Welcome to Historic Red Cloud: Great Stories Grow Here

Set amidst brick-lined streets, gracious homes, historic buildings, and the beauty of the prairie, Red Cloud, Nebraska offers a glimpse into a storied American past, while maintaining a progressive vision for the future. Willa Cather’s prairie novels introduced the world to our community, and have left an indelible impression in the hearts and minds of her readers. Your off-the-beaten-path adventure here offers an exploration of rural lifestyle, while giving you the chance to immerse yourself in arts, culture, history, and recreation.

National Willa Cather Center

Red Cloud invites you to experience the life, times, and work of Willa Cather. Here you can tour her home, read her work, visit her beloved Opera House, and shop the largest collection of books by and about Willa Cather. With nearly 50 sites associated with Cather available to visit, the Willa Cather Foundation proudly hosts guided town and country tours to help visitors experience her childhood home and other historic buildings related to her life and writing.

The Red Cloud Opera House’s diverse schedule includes plays, concerts, humanities presentations, gallery exhibits, and much more. Contact us for tickets or a schedule of events.

The National Willa Cather Center gives visitors ample opportunities to delve into Cather’s life and work through exploration of an educational exhibit, American Bittersweet: The Life & Writing of Willa Cather. Guests may also visit the archive and study center to discover the Foundation’s vast collection of documents and artifacts.

Wide Open Spaces

Located 5 miles south of town on the Kansas border, the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie consists of 612 acres of native prairie and sits adjacent to an additional 1157 acres of land that has never been plowed. Picturesque hills adorn the south side of the Republican River 1 mile south of town and many great camping, hunting, and fishing possibilities exist. The river is also a launching point for a lot of fun, as it is easy to float down during the summer months—locals love to go canoeing and tubing. Each July, the community hosts the Republican River Stock Tank Float.
Stay and Play
Spend a weekend in Red Cloud and experience life in rural America. From hiking trails on the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie, to one of the top 9-hole golf courses in the state, to top notch hunting and fishing opportunities, we have something for everyone. With some of the best B&Bs in Nebraska, you can also stay put and luxuriate or relax before dining or sampling the nightlife. During the first weekend of August, the entire family can enjoy food, arts, crafts, and live music during our annual Street Car Days celebration.

Plan Your Visit
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