



A Day in the Little Town on the Prairie

9:00 a.m. Welcome to De Smet, Laura's very own Little Town on the Prairie! We are so pleased to have you visit us and experience Laura! Your adventure begins at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Memorial Society, in the heart of Laura's Little Town! From Highway 14, turn north on Calumet Avenue, go 4 blocks to 1st Street, take a right and continue East for 3 blocks, you will see the Surveyors' House on the corner! Sign up for the tour at the Gift Shop, a beautiful 1909 Victorian home.

9:30 – 12:00 Take the guided tour of the only two original homes of the Ingalls family. Do you remember the Surveyors' House, from Laura's book *By the Shores of Silver Lake*? This will be the first home on your tour... imagine a 12 year-old girl, and the vastness surrounding this beacon of security! Your next stop will be the replica of the Brewster School, the first school Laura taught in. At age 15, this would be the first time Laura had ever been away from Ma and Pa and to teach five children! How did she ever survive?!

Next you will follow your guide to the newest addition to the Society Headquarters, the First School of De Smet. Do the infamous Nellie Oleson and Eliza Jane Wilder sound familiar? Yes, this is the school building that Laura and her sister, Carrie, attended.

Your adventure continues at the Ingalls Home on Third Street, the final home of Pa, Ma, and Mary Ingalls. Our Ingalls Home boasts a large collection of original family memorabilia.

12:00 – 1:00 Time for Lunch! Hungry for a little bit of local flavor? Stop in for a bite at the Oxbow Restaurant (Corner of Hwy 14 and Calumet Ave), the Countryview or Ward's Store (both 3 blocks north of Hwy 14 on Calumet Ave). Try our Subway and Dairy Queen on the Corner of Hwys 14 and 25.

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. At the Society, enjoy the free Discover Laura Center, a one room schoolhouse, converted into a hands-on area. The young and the young-at-heart will enjoy this as a place to learn. Experience sewing on a treadle sewing machine, learn about Braille, spin wool!

You may also want to spend some time taking in the local shops, most notably the Loftus Store. This was the store from Laura's books and the location where she bought Pa's Christmas suspenders.

Also visit the Depot Museum (no admission fees, but donations welcomed). This pays tribute to the other members of the De Smet area. Be sure to check out the restored Harvey Dunn School, where native son, the "Prairie Painter," Harvey Dunn went to school.

Next to the Depot Museum, visit the Library for more Laura exhibits and Harvey Dunn paintings.

As Horace Greeley recommended, "Go West Young Man!" If you are going west on Hwy 14, stop at Manchester where Laura helped to hold down a claim. This would be the home of Grace Ingalls and her husband, Nathan Dow. A monument now stands on the former town site, as the remnants of the town were destroyed by tornado in 2003.

Thank you for visiting Laura's Little Town on the Prairie...we hope you enjoyed your time with us!

