

# DALTON HIGHWAY

	Coldfoot	Deadhorse	Fairbanks
Coldfoot		239	259
Deadhorse	239		498
Fairbanks	259	498	

**Connects:** Elliott Hwy. to Deadhorse, AK    **Length:** 414 miles  
**Road Surface:** 75% gravel, 25% paved    **Season:** Open all year  
**Steepest Grade:** 12 percent  
**Highest Summit:** Atigun Pass 4,800 feet  
**Major Attraction:** Trans-Alaska Pipeline, Arctic Circle  
*(See map, page 494)*



The 414-mile Dalton Highway (often still referred to as the "Haul Road") begins at **Milepost F 73.1** on the Elliott Highway, 84 miles from Fairbanks, and ends—for the general public—at Deadhorse, a few miles from Prudhoe Bay and the Arctic Ocean. (Access to the Arctic Ocean is available only through commercial tour operators; private vehicles are not permitted on the oil field.)

The Dalton Highway is unique in its scenic beauty, wildlife and recreational opportunities, but it is also one of Alaska's most remote and challenging roads. The first 10 or 20 miles of the Dalton Highway will give you a pretty good idea of what to expect on the rest of the highway as far as road conditions.

Road conditions vary depending on weather, maintenance and time of year. On recently rehabilitated sections, you may find good paved road. On some sections of gravel road, the washboard can be so severe your teeth rattle. Calcium chloride is used only in limited areas on the road to control dust; it is corrosive to vehicles and slippery when wet. There are several steep (10 to 12 percent) grades. Drive with your headlights on at all times. Stop only at turnouts. **NOTE: Do not stop in the middle of the road to take pictures.**

Carry spare tires; flat tires are a common occurrence on this road. Keep in mind that towing fees by private wrecker service can be costly. DOT stations along the highway do not provide vehicles services or gas.

Watch for ruts, rocks, dust in dry weather, potholes in wet weather and trucks and road maintenance equipment at all times. The volume of truck traffic hauling materials between Fairbanks and Prudhoe Bay varies, but always give trucks the right-of-way. Slow down, and pull over to the side of the road when meeting oncoming trucks. **CAUTION: Soft shoulders and abrupt drop-offs from gravel roadway to tundra; pull over with care!**

Road construction projects will be under way in summer 2003. Check for current projects on the web at [www.dot.state.ak.us](http://www.dot.state.ak.us) (Summer Construction Advisories), or call the Alaska Department of Transportation's construction department at (907) 451-5466.

When planning your trip up the Dalton, keep in mind it is approximately 1,000 miles of driving round trip between Fairbanks and Deadhorse, much of it on gravel. For those who don't want to drive themselves, commercial tours are available (see advertisements this section).

[www.themilepost.com](http://www.themilepost.com)



*An August snow storm on the North Slope turns the landscape white.*

*(© John Schwieder Photography)*

Services along the Dalton Highway are limited. Shop for groceries before departing Fairbanks. There are no convenience stores or grocery stores along the Dalton Highway. Gas, food, phone and lodging are available at the Yukon River Crossing at **Milepost J 56**, the Hot Spot Cafe at **J 60.3** and at Coldfoot Camp at **J 175**. There is also lodging in Wiseman. Alyeska pump stations do not provide any public services. Although noted on the map, former pipeline camps have been removed.

The last dump station northbound until Deadhorse is at Coldfoot. *Please do NOT dump holding tanks along the road.*

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which manages 2.1 million acres of public land along the Dalton Highway, has 1 developed campground (Marion Creek, **Milepost J 179.7**) and 3 primitive campsites (Mile 60 Dump Station, **Milepost J 60.4**; Arctic Circle Wayside, **J 115.3**; and Galbraith Camp, **J 274.7**) along the highway. There is also a private campground in Coldfoot. In Deadhorse, there is overnight parking at the Tesoro station and Arctic Oilfield Hotel. ▲

BLM is working with other state and federal agencies to construct additional visitor facilities along the Dalton Highway. Planned facilities over the next 15 years include additional dump stations, campgrounds, interpre-

tive waysides, pullouts and a new visitor center. For information on BLM lands and traveling the Dalton Highway, contact the BLM's Northern Field Office at 1150 University Ave. in Fairbanks; phone (907) 474-2200, toll-free 1-800-437-7021; <http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/dalton>.

