



## An American Tour: 28



### Minden, Nebraska's



If you are a history buff, take exit #279 off of Interstate 80 and drive 12 miles straight south to Minden, Nebraska. Here within 20 acres, are over 50,000 pieces of Americana in 26 buildings. Many of the buildings were plucked from their country settings and restored here. Modern display halls hold selected treasures. Most of the antiques are arranged according to when they were used.

The one-room country school house, used until 1935, still contains all of the original furnishings--desks, stove, school books and the water pail. The attendance records and grades of every child are preserved in an old bank vault in Pioneer Village.

You'll see a prairie church where services are still held every Sunday, June to September at 11:30 a.m. Nearby stands the Land Office building, where early settlers, most of them Scandinavian and German immigrants, filed their claims for this new land following the 1862 Homestead Act.



The Elm Creek Fort, built in 1869, was brought from Webster County where it stood inside a stockade which protected five families during the Indian Wars. Also preserved around the village green are...

- The B&M Railroad Depot, complete with two early locomotives. (Parents, great for pictures of the kids!)
- A Pony Express station where Buffalo Bill's saddle rests in a glass case.
- The General Store, stocked with everything from button shoes and flintlock guns to calico and a glass cat on the cracker barrel to keep the mice away.
- An authentic pioneer sod house. Eleven acres of prairie sod make up the three foot thick walls. Clay "plastered" the walls.
- Over 50,000 items, large and small, are grouped chronologically in several large buildings. Harold Warp chose the year 1830 for the beginning of each exhibit, corresponding to when man learned to roll steel, draw wire and hold steam under pressure. [<http://web-guides.com/pioneervillage/pioneer.htm>]

A great destination for any history buff...and any collector!