

Red Cloud

Great Stories
Grow Here

Mid-Summer Itinerary

Day 1

4pm: Arrive at the [National Willa Cather Center](#) or [Lodging](#) Facility

- Check in, unwind

5pm: Grab a drink at [On the Brix](#) or shop at [Village Pharmacy](#)

- Consider checking out the [WPA Murals in the Post Office](#) while you're in Red Cloud. Its lobby is open 24 hours a day.

6pm: Dinner at the [Palace Lounge](#) (Steakhouse and Bar)

Usually there's a performance at the [Red Cloud Opera House](#) about once a month. Go the events page on www.visitredcloud.com or on www.willacather.org and see what's playing! Purchasing a [Country Tour](#) map from the [Willa Cather Foundation](#) and visiting the [Pavelka Farmstead](#) near Bladen and the [Willa Cather Memorial Prairie](#) is also highly recommended. The Pavelka Farmstead features prominently in *My Antonia* and is near the town of Bladen, NE. The farm is about 15 miles north and slightly west of Red Cloud. The Cather Prairie is right on the Kansas border along Hwy 281 on the west side, about 5-6 miles south of Red Cloud.

For the Prairie, I recommend arriving shortly before sunset, probably around 8:30pm. *This time of year you may get to see fireflies as well the impressive sunset and overview.* If you arrive a little earlier than 8:30pm, I'd take a walk on one of the mowed trails (though cattle do graze the grass occasionally so be aware). If you grab a brochure from the Cather Foundation, the Prairie one details the unique animals and plants you find on the prairie.

Day 2

Breakfast options are scarce in Red Cloud—if you are at the [Cather Second Home](#) there will be a light breakfast provided. You can also get breakfast at local convenience stores or purchase ingredients at [Hometown Market](#).

8am-9am: [The Corner Nook](#), located at 345 N. Webster. Get some coffee, a specialty drink, or a smoothie and do some boutique shopping while you're at it!

9:05am: Arrive at the National Willa Cather Bookstore and sign up for a 7 building tour! Watch a brief film about Cather's life before you depart. Tours are \$25. A 3 building tour option is also available.

9:30am: 7 building tour with Cather Foundation Guide: Garber Bank Building, Childhood Home,

Burlington Depot, St. Juliana Church, Harling House, Grace Episcopal Church, Red Cloud Opera House (Self-Guided)

11:15am: Visit Cather Bookstore & Visit Cather Museum Exhibit in the National Willa Cather Center

12pm: Lunch at [Fat Fox's Pizzeria & Kitchen](#), 326 N. Webster

1pm: Depart for [Starke Round Barn](#) Located at 1639 Hwy 136, 4.5 miles east of Red Cloud

- Tour of the Round Barn and adjacent sites. Call Liz at the number below to arrange your tour. It should cost \$10. The Round Barn is largest one in the world. Call Liz so you don't get lost trying to find it and so that you don't surprise her family with an unannounced visit!

2:15pm: Depart for The [Webster County Historical Museum](#) (721 W. 4th Ave., \$5 for a tour)

I'd also suggest taking a tour of the [Yost 1 room schoolhouse](#) if you have time. It will be tough fitting all of the other stuff in though.

3:15pm: Departure or shop at [Shades West](#)/downtown Red Cloud or visit the Red Cloud municipal swimming pool and cool off!

WILLA CATHER FOUNDATION: 402-746-2653
JARROD MCCARTNEY: 402-746-2653 or 402-746-4065
ON THE BRIX: 402-746-3120 or onthebrix@gmail.com
STARKE ROUND BARN: 402-746-4165
COUNTY MUSEUM: 402-746-2444

PALACE LOUNGE: 402-746-9951
YOST SCHOOLHOUSE: 402-746-2856
FAT FOX'S: 402-746-2249.