The highway is named for James William Dalton, an arctic engineer involved in early oil exploration efforts on the North Slope. It was built as a haul road between the Yukon River and Prudhoe Bay during construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline, and was origi-

ARCTIC CIRCLE • BROOKS RANGE • PRUDHOE BAY

## DALTON HIGHWAY

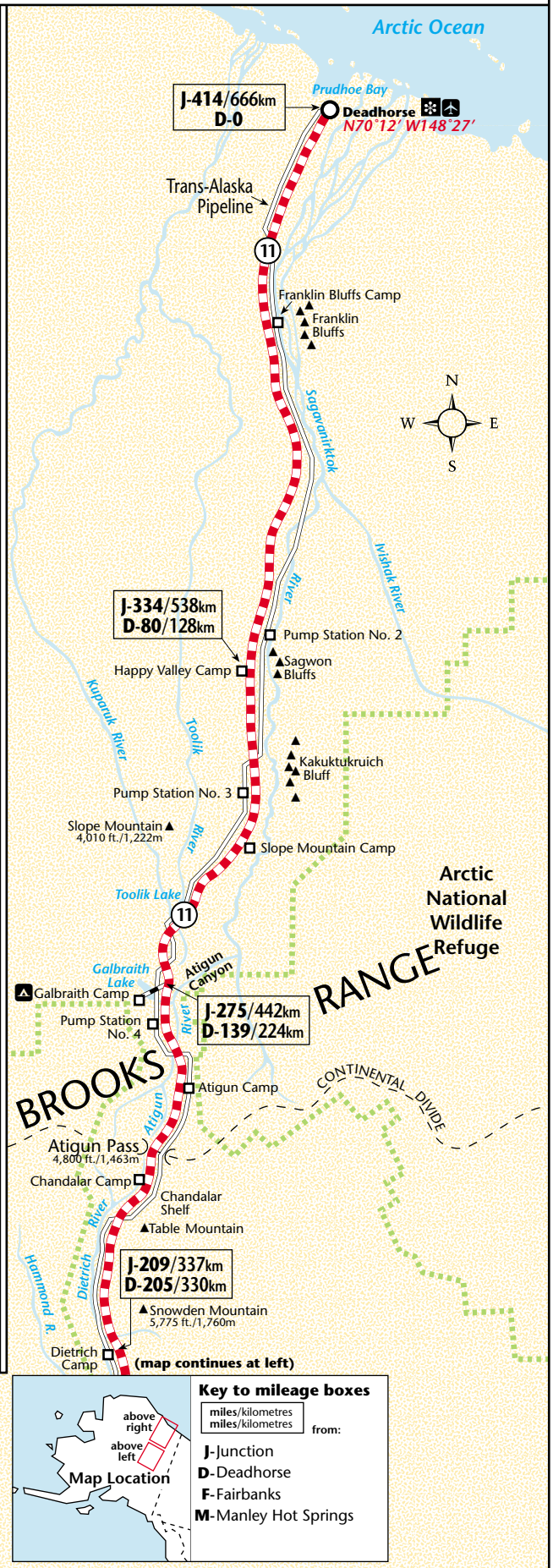
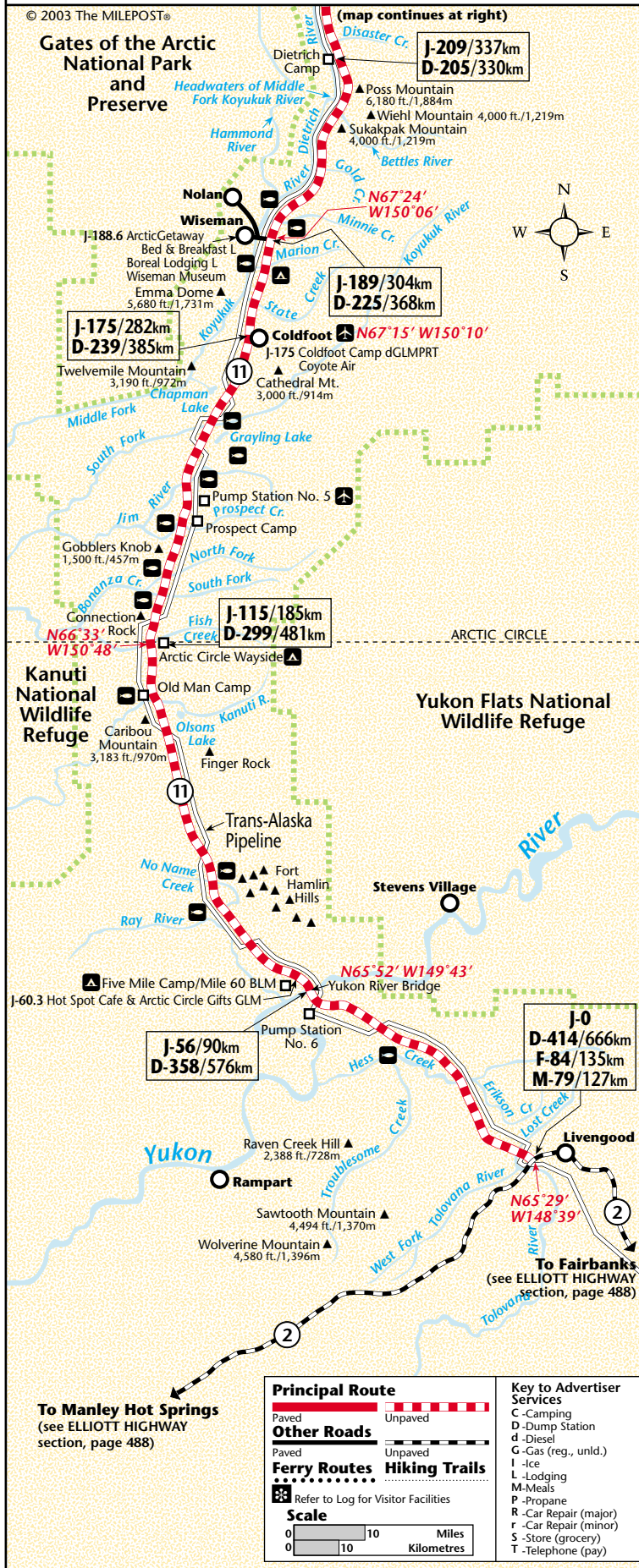
### EXPRESS

