river, please scan the QR code with a phone camera.



LODGES & RESORTS

ARROWHEAD RESORT

7704 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-1140

PEYTON'S PLACE

10298 N. Hwy. 10
(800) 359.0866

RIVERBEND RESORT

15693 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 708-6800

WAR EAGLE RESORT

13020 N. Hwy. 10
(918)-456-6272

EAGLE BLUFF

9800 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-3031

PURDY CABIN

16798 N. 556 Rd.
(918) 606-1825

RIVERSIDE RESORT

5116 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-4787

RV & PRIMITIVE CAMPING

ALL AMERICAN FLOATS

17170 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456. 6949

DIAMONDHEAD RESORT

12081 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-4545

FALCON FLOATS

16326 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-8058

GRDA PUBLIC ACCESS

14624 Hwy. 10
(918) 456-3251

ARROWHEAD RESORT

7704 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-1140

EAGLE BLUFF

9800 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-3031

HANGING ROCK

7453 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-3088

RIVERSIDE RESORT

5116 N. Hwy. 10
(918) 456-4787





DINING ON THE RIVER

DONNA'S FOOD BARN

14027 Hwy 82 Tahlequah, OK
(918) 207-5656

MOE'S BARBEQUE HANGING ROCK CAMP

13020 OK-10 Tahlequah, OK
(918) 456-3088

T & J'S GRILL 51

7453 OK-51 Tahlequah, OK
(918) 955-7990

TREETOPS GRILL AT EAGLE BLUFF

9800 N. Hwy 10 Tahlequah, OK
(918) 456-3031

ROXIE'S ROOST

16471 Tahlequah, OK
(918) 457-7712

GRAVEL BAR DIAMONDHEAD RESORT

12081 Hwy 10 Tahlequah, OK
(918) 456-4545

TRAVELIN' JOE

21053 Steely Hollow Rd Tahlequah, OK
(918) 973-0019

CALL AHEAD FOR SEASONAL HOURS.





GO FLOATING
AND TRULY EXPERIENCE
THE BEAUTY OF THE
ILLINOIS RIVER



FESTIVALS ON THE RIVER

DIAMOND STONE MUSIC FESTIVAL

A little bit country. A little bit rock and roll. A little bit something else. Located within Diamondhead Resort on the banks of the Illinois River, this festival is packed with a variety of bands and performers. Attendees may stay the weekend and camp on the festival grounds.



Photo courtesy of Grant Crawford



Photo courtesy of Sarah Barker Huhn

BLUE NOTE FESTIVAL

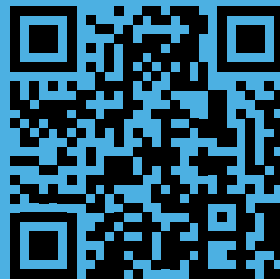
Discover local artists in the heart of the Illinois River. Head over to Hanging Rock Camp to experience this laid-back festival ran completely by the genuine effort of volunteers. Built on community spirit and support, this festival has been occurring for over 30 years and serves as a true staple of local culture.



LIVE MUSIC ON WEEKENDS AT THESE OUTFITTERS:

Hanging Rock
Riverbend
Diamondhead
Eagle Bluff
Falcon Floats

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
UPDATED LISTS OF LIVE
MUSIC PERFORMANCES**



A HIKER'S PARADISE



SPARROW HAWK PRIMITIVE AREA

Sparrow Hawk is a 3.8 mile trail and is beloved by thousands of college students and river rats who visit the Illinois River. It is rated as moderate and has some of the most beautiful views in northeastern Oklahoma. Dogs and horses are welcome on the trail.

WELLING RIDGE TRAILS

The park's trail system consists of four hiking trails and an interpretive trail suited for beginner to intermediate-level hikers. Located in the Paradise Cove area, Eagles Roost Interpretive Trail is a 1.25 mile long loop that takes guests through a wooded area dotted with oak and hickory trees and along the Fort Gibson Lake flood plains.



J.T. NICKEL PRESERVE

Explore the largest privately protected conservation area in the Ozarks. This 17,000 acre luscious landscape overlooks the Illinois River where spring-fed creeks meander amid a rugged topography of steep slopes and narrow valleys. Bring the family to bird watch and see elk and when the season is right — black bears!

Dogs are not allowed.



EXPLORE OUR LAKES





Photo courtesy of Stan Weed

SEQUOYAH STATE PARK

Sequoyah State Park and Sequoyah Lodge, located on the shores of Fort Gibson Lake, are a haven for water lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. With over 19,000 surface acres of water and 225 miles of shoreline, the park attracts boaters as well as those who just enjoy relaxing on the swim beach. Visitors enjoy hiking, picnicking, horseback riding as well as wildlife watching, golfing and camping.

