



“I am not exaggerating . . . I would rather go home to Red Cloud than to any of the beautiful cities in Europe where I used to love to go.”

– Willa Cather, 1945

Thank you for your interest in the National Willa Cather Center, the award-winning living memorial to beloved American author, Willa Cather. The National Willa Cather Center proudly offers a wide range of engaging activities and authentic experiences. From her quaint childhood home to the windswept prairie that memorializes her, visitors of all ages and backgrounds are guaranteed to depart Red Cloud with a fresh idea of Willa Cather and the Great Plains. Come witness the sites and sounds that changed American literature.



Take a detour from the scramble of urbanity and absorb the rolling prairie landscape in Red Cloud, Nebraska: the home of Willa Cather.

Upon your arrival, you are immediately immersed in the natural and material world that inspired the Pulitzer Prize winner’s influential writings.



Among the detailed materials enclosed is information about our comprehensive museum exhibit, a prospective itinerary for our exclusive “A Walk in Her Footsteps” package, and a portion from Willa Cather’s poem, “The Swedish Mother.” Become an archivist and try to decipher her distinct handwriting; when you see us, be sure to tell us how you did!

Enjoy a tour conducted by our friendly and knowledgeable docents. See remnants of Cather’s childhood that inspired her writing; sit on the historic train station benches at the Burlington Depot; and witness the unbroken prairie that served as the setting in many of her works. With the nation’s largest collection of nationally designated historic sites dedicated to an American author, you are certain to enjoy these timeless treasures of Red Cloud.



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“Be generous with yourself. Don't stop short of splendid things.”
~

Cather once remarked, “When I go about among little Nebraska towns (and the little towns, not the big cities, are the people), the thing I miss most is the opera house.” Finish your day the Cather way by taking in a performance or cultural

event at the historic Opera House in downtown Red Cloud. After the curtain is drawn, spend a night in the Cather Second Home guest house or in a beautifully refurbished apartment steps away from the National Willa Cather Center.



On your visit to Red Cloud and the National Willa Cather Center, you will be able to walk in Willa Cather’s footsteps and stay in her town. To book your exclusive visit to Red Cloud, please contact Jarrod McCartney, at jmccartney@willacather.org or 402-746-2653.

A Walk in Her Footsteps



Three Inspiring Days in Willa Cather's Red Cloud

Friday:

- 12:00 pm Arrive in Red Cloud, NE; Settle down with lunch at a local restaurant
- 1:30 pm Check-in and acquire lodging key at the National Willa Cather Center
- 2:00 pm Meet archivist, Tracy Tucker, for VIP tour of museum exhibit and archives
- 3:00 pm **Connect with assigned tour guide for 7-building tour of Cather sites in town**
- 6:00 pm Enjoy a classic beverage at On the Brix Tasting Room
- 7:00 pm Dinner at one of Red Cloud's local restaurants
- 8:30 pm **Relax and unwind, and read a Cather novel at the Cather Second Home**

Saturday:

- 8:00 am **Have breakfast at the Cather Second Home**
- 9:00 am **Watch the Cather film (17 min) at the National Willa Cather Center**
- 9:30 am **Experience the landscape on the Willa Cather Guided Country Tour**
(Country tours are weather permitting with safe site visits at guide discretion)
- 12:30 pm Enjoy lunch at one of Red Cloud's great eating establishments
- 2:00 pm Free time to shop and explore (ask our expert staff for recommendations!)
- 4:00 pm Visit On the Brix Tasting Room for a cocktail or afternoon snack
- 6:00 pm **Picnic on the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie, enjoy the sunset (seasonal)**

Sunday:

- 9:00 am **Have breakfast at the Cather Second Home**
- 10:00 am Discover historic Red Cloud with WalkRedCloud.com
- 12:00 pm Departure – Be sure to leave us a review and any recommendations!

Items in bold are included in the prepaid package: \$400 per couple or \$300 per person

- One room, two nights, includes breakfast
- 7-Building Willa Cather Tour and film
- Guided Country Tour (20 sites in Webster County)
- Picnic basket from Hometown Market

Please schedule your visit at least 30 days in advance of your intended reservation date.

This allows our staff to thoroughly prepare your walk in Cather's footsteps.

"People have to snatch at happiness when they can, in this world. It is always easier to lose than to find."

We hope you choose to "snatch at happiness" here at the National Willa Cather Center!