Alaska's Dalton Highway transportation specialist. Fairbanks to the Yukon River, Arctic Circle, Coldfoot, Wiseman, Brooks Mountain Range, and Prudhoe Bay. Equipped for passenger service and gear transport. One day Arctic Circle trips also available.

PO Box 71665 Fairbanks, AK 99707  
**907-452-2031 Fax 907-452-2031**  
e-mail: [info@daltonhighwayexpress.com](mailto:info@daltonhighwayexpress.com)  
[www.daltonhighwayexpress.com](http://www.daltonhighwayexpress.com)

# DALTON HIGHWAY Milepost F 73.1 Elliott Highway to Deadhorse, AK

© 2003 The MILEPOST®



nally called the North Slope Haul Road. Construction of the road began April 29, 1974, and was completed 5 months later. The road is 28 feet wide with 3 to 6 feet of gravel surfacing. Some sections of road are underlain with plastic foam insulation to prevent thawing of the permafrost.

Construction of the 800-mile-long pipeline between Prudhoe Bay and Valdez took place between 1974 and 1977. The 48-inch-diameter pipeline, of which slightly more than half is above ground, has 7 operating pump stations. The control center is in Valdez. Design, construction and operation of the pipeline are managed by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. For more information, contact Public Affairs Dept., Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., 1835 S. Bragaw St., Anchorage, AK 99512.

