It’s always nice to plan a little fun along with a trip, especially a meeting such as the AACD. Dallas is a city with plenty of theme parks, cultural venues and outdoor spaces.

Family fun
If you are traveling with your family, there are many options for entertainment. Consider the following: Amazing Jakes (indoor amusement park); Dallas Heritage Village (living history museum portraying life in Texas from 1840 to 1919); Dallas Mozzarella Company (cheese-making classes and factory tours); Dallas World Aquarium; Dallas Zoo, Fair Park (location of the annual State Fair of Texas); Galleria Dallas (featuring ice skating); Louis Tussaud’s Palace of Wax and Ripley’s Believe It or Not!; Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament; Mesquite Championship Rodeo; Six Flags Hurricane Harbor (water park); Six Flags Over Texas (theme park); Southfork Ranch (film location tours of the 1980s TV show “Dallas”); Speedzone (amusement park); and Westin City Center (featuring ice skating).

Outdoor spaces
With moderate weather year round, Dallas offers beautiful outdoor spaces for learning and play. Such picturesque places include the Dallas Farmers Market; Katy Trail (hike and bike trail); Pioneer Plaza (bronze monuments commemorating the trails that brought settlers to Dallas); Texas Discovery Gardens; The Dallas Arboretum; and the Trinity River Audubon Center.

Museums
For more family learning opportunities, visitors travel to the numerous one-of-a-kind museums throughout the city. From historic to cultural, these venues invoke emotion and inspiration.

The following are located throughout the area: African American Museum; American Museum of Miniature Arts; Cavanaugh Flight Museum; Crow Collection of Asian Art; Dallas Firefighters Museum; Dallas Museum of Art; Dallas Museum of Nature and Science; Frontiers of Flight Museum; Dallas Holocaust Museum; Mary Kay Museum; Meadows Museum at Southern Methodist University; Museum of the American Railroad; Nasher Sculpture Center; Old Red Museum; the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza; and the Women’s Museum: An Institute for the Future.

Cultural attractions
Dallas is an art-centric and cultural city. With the largest urban arts district in the nation and countless museums and art galleries, the city gives families plenty to explore. In addition to the art-themed museums mentioned previously, Dallas also boasts the following cultural and musical venues: Dallas Center for the Performing Arts — including the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House, Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre, Annette Strauss Artist Square, Sammons Park and later City Performance Hall; the Dallas Children’s Theatre; Latino Cultural Center; Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center; Music Hall at Fair Park (venue for Dallas Summer Musicals); South Dallas Cultural Center; and The Majestic Theatre.

To learn more, visit the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau online, at www.visitdallas.com.

A complete list of references is available from the publisher.

(Photos/Dr. David L. Hoexter)

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