Sequoyah Lodge, operated in conjunction with Sequoyah State Park offers onsite lodging. It is the largest of Oklahoma's state park lodges with lodge rooms and suites, cottages, a bunkhouse, meeting rooms, swimming pool, tennis court, basketball court, playgrounds, recreation programs, outdoor cookouts and more.

Campground facilities at Sequoyah State Park include modern with full hookups and semi-modern RV sites, tent sites, comfort stations and lighted boat ramps. Groups will find picnic shelters and group camping facilities for RV and tent camping, as well as a group camp with 10 A-frame cabins with a dining hall.

Visit Three Forks Nature Center within the park for live animals, displays, a naturalist and a wide variety of trails for hiking, biking and running.

The onsite 18-hole golf course and Pro Shop offers rental equipment; putting green, tree lined fairways and well placed sand bunkers. The Pro Shop is stocked with top brand merchandise, snacks and drinks, lessons and more. Tee times are also offered online as well as tournament bookings. Don't forget to book your corporate outings!

Sequoyah Riding Stables provide horseback riding, pony rides and hayrides on wooded and open trails inside the fabulous Sequoyah State Park. Bring your group to the Cowboy Camp at Sequoyah Riding Stables.

Sequoyah State Park is an ideal getaway just minutes away from Tahlequah. Guests will enjoy the diversity of activities throughout the year. For more information, please call (918) 772-2545 or visit their Facebook page @SequoyahStatePark.

Address: 17131 Park 10 Hulbert, OK 74441



CHEROKEE LANDING STATE PARK

Visitors will find this park located at the north end of Lake Tenkiller 10 miles south of Tahlequah on SH 82. The park lies in the heart of Cherokee Territory and is rich in history and beauty. Whether you are looking for a fun-filled day at the park or overnight camping, you won't be disappointed in the opportunities.

Day use visitors will find amenities such as an 18-hole disc golf course, a volleyball court, golf cart rentals and the Red Fox hiking trail. The golf cart rentals make sightseeing fun as you travel a big loop around the park. You may see a few of the Osage Orange Trees. Some areas of the park have beautiful views of the lake from three sides. The Red Fox hiking trail is a natural walking trail underneath 80-100 foot Pine trees. Seasoned hikers refer to this as "Up In The Pines." For day use visitors, many find this to be a small peaceful park to visit. A playground is located in the Choctaw area. Swimming in the crystal clear water, that Lake Tenkiller is famous for, is at the lower south end of the park and features shallow water.

Premium tent sites in the Choctaw and Cherokee campgrounds feature water on all three sides, a loading dock, and boat ramp. Pets are welcome when kept on a leash.

Primitive tent camping is also available. Imagine your tent site down by the shoreline of Lake Tenkiller, catching the breeze off the lake. You will also have a table, grill, fire ring and lantern hook at your site.

6 RV sites feature water and electricity in the Creek Area. There are no full hook-ups in the park. 15 RV sites in the Seminole Group Camp offer water and electricity that share the main pedestals. Getting used to a new RV? This might be your area as no backing is required and the level area is perfect for that first time! The Chickasaw area offers small RV pads with lots of shade, a shelter and a view of the limestone cliffs.

The park features a dump station in the Choctaw area. Wildcat Point features a fishing dock. Fishing tournaments are often held at Cherokee Landing State Park. Known for black bass, white bass and crappie, Lake Tenkiller attracts many fishing enthusiasts. This park just might be the one place where you will see the most gray cranes ever! An abundance of wildlife, including white-tailed deer, raccoons, squirrels and many species of songbirds can be viewed at Cherokee Landing State Park.

Please visit TravelOK.com for more information on Cherokee Landing State Park.

Address: 28610 Park 20, Park Hill, OK





PHOTO BY LORI DUCKWORTH/OKLAHOMA TOURISM



LAKE TENKILLER

Lake Tenkiller is a boater's paradise with direct access to one of the clearest lakes in the state. The lake is named after the Tenkillers who were a prominent Cherokee family that ran a ferry service where the dam now stands.

Lake Tenkiller spans nearly 13,000 acres of water and 130 miles of shoreline. Lake Tenkiller is perfect for a summer day where visitors can choose from a wide range of boating activities. Sailing, scuba diving, water skiing, wakeboarding, inner-tubing, fishing, cruising and lounging. Bring sunscreen, towels, snacks and water, and get to know Lake Tenkiller in all its beauty.