All waters between the Yukon River bridge and Dietrich River are part of the Yukon River system, and most are tributaries of the Koyukuk River. Fishing for arctic grayling is especially good in rivers accessible by foot from the highway. The large rivers also support burbot, salmon, pike and whitefish. Small Dolly Varden are at higher elevations in streams north of Coldfoot. Fishing for salmon is closed within the trans-Alaska pipeline corridor. According to the Dept. of Fish and Game, anglers should expect high, turbid water conditions throughout much of June as the snowpack melts in the Brooks Range, with the best fishing occurring during July and August. 🐟

Report wildlife violations to Fish & Wildlife or the State Troopers at Coldfoot.

**Emergency services:** Contact the Alaska State Troopers via CB radio, Channel 19, or contact any state highway maintenance camp along the highway. Department of Transportation maintenance camp personnel are not medically trained, but they will assist travelers in contacting the proper authorities to get medical attention. Highway maintenance camps can provide help in the event of an accident or medical emergency.

## Dalton Highway Log

Distance from junction with Elliott Highway (J) is followed by distance from Deadhorse (D).

### ALASKA ROUTE 11

**J 0 D 414** Sign at start of Dalton Highway: "Heavy Industrial Traffic. All vehicles drive with headlights on. Speed 50 mph next 416 miles." **CAUTION: Steep grades and narrow road northbound. Watch for trucks!**

**Junction** with Elliott Highway to Fairbanks and Manley Hot Springs. Turn to Milepost F 73.1 on page 491 in the ELLIOTT HIGHWAY section for log of that route.

**J 1 D 413** Distance marker northbound shows Yukon River 56 miles, Coldfoot 175 miles, Deadhorse 414 miles.

Distance marker southbound shows Fairbanks 81 miles, Minto 48 miles, Manley 80 miles.

**J 2.9 D 411.1** Turnout to west.

**J 4 D 410** Highway descends "Five Mile Hill" into the Lost Creek valley. This is a steep hill; there have been 2 truck accidents here.

www.themilepost.com



Bicyclists from Belgium take a break at Finger Mountain Wayside. (© Lynn Owen, staff)

Lost Creek flows into the West Fork Tolovana River. Pipeline is visible stretching across the ridge of the distant hill.

**J 5.5 D 408.5** Turnout to west.

**J 5.7 D 408.3** APL pipeline access road; no public admittance. There are many of these pipeline access roads along the highway; most are signed with the milepost on the pipeline. Because they are so numerous, most APL pipeline access roads are not included in *The MILEPOST*® log unless they occur along with another feature. All these access roads are closed to the public for security and safety concerns. Do not block road access.

**J 6.1 D 407.9** Turnout at gravel stockpile at top of grade.

**J 7.7 D 406.3** Turnout.

**J 8.4 D 405.6** Entering Game Management Unit 20F northbound.

**J 9.2 D 404.8** **CAUTION: Steep and winding downgrades next 3 miles northbound.**

**J 12 D 402** Turnout to west. Highway climbs northbound.

**J 14.3 D 399.7** Highway climbs; steep grades next 3 miles northbound.

**J 18.5 D 395.5** Highway curves past old alignment. Road widens northbound.

**J 20.6 D 393.4** Distance marker southbound shows Fox 90 miles, Fairbanks

# ARCTIC CIRCLE

## A D V E N T U R E®

### Arctic Circle DRIVE

*A one day guided round trip journey by land across the Arctic Circle.*

Travel the famed Dalton Highway and view the remarkable Trans Alaska Pipeline.

Visit the Arctic Circle Trading Post situated in the rural community of Joy, Alaska.

Experience the mighty Yukon River.

Walk out on the amazing arctic tundra and feel the frozen ground beneath the surface.

Cross the Arctic Circle and receive an official Arctic Circle Adventure Certificate. Enjoy an evening riverside picnic meal on your return journey to Fairbanks.

### Arctic Circle FLY / DRIVE

*The one day Arctic Circle Fly/Drive Adventure includes all the highlights of the Drive Adventure plus:*

Fly north from Fairbanks across the Arctic Circle and receive an aerial view of the vast Alaska wilderness.

Experience the mighty Yukon River. Enjoy a meal on your own on the banks of the Yukon River. Marvel at the majestic beauty of the northland's most famous waterway and learn of the river's storied past.

