

ONE-DAY ITINERARY

DE SMET, SOUTH DAKOTA

Morning

- ✓ Stop at the **Wilder Welcome Center**.
- ✓ Book your tour at the **Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society** (if you have to wait, browse the gift shop or head across the street to the **Discover Laura Center**).
- ✓ Meander up and down **Calumet Avenue**, reading the self-guided tour signs and imagining 1880s De Smet.
- ✓ Stop in to the **Loftus Store** to examine their suspender collection (and other gifts).

Lunchtime

- ✓ Grab lunch and take advantage of the wireless at **Ward's**.

Afternoon and evening

- ✓ Shoot north of town to see **Rose Wilder Lane's birthplace**.
- ✓ Swing back south to **Ingalls Homestead** by way of Dairy Queen, treating yourself to a blizzard or an iced tea. Make sure to get a glimpse of **Silver Lake** as you enjoy your snack.
- ✓ Before the entrance to the Ingalls Homestead parking lot, pull over to wander among Pa's cottonwoods and up the hill to the **memorial marker**.
- ✓ Marvel at the actual **Big Slough** across the road.
- ✓ Get back in the car to drive the last little bit to Ingalls Homestead, enjoying the prairie until it's time to eat (time will vary depending on whether you're attending a pageant).
- ✓ On the way to dinner at the **Kingsbury County Country Club**, go a bit further to stop by the **De Smet Cemetery** south of town to see the Ingalls family's graves.
- ✓ Eat dinner at the Country Club, then either go back to the pageant site (near the cottonwoods) for your nighttime entertainment or take in a beautiful Dakota sunset at **Ingalls Homestead**.

TWO-DAY ITINERARY

DE SMET, SOUTH DAKOTA

Day 1

Morning

- ✓ Stop at the **Wilder Welcome Center**
- ✓ Book your tour for late morning at the **Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society**.
- ✓ Explore the exhibit behind the gift shop.
- ✓ Hang out in the **Discover Laura Center** across the street.
- ✓ Go on your tour, and at the end, take your time looking through the displays in the **Third Street House** kitchen.

Lunchtime

- ✓ Grab lunch and take advantage of the wireless at **Ward's**.

Afternoon and evening

- ✓ Meander up and down **Calumet Avenue**, reading the self-guided tour signs and imagining 1880s De Smet.
- ✓ Visit the **cemetery** south of town and see how many names from the book series you can find.
- ✓ Go back east on Highway 14. Use the access road between town and Ingalls Homestead to drink in the vista of **Silver Lake**. Imagine geese flying overhead.
- ✓ Continue on to **Ingalls Homestead**. Before the entrance to the parking lot, pull over to wander among Pa's cottonwoods and up the hill to the memorial marker.
- ✓ Marvel at the actual **Big Slough** across the road.
- ✓ Get back in the car to drive the last little bit to **Ingalls Homestead**, enjoying the prairie until it's time to eat or go to the pageant, or stay until the stars come out. (That's totally okay.) Don't forget to catch the Dakota sunset.
- ✓ If you have time, invest 25 minutes in the drive to Arlington for a delicious dinner at the **1481 Grille**.

Day 2

Morning

- ✓ Grab breakfast to go from the **Oxbow** or **Ward's** and spend the early morning hours on **Ingalls Homestead**, imagining you're Laura in the 1880s.
- ✓ Head north out of town and find **Rose Wilder Lane's birthplace**.
- ✓ Keep going further north and find **Spirit Lake**.
- ✓ Back in town, explore the **Hazel L. Meyer Memorial Library** and its extensive Laura Ingalls Wilder collection of literary artifacts.

Lunchtime

- ✓ Grab a sandwich at **Subway** or **Ward's**, taking advantage of the wireless.

Afternoon and evening

- ✓ Stop by the **Depot Museum** and **Harvey Dunn School** and enjoy the prairie-inspired art.
- ✓ Browse the **Loftus Store** for gift shopping.
- ✓ Drive past Ingalls Homestead to turn further south to **Lake Thompson**. Pretend to be in a buggy.
- ✓ Go back to **Ingalls Homestead** and enjoy the prairie until it's time to eat or go to the pageant, or stay until the stars come out—and enjoy that prairie sunset.

GOT EXTRA TIME?

If you're staying longer than two days, these places and projects are well worth lingering over:

- ✓ The exhibit behind the gift shop the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society (displays vary)
- ✓ The kitchen in the Third Street House
- ✓ Hazel L. Meyer Memorial Library
- ✓ The Gift Shop at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society
- ✓ Ingalls Homestead
- ✓ A side trip to the remains of Manchester, where Grace Ingalls Dow lived, but was destroyed completely by a tornado in 2003
- ✓ Pick up a copy of Wilder scholar Nancy Cleaveland's *Laura Ingalls Wilder and Education in Kingsbury County* or *Charles Ingalls and the US Public Land Laws* and use the maps therein to try to find the locations of the various homesteads and schools mentioned in the books.