Top Ten Things To Do In Alaska

(The 49th US State; Land of the Midnight Sun!) By: Susan Kennedy, DSN 2008 Social & Family Activity Chair



- 1. Visit the **Native Heritage Center** in Anchorage (www.alaskanative.net). Learn about the 11 distinct cultures of Alaska. They have a free shuttle during the day from major points in Anchorage, to the Center and back!
- 2. See a **glacier** or two (or 100,000, the estimated number of glaciers in the state of Alaska). Glaciers cover 3% of the land mass in Alaska. If you go, bring your raincoat and gloves glaciers make their own weather!
- 3. Visit the **Ulu Knife Factory** (<u>www.theulufactory.com</u>). See the uniquely Alaskan knife used by the native peoples for hunting, fishing, filleting and more! It is within walking distance of the Anchorage Hilton.
- 4. Take in the **great outdoors!** You can go kayaking, four-wheeling, hiking, and more. A friendly representative will be on-hand the first two mornings of the conference to help you decide what to do! Take along some bug spray in case you are in the woods.
- 5. Visit the **Anchorage Museum** (<u>www.anchoragemuseum.org</u>) to learn about the Alaska Pipeline and the Great Earthquake of 1964, measuring 9.2 on the Richter scale! This is also within walking distance of our hotel.
- 6. See **wildlife**! Eagles and bears are your most likely bet, although you can also see moose and caribou. Two types of eagles inhabit Alaska the bald and golden. If you go hiking, remember to wear your bear bells you can warn the bear ahead of time you are coming and they won't want to bother you! Sometimes the moose will walk right down the street in Anchorage!
- 7. Go **FISH!** The King Salmon will be running during our conference, and you can even fish in Ship Creek, which can be seen from the Hilton Anchorage. Don't forget to apply for your **fishing license** if you plan on this activity! www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license/
- 8. Take a **flightseeing tour!** You may see orca or beluga whales, dahl sheep, moose and bear! You can also do a glacier landing! Throw snowballs at your kids in June!
- 9. Try **something new!** Alaska boasts some interesting food choices, including caribou steaks and reindeer sausage! They also make some pretty good microbrew beer and of course, you won't want to leave the state without trying that world famous Alaska salmon!
- 10. Take a **train ride**! Train is a great way to see the scenery in Alaska, and the Alaska railroad can be accessed by a short walk from the Anchorage Hilton.

Of course, these are just a few things you can do in Alaska and Anchorage. You can also shop tax free, eat your way through the many restaurants in Anchorage, walk at midnight, go to the kids' museum (www.imaginarium.org), go to the Air museum (www.alaskaairmuseum.org), buy a fleece jacket, buy an original totem pole, or a fossil ivory carving (legal because Native Alaskans are allowed to sell their art made with fossil ivory – ivory that has been dug up out of the ground, or left over from subsistence walrus hunting) and much, much more. Explore http://www.anchorage.net/ for even more ideas!