Travel the famed Dalton Highway under the Midnight Sun on the return journey to Fairbanks.

For further adventure extend your journey with an optional overnight stay in the Brooks Mountain Range.

### Arctic Circle NATIVE CULTURE

*The one day Arctic Circle Native Culture Adventure includes all the highlights of the Fly/Drive Adventure plus:*

Fly the wilderness airways of the rugged and magnificent Brooks Mountain Range.

Visit the Nunamiut Eskimo village of Anaktuvuk Pass nestled in the pristine and scenic Gates of the Arctic National Park. Learn of the local Nunamiut culture and history.

The return flight to Fairbanks provides an aerial view of the vast Alaska wilderness.

## NORTHERN ALASKA TOUR COMPANY

### Sharing Alaska's Arctic With The World

1-800-474-1986, 907-474-8600 Fax 907-474-4767

PO Box 82991-MD, Fairbanks, AK 99708

www.northernalaska.com adventure@northernalaska.com



BLM Yukon Crossing Visitor Contact Station at Milepost J 56. (© Kris Graef, staff)

100 miles.

J 20.8 D 393.2 Long parking area west side of road with sweeping view of mountains.

J 21.6 D 392.4 Turnout at gravel stockpile to east. Begin long (3 miles) descent northbound to Hess Creek.

J 21.8 D 392.2 Scenic viewpoint to west.

J 22.7 D 391.3 *Road narrows; rough road surface north to Milepost J 28.*

J 23.8 D 390.2 Hess Creek bridge. Dirt access road to west at north end of bridge to campsite in trees. Track can be muddy; an easy place to get stuck. Bring your mosquito repellent. Whitefish and grayling fishing. Hess Creek, known for its colorful mining history, is the largest stream between the junction and the Yukon River bridge. ♣▲

J 23.9 D 390.1 Side road to west 0.2 mile to pond with parking space adequate for camping.

J 25 D 389 Double-ended rough turnout to east. Good view of pipeline and remote-operated valve site as the highway crosses Hess Creek and valley.

*Highway climbs northbound; steep curve.*

J 25.5 D 388.5 Small turnout at distance marker northbound: Yukon River 31 miles, Coldfoot 150 miles, Deadhorse 389 miles.

J 26.5 D 387.5 APL access (gated). Pipeline parallels highway about 250 feet

away.

J 27 D 387 Evidence of lightning-caused forest fires.

J 28.2 D 385.8 Large turnout opposite APL access.

*CAUTION: Downgrade northbound, slow for 35 mph curves next 1.5 miles.*

J 32.7 D 381.3 Turnout to east.

J 33.7 D 380.3 Turnout at tributary of Hess Creek. Chiming bells bloom in June.

J 33.9 D 380.1 APL pipeline access road. Goalpost-like structures, called "headache bars," guard against vehicles large enough to run into and damage the pipeline.

J 35.5 D 378.5 Turnout to east.

J 38.1 D 375.9 Mile 38 Dalton Highway Crossing: pipeline goes under road. Good photo opportunity. APL access road.

J 38.5 D 375.5 *Steep uphill grades and 35 mph curves next 2 miles northbound.*

J 40.7 D 373.3 Double-ended turnout to east at crest of hill. Overview of Troublesome and Hess creeks area. Brush obscures sweeping views. Highway descends northbound.

J 42.2 D 371.8 Large turnout. Outcrop of dark gabbroic rock.

*Begin steep downgrade with 30 to 35 mph curves northbound to Milepost J 43.*

J 42.7 D 371.3 Turnout to east.

J 43.1 D 370.9 Isom Creek culvert.

J 44 D 370 *Steep upgrades northbound to*

*Milepost J 47 with sections of 30 mph curves.*

J 44.6 D 369.4 Turnout to west.

J 47.3 D 366.7 Summit; sweeping view of mountains to west.

J 47.5 D 366.5 Side road east to Yukon radio repeater tower.

Highway begins descent to Yukon River northbound.

J 50.4 D 363.6 Turnout at pond to east.

