



# The International Conference on Dependable Systems and Networks (DSN 2008)

Anchorage, Alaska, USA

June 24 - 27, 2008

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

### *An invitation to participate from the DSN 2008 Family & Social Activities Chair:*

Anchorage Alaska is a wonderful vacation destination! This year, we are making a special effort to help accompanying persons take advantage of the opportunity to travel to this amazing location with an attendee. On this brochure are notes and pictures from our scouting trips to Alaska. Don't miss this opportunity to explore America's last frontier with your family!

We'll have special support for families and accompanying persons:

- A local information and arrangements desk at the conference, staffed by local experts
- An option for an alternate excursion and family dinner for those with kids and a tight budget
- Airfare and rental car discount codes
- A "family" web page at [dsn.org](http://dsn.org) (we'll add to it over time)

Please feel free to contact us with questions. We're really excited about seeing you in Alaska we're sure you'll have a great time! Just send e-mail to: [family@dsn08.org](mailto:family@dsn08.org)

### **Alaska Native Heritage Center**

This is a unique opportunity to experience Alaska's many diverse native cultures in one location. A walk takes you through clusters of native buildings and interpreters who explain the many different Eskimo cultures. There is a huge totem pole. A central building hosts native performances, exhibits, craftspeople, and a fascinating gift shop worth visiting to shop for authentic native crafts. It's an easy drive, taxi, public bus, or free shuttle ride from downtown. Don't miss this one!



### **Whittier Alaska**

Whittier is a small town that hosts glacier cruise excursions on Prince William Sound. We plan to take such a cruise for the main DSN excursion, but you can also do this on your own as a family activity. You can get to Whittier by rental car (90 minutes), bus, or train on the Alaskan Railroad. Some excursion cruise lines will arrange transportation if you don't have a car. There is a former WW II military rail tunnel that now permits vehicle traffic, but it alternates direction every half hour, so be sure to check the tunnel schedule if driving. It's a very small town; plan on chili dogs rather than a fancy meal.

### **Anchorage Museum of History and Art**

The main attraction is natural history exhibits of Alaska. This includes exhibits on Native Alaskan (Eskimo) artifacts and lifestyles, mounted wildlife, and even a full-size cross section of the Alaskan oil pipeline. It is near the downtown mall and a bit of a walk from the hotel. We recommend the docent tour. This museum is well worth seeing!



See our Family Information web page: <http://2008.dsn.org/family/index.html>



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## Dining:

Alaska is famous for its seafood! While you are there, try Alaskan King Crab, Halibut, and shellfish. Be sure to try the distinctive, deep red, wild salmon caught nearby. Sample local specialties such as reindeer sausage, caribou steaks, and wild blueberries. Don't miss the award-winning microbrew pubs near the hotel.

## Weather:

Anchorage weather in late June is generally pleasant and mild, comparable to Spring weather elsewhere, but with up to 19 hours of daylight. Bring shorts for daytime hiking, with long pants and a light jacket for evening. Packing advice is available on the conference web site.



## Downtown Anchorage:

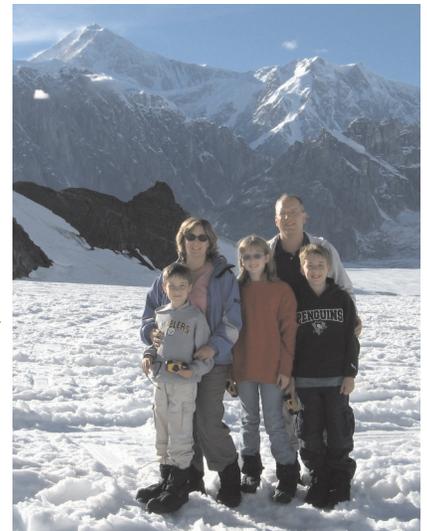
- **Saturday market.** Every Saturday morning a large lot next to the hotel hosts a gathering of craftsmen and other vendors providing authentic handicrafts, local food, and shopping. This is the place to get the best deal on crafts and in many cases meet the artisans themselves. Don't forget to try the reindeer sausage cart!
- **Anchorage 5th Avenue Mall.** Nordstrom with no sales tax. Five floors of indoor shopping in a modern mall. (Did we mention no sales tax?)
- **Ship Creek salmon run.** A couple blocks from the hotel, see a river with hundreds of huge salmon swimming upstream to spawn. No fishing license needed for kids under 16.
- **Imaginarium: Science Discovery Center.** A hands-on science center an easy walk from the hotel.
- **Shops and other activities.** There are numerous shops, large and small, to see near the hotel and other tourist attractions. Also: day spas, microbrew pubs, and "local color" evening shows. The city is safe and very walkable — enjoy!

## Near Anchorage:

- **Cruises!** Consider a pre- or post-conference cruise. You can cruise in one direction and fly home in the other direction.
- **Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center.** A wild animal park on the way to Whittier. Features native animals in open range pens including bears and moose. A bit of a drive.
- **Alaska Zoo.** A zoo with animals in smaller pens, both local and from around the world. Just outside of town. It's medium-sized, but expanding all the time.
- **Sea Plane flightseeing.** Fly from the world's biggest seaplane facility, next to Anchorage airport. We saw Beluga whales, Dahl sheep, moose, and bears.
- **Alaska Wildberry Products.** Dinner, Alaska movie, live "local color" show, Caribou petting, candy and gift store. For-profit, but a lot of fun for kids! Near town; free shuttle.
- **Other outdoor activities.** Golf until midnight on five courses, four-wheeling, sea kayaking, hiking, wildlife viewing, dogsled rides (even in the summer).
- **Train rides.** Ride the Alaskan Railway from Anchorage through Denali National Park.

## Talkeetna Alaska:

Talkeetna is a cute little town about 2.5 hours drive north of Anchorage, on the border of Denali National Park. It has cute small shops, a great view of Mt. McKinley (North America's tallest mountain), and fun family activities. By far the most spectacular activity is taking a ski plane to a glacier partway up Mt. McKinley. This is a memory that will last a lifetime! Another fun activity is taking a jet boat tour up and down the river. You can get to Talkeetna by rental car, daily train service on the Alaska Railroad, or a shuttle service.



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