Several marinas provide rental boats for the day and there are 24 boat ramps around the lake. Many marinas also sell fuel, snacks, swimwear, and water toys. Three marinas, Barnacle Bills, Burnt Cabin and Sixshooter Resort, also serve as floating restaurants that allow casual dress straight from the lake.

Visitors can find comfortable lodging options by using the QR code below. The second QR code provides a Google map of marinas on the lake.



**LODGES, RESORTS
& AIRBNBS**



BOATING MAP



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Purpose: F-2 (F)
Normal Elevation: 1022.2 ft (M)

Area: 22,000 acres
Capacity: 184,500 acre-foot
Storage: 170 million

Tenkiller



1953

Lakes of Oklahoma

Tenkiller

Oklahoma Water Resources Board



GRAND

LAKE TENKILLER DIRECTORY

MARINAS

All marinas provide bait.
Visit bait shops for specialty items.

BARNACLE BILLS MARINA

31979 S. 516 Rd., Park Hill, OK
(918) 414-5411

BURNT CABIN MARINA

35190 S. 497 Rd., Park Hill, OK
(918) 457-5421

COOKSON BEND MARINA

19644 W. Cookson Bend Rd., Cookson, OK
(918) 457-5161

PARADISE COVE MARINA

2429 Park 56, Hulbert, OK
(918) 772-3270

SNAKE CREEK MARINA

18576 W. Snake Creek Rd., Cookson, OK
(918) 457-5674

BLUEWATER BAY MARINA

(FORMERLY PETTIT BAY)

20136 W. 873 Rd., Park Hill, OK
(918) 457-5728

CANEY RIDGE MARINA

23449 OK-100, Welling, OK
(918) 457-4417

ELK CREEK MARINA

22911 W. 877 Rd., Park Hill, OK
(918) 457-5142

SIXSHOOTER MARINA

20144 W. Sixshooter Rd., Cookson, OK
(918) 457-5152

CALL FOR BOAT RENTALS





Situated in the Ozark highlands, Tenkiller is a deep, clear lake dominated by a shoreline with rocky bluffs and ledges. Popular species of fish include largemouth and smallmouth bass, sandbass, catfish, crappie and walleye. Additionally, there are numerous public access areas, and due to its depth, the lake provides cool water for the popular year-round trout fishery in the tailwaters.

BAIT SHOPS

JIMMY HOUSTONS

5148 OK-82, Park Hill, OK
(918) 456-1156

CHICKEN CREEK STORE & LODGING

19441 W Chicken Creek Rd, Cookson, OK
(918) 457-4821

FLINTRIDGE GROCERY STORE

29269 OK-82, Park Hill, OK
(918) 457-4151



REDISCOVER CAMPING

UNPLUG - STAY - PLAY

LAKE TENKILLER



CAMPING FACILITIES	OPERATED BY:																								
	MODERN CAMPSITES	PRIMITIVE CAMPSITES	LODGING	PICNIC SITES	PICNIC SHELTERS	PLAYGROUND	SWIMMING/BEACH AREA	HIKING TRAIL	MODERN RESTROOMS	CHEMICAL TOILETS	SHOWERS	WATER HOOK UP	DUMPING STATION	MARINA	BOAT LAUNCH RAMP	BAIT/TACKLE	GROCERIES/SUPPLIES	HEATED FISHING DOCK	FLOATING RESTAURANT	BOUTIQUE/SHOPPING	PONTOON RENTAL	SKI BOAT RENTAL	WAVE RUNNER RENTAL		
BARNACLE BILLS MARINA	•		•					•	•			•	•	•	•		•		•		•				
BLUEWATER BAY (PETTIT BAY)	•		•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•							
BURNT CABIN MARINA	•	•	•	•			•		•		•	•	•	•	•		•		•		•	•	•	•	
CANEY RIDGE MARINA		•													•		•				•				
CARTER'S LANDING		•			•					•		•			•										
CHEROKEE LANDING	•	•				•	•		•	•	•	•			•										
CHICKEN CREEK	•		•	•			•	•		•	•	•	•			•	•								
COOKSON BEND		•		•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	
DAMSITE & OVERLOOK		•				•	•	•	•	•		•			•										
ELK CREEK LANDING	•		•		•		•			•		•	•	•	•	•	•								
SIXSHOOTER MARINA			•				•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•				
SIZEMORE LANDING		•		•	•					•		•			•										
SNAKE CREEK	•		•			•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•				

LAKE LODGING

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW FOR A LIST OF LODGING
OPTIONS THAT INCLUDE LODGES, RESORTS AND BNB'S