J 51.1 D 362.9 Rough private side road leads east 5.4 miles to Yukon River. Closed to the public.

J 53 D 360.8 First view northbound of the Yukon River. As road drops, you can see the pipeline crossing the river. Fort Hamlin Hills are beyond the river.

J 53.8 D 360.2 Pump Station No. 6 to west. Alyeska pump stations monitor the pipeline's oil flow on its journey from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. No public facilities.

J 54.2 D 359.8 Highway passes over pipeline.

J 55.1 D 358.9 Distance marker northbound shows Arctic Circle 60 miles, Coldfoot 120 miles, Deadhorse 360 miles.

J 55.6 D 358.4 Yukon River Bridge (formally the E.L. Patton Bridge, named for the president of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. after his death in 1982). This wood-decked bridge, completed in 1975, is 2,290 feet long and has a 6 percent grade. The deck was replaced in 1999.

J 56 D 358 Yukon River Crossing; traveler services on west side of highway, BLM visitor center on east side of highway. This is the southern boundary of BLM-managed lands.

BLM Yukon Crossing Visitor Contact Station has outhouses, wooden observation deck, information plaques about the highway, pipeline and Yukon River; open daily in summer. Pick up BLM pamphlets on the Dalton Highway here.

Large parking area (no camping). Good close-up views of the pipeline. Short walking path to Yukon River viewpoint.

*State law prohibits the use of motorized vehicles within 5 miles of either side of the Dalton Highway from the Yukon River north to Prudhoe Bay. Only persons with valid mining claims may use ORVs on certain trails to access their claims.*

J 57 D 357 Note the change in vegetation as the highway passes through boreal forests, boggy lowlands and tundra. Tall, dense forests of white spruce and birch, like these, are found in well-drained soil without permafrost, usually on south-facing slopes.

J 60.3 D 353.7 Turnoff to west for loop road to Hot Spot Cafe (food, gifts, rooms, gas).



Hot Spot Cafe & Arctic Circle Gifts. Favorite stop for truckers and locals. Best BBQ in Alaska. Huge hamburgers, daily specials. The best coffee, ice cream and homemade pies and cakes. Rustic overnight rooms; (907) 451-7543. Arctic Circle Gifts—local Native crafts. 5 miles north of Yukon River bridge. We sell fuel! Lowest prices on

**ARCTIC CIRCLE**

**TRADING POST**  
MILE 49, ELLIOTT HIGHWAY

The first stop on your journey to the Arctic Circle!

- ARCTIC CIRCLE CERTIFICATES  
Official Arctic Circle Registry
- ARCTIC CIRCLE GIFTS  
T-Shirts • Caps • Postcards • Pins
- DALTON HIGHWAY INFO  
Road Conditions, Safe Driving Tips

For general information:  
**907-474-4565**  
www.arcticcircletradingpost.com

**Dalton Highway Auto Rentals**

Discover Alaska's Arctic via the famous Dalton Highway!

Travel this extraordinary wilderness route at your own pace, using our safe and comfortable gravel road-ready vehicles. Fly/drive packages, Prudhoe Bay oil field tours, Arctic Ocean access, accommodations, and outfitting available.

**Arctic Outfitters**  
PO Box 82720-MP • Fairbanks, AK 99708  
phone/fax 907.474.0030

www.daltonhighway.com

the road. Easy entrance and exit for motorhomes. See display ad this section.

[ADVERTISEMENT]

**J 60.4 D 353.6** North end of loop road to Hot Spot Cafe (see Milepost J 60.3) provides direct access to **Mile 60 BLM Dump Station**; drive 0.3 mile west of highway past Alyeska pipeline water pump for the dump station. Overnight camping for self-contained RVs at former Five Mile pipeline construction camp. ▲

*Next gas stop northbound at Coldfoot, 115 miles.*

**J 60.6 D 353.4** Highway crosses pipeline. Control gates. Entrance to Five Mile airstrip (length 3,500 feet); controlled by Alyeska Security.

