

German-Russian (and Other) Community Reports

One option for a fieldwork project in HIST 431 is to write a travel article about a German-Russian community, or another community important to ongoing heritage tourism projects, for posting to TripAdvisor. This contributes to the work of the NDSU Center for Heritage Renewal toward the development of heritage tourism in German-Russian Country and in other parts of the state. In general, the assignment comprises these points.

1. Select (from a list provided) a community to write about.
2. Research the community in the collections of the NDSU Institute for Regional Studies.
3. Visit the community to take photos and interviews.
4. Write a travel background article (about 500 words) about the community, detailing its attractions for grassroots heritage tourism.
5. Post the article to TripAdvisor.

German-Russian Towns Available for Research		
Napoleon	Strasburg	Fredonia
Wishek	Lehr	Zeeland
Hague	Hazelton	Linton
Other Towns Available for Research		
Ardoch	Minto	Warsaw
Auburn	Pisek	Joliette
Hamilton	St. Thomas	Hoople
Galchutt	Christine	Argusville
Harwood	Glasston	Manvel
Thompson	Reynolds	Buxton
Cummings	Grandin	Gardner
Kindred	Abercrombie	Dwight
Mooreton	Fairmount	Hankinson

If you are working on one of these towns, then **claim it** on the Facebook wall for HIST 431. We don't want multiple persons working on the same town.

Template for a Traveler Article

The table below provides guidance as to topics to investigate and write about. Not all may apply in the case of any particular community, or on the other hand, you may discover something important that is not suggested in the table. This is not an encyclopedia article, but an essay.

Location	County	Where in the county? County seat?
	Highways	What main roads is it on?
	Railroads	What early railroads figured in the town's establishment?
Settlement	Timeframe	When the town was founded, when the locality was settled
	Settlers	What did people come here for?
		Who were important individuals in founding and settlement?
Prominent People	Individuals of note	Authors or artists
		Political, religious, or business leaders
Organizations	Churches	Not a list, but mention those that are salient to the character of the town
	Schools & sports	
	Civic organizations	
Events	Regular events of community importance	Who, what, when, where, why
Buildings & Sites	Buildings	Notable ones, of historical or physical salience
	Parks or landscape features	
	Streets & street	

	names	
	Monuments or public art	
Folklore	Legends	Notable characters, myths of origin
	Traditions	Foods, crafts, music

Research for a Traveler Article

The table below indicates where to do your research; what types of sources to use; and how to approach them.

NDSU Institute for Regional Studies	Published local histories: county, town, church, or organizational histories	Local histories are arranged according to locality on the shelves in the reading room. Also, consult with an archivist on duty.
Germans from Russia Heritage Collection	Many of the same local histories, plus cookbooks, oral histories, and other documentation	Use the library catalog, and consult with librarians on duty at the GRHC
WWW	Official community pages	Search broadly using the search engine of your choice - not only for factual information, but also for leads as to topics to investigate in other sources.
	Idiosyncratic pages - odds and ends posted by individuals or organizations	
Boots on the Ground	Reconnaissance of the town	Go there, spend some time, drive around, walk around, investigate points of interest, and most important, talk to people.
	Interview knowledgeable people	
TripAdvisor	See what's already posted about German-Russian Country, including my general background piece,	

	here - http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g28955-c172165/North-Dakota:United-States:German.Russian.Country.html
	If there is anything in TripAdvisor about your town, use it.

Navigation of TripAdvisor

Begin at tripadvisor.com, then go > About Us > Content Policies > Traveler Articles. Here you find questions and answers telling all about writing and posting traveler articles for TripAdvisor.

To post your article, first use the search box to go to the town that is your subject. Then go > Travel Guide > Add a new article > Background > Edit this page. This brings up a box in which you post your article, thus providing a "Background" piece on the town.

Additional Specifications

- Post article by Friday 4 May.
- Include at least one photograph you took yourself.
- Include at least one vivid quotation from someone you talked to in the town. (But do not name the person, that makes TripAdvisor nervous.)
- Use the "share" function to share your article to the HIST 431 Facebook page.

Rubric for Evaluating a Traveler Article	
30	Successful navigation of TripAdvisor procedures - getting the article posted
40	Research uses substantial sources and addresses substantial and interesting elements sufficient to provide an introduction to the town's history and culture
30	Writing communicates effectively with readers (which includes correct style)
100	Total Points Possible