Terrapin Peak Bed, Breakfast & Beyond

LODGES & RESORTS

BURNT CABIN MARINA & RESORT

35190 S. 497 Rd.
Park Hill, OK 74451
(918) 457-5421

COOKSON BEND RESORT & MARINA

19644 W. Cookson Bend Rd.
Cookson, OK 74427
(918) 506-8217

COOKSON VILLAGE

19725 W. Cookson Bend Rd.
Cookson, OK 74427
(918) 457-5578

NAUTICAL ADVENTURES CABINS

32320 OK-82
Cookson, OK 74427
(918) 457-3483

TERRAPIN PEAK BED, BREAKFAST & BEYOND

20965 W. 921 Rd.
Cookson, OK 74427
(918) 457-4906

CHICKEN CREEK STORE & LODGING

19441 W Chicken Creek Rd.
Cookson, OK 74427
(918) 457-4821

COOKSON COUNTRY STORE & CABINS

32054 OK-82
Cookson, OK 74427
(918) 457-5171

ELK CREEK RESORT & MARINA

22911 W. 877 Rd.
Park Hill, OK 74451
(918) 457-5142

TENKILLER LODGE

26247 Hwy. 82
Park Hill, OK 74451
(918) 453-9000



LAKE DINING

***BARNACLE BILL'S**

31979 S. 516 Rd., Park Hill, OK
(918) 414-5411

***THE BOATBAR & GRILL BURNT CABIN MARINA**

35190 S. 497 Rd., Park Hill, OK
(918) 457-5421

COOKSON COUNTRY STORE & CABINS

32054 Hwy. 82, Cookson, OK
(918) 457-5171

JINCY'S KITCHEN

31392 South Qualls Rd., Qualls, OK
(918) 457-551

OKLAHOMA STATION

28455 Hwy. 82, Park Hill, OK 74451
(918) 457-3400

PRINCESS DRIVE IN

29301 Hwy. 82, Park Hill, OK 74451
(918) 457-4270

***SKIPPER'S**

SIXSHOOTER RESORT & MARINA

20144 W. Sixshooter Rd., Cookson, OK
(918) 457-4202

BIG RED'S

26186 Hwy. 82, Park Hill, OK
(918) 456-0411

***BOTTOMS UP TIKI BAR & GRILL**

19644 W. Cookson Bend Rd., Cookson, OK
(918) 457-5161

THE DECK AT COOKSON VILLAGE

19725 W. Cookson Bend Rd., Cookson, OK
(918) 457-5578

NANCY'S HOMEADE PIES AND CAFE

26380 S. Indian Rd., Park Hill, OK 74451
(918) 458-6141

PIDDLE'S CAJUN BAR & GRILL

20206 W. Pettit Bay Rd., Park Hill, OK
(918) 316-8495

SKEETER'S PIZZA BARN

26089 Hwy. 82, Park Hill, OK
(918) 207-0622

TWISTED MINNOW

21383 E. Carters Landing Rd., Park Hill, OK
(918) 414-5294

***ON THE WATER DINING**

CONTACT FOR SEASONAL HOURS.



Quarter Size
Ad

Quarter Size
Ad

Quarter Size
Ad

Quarter Size
Ad

LIVE MUSIC ON THE LAKE:

The Deck @ Cookson
Burnt Cabin
Barnacle Bill's
Jincy's Kitchen
Piddle's Cajun Bar & Grill

**CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR
UPDATED LISTS OF LIVE MUSIC
PERFORMANCES**





SCUBA DIVING

The lake offers the perfect environment for every diver from novice to the most adept instructors. There are a few dive shops to choose from to obtain a certification, rent or purchase equipment, or find out where to explore. Tenkiller offers an assortment of wonderful diving possibilities. There are several islands that are superior dive sites for discovering overhangs so dramatic that they could pass for caves or partaking in spear fishing, for any fish that is not a game fish. There have been catfish speared as large as 65 pounds!

Contact Nautical Adventures at (918) 457-3483 to book your dive today!

FIREWORKS

The Greater Tenkiller Area Association (GTAA) provides a free 4th of July fireworks show every year on Lake Tenkiller. No matter what day the Fourth of July falls on, you can count on seeing this Fireworks Extravaganza unfold at the south end of the lake near the dam at dusk. Whether you are viewing the show from land or lake, here are some vantage points to consider. The area between the two big islands should afford excellent viewing for boaters. This event is funded solely by donations from businesses and individuals who have a genuine interest in seeing that this fireworks tradition continues for the enjoyment of both lake visitors and surrounding communities.





EXPLORE CHEROKEE COUNTY