**J 61.3 D 352.7** Airstrip control tower.

**J 61.5 D 352.5** Control gates.

**J 61.8 D 352.2** Seven Mile Station DOT highway maintenance to east; no services. APL access road to west.

**J 66.8 D 347.2** Long double-ended turnout to west at bottom of hill. Highway climbs northbound and southbound.

**J 67.6 D 346.4** Turnouts both sides of road. *Highway descends steeply northbound with sharp curve at bottom of hill.*

**J 69 D 345** Turnout to west.

**J 70 D 344** Views of Ray River and Ray Mountains to the west.

**J 72.5 D 341.5** Turnout to west. Fort Hamlin Hills Creek bridge. Rough tracks down to creek both ends of bridge.

**J 73.5 D 340.5** *Begin steep 0.5-mile ascent of Sand Hill northbound.*

**J 74.8 D 339.2** Turnouts both sides of highway.

*Begin steep descent northbound followed by steep ascent; dubbed the "Roller Coaster."*

**J 75.8 D 338.2** *"Roller Coaster" begins southbound.*

**J 77 D 337** Stunted, low-growing black spruce like those growing in this area indicate permafrost (permanently frozen soil) near the surface, or poorly drained soil.

**J 79.1 D 334.9** **No Name Creek** bridge (narrow). Fishing for burbot, grayling and whitefish. ➤

Sign: Bow hunting only area.

**J 81.6 D 332.4** Fort Hamlin Hills are visible to the southeast. Tree line on surrounding hills is about 2,000 feet.

**J 86.5 D 327.5** Side road leads west 1 mile to scenic overlook. Access is steep with rough, rocky spots; no turnaround until you reach the top. Nice view of tors to northeast, Yukon Flats Wildlife Refuge to east and Fort Hamlin Hills to southeast. Tors are high, isolated pinnacles of jointed granite jutting up from the tundra and are a residual feature of erosion.

**J 87.2 D 326.8** *Begin long, steep ascent of Mackey Hill next 1.5 miles northbound; slippery in wet weather.*

**J 88.5 D 325.5** *Begin steep 0.5-mile descent of Mackey Hill northbound.*

Entering Game Management Unit 25D northbound, Unit 20F southbound.

**J 90 D 324** *Improved paved highway northbound to Milepost J 175.*

**J 90.2 D 323.8** Parking areas on both sides of highway at crest of hill. A good photo opportunity of the road and pipeline to the north. The zigzag design allows the pipeline to flex and accommodate temperature changes. The small green structure over the buried pipe is a radio-controlled valve, allowing the pipeline oil flow to be shut down when necessary.

Highway descends northbound to Dall  
www.themilepost.com



Travelers can stretch their legs at Finger Mountain Wayside.

(© Lynn Owen, staff)

Creek.

**J 91.1 D 322.9** Dall Creek. Highway climbs steeply next mile northbound.

**J 94.1 D 319.9** Turnout at former gravel pit road to west.

**J 95 D 319** The vegetation changes noticeably northbound as the highway crosses an area of moist tundra and alpine tundra for about the next 5 miles. Lichens and white mountain avens dominate the well-drained rocky ridges, while the more saturated soils alongside the road are covered by dense stands of dwarf shrubs.

**J 96 D 318** Good view northbound of **Finger Rock**, a tor, east of the road. Tors are visible for the next several miles northbound. Prehistoric hunting sites are also numerous in this region. Please do not collect or disturb artifacts.

**J 97.9 D 316.1** Distance marker southbound shows Yukon River 42 miles, Fox 166 miles, Fairbanks 176 miles.

**J 98.1 D 315.9** **Finger Mountain BLM Wayside** at crest of hill; outhouse, parking, interpretive trail. Good opportunities for photos, berry picking (blueberries, lowbush cranberries), wildflower viewing and hiking.

Caribou Mountain is in the distance to the northwest. Olsens Lake, Kanuti Flats, Kanuti River drainage and site of former Old Man Camp are visible ahead northbound as the road descends and passes through several miles of valley bottom. Excellent mountain views.

**J 98.3 D 315.7** Turnout to east at crest of Finger Mountain.

*Highway descends steeply next 1.7 miles northbound.*

**J 103.8 D 310.2** Turnout to east.

**J 104.1 D 309.9** Distance marker northbound shows Coldfoot 71 miles, Deadhorse 311 miles.

**J 105.8 D 308.2** Large parking area to east at south end of **Kanuti River** bridge; cement ramp to river, informal camping (no

facilities), fishing for burbot and grayling. ➤

**J 107 D 307** Site of Old Man Camp, a former pipeline construction camp; no structures remain.

**J 109.8 D 304.2** Turnout at Beaver Slide.

*Road descends 9 percent grade next 2 miles northbound. Watch for soft spots. Slippery when wet.*

**J 112.2 D 301.8** Turnout at pipeline access road to east. Moose and bear frequent willow thickets here.

**J 114 D 300** Turnouts at both ends of **Fish Creek** bridge. Bumpy, sandy access down to creek to west at north end of bridge; informal campsite in trees (no facilities). Fishing for grayling 12 to 18 inches. Nice spot. ➤

**J 115.3 D 298.7** Distance marker northbound shows Coldfoot 60 miles, Deadhorse 300 miles.

Turnoff to east for loop road to **Arctic Circle BLM Wayside** with tables, grills, outhouses and interpretive display. Stop and have your picture taken with the sign showing you are at N 66°33' W 150°48'. At this latitude, the sun does not set on summer solstice (June 20 or 21) and it does not rise on winter solstice (December 21 or 22). A third of Alaska lies within the Arctic Circle, the only true polar region in the state. Good photo point, with views to the south and to the west.

Follow road (tent sign) east from turnout 0.6 mile for unmaintained camping area on dirt loop road on the hill behind the wayside. If you reach the Alyeska access gate you've gone too far. ▲

**J 115.5 D 298.5** Long double-ended turnout to east at APL access road at Mile 294 on the pipeline.

*Begin steep and winding descent northbound.*

**J 116.3 D 297.7** Turnout to east.

Highway climbs next 2 miles northbound.

**J 120.8 D 293.2** Connection Rock (signed); north and south road-building crews linked up here.

*Steep descent northbound (9 percent grade).*

**J 122.4 D 291.6** Long double-ended turnout at APL access road to east.

**J 124.7 D 289.3** **South Fork Bonanza Creek**; burbot, grayling, whitefish. ➤

**J 125.7 D 288.3** **North Fork Bonanza Creek** bridge (narrow). Access to creek to east at south end of bridge. Fishing for burbot, grayling, whitefish. ➤

**J 126.5 D 287.5** *Steep uphill at curve northbound.* Highway climbs Paradise Hill. Blueberries and lowbush cranberries in season.

**J 129 D 285** *Begin long, steep, ascent next 2 miles northbound.*

**J 131.3 D 282.7** Solar-powered communications tower to west.

**J 131.5 D 282.5** View of Pump Station No. 5 to north.

**J 132 D 282** Large turnout with litter barrels and outhouse at **Gobblers Knob** (elev. 1,500 feet) overlooking the Jack White Range, Pope Creek Dome (the dominant peak to the northwest), Prospect Creek drainage, Pump Station No. 5, Jim River drainage, South Fork Koyukuk drainage and the Brooks Range on the northern horizon.

*Begin long, steep descents northbound and southbound.*

**J 135.1 D 278.9** Narrow bridge over **Prospect Creek**; grayling, whitefish and pike. Active gold mining area. ➤

*CAUTION: Steep uphill grade northbound; watch for trucks on blind hill.*

**J 135.7 D 278.3** Turnout. Old winter road

goes up creek to mines. Turn left for site of **PROSPECT CAMP**, which holds the record for lowest recorded temperature in Alaska (-80°F/-62°C, Jan. 23, 1971). Rough road leads 0.5 mile to Claja Pond; beaver, ducks. Undeveloped campsite on Jim River. Old winter road to Bettles crosses river here (this trail is not useable in summer). ▲

J 137.1 D 276.9 APL access road at Milepost 274.7 on the pipeline at **Pump Station No. 5** to east. Pump station No. 5 is not actually a pump station, but a "drain down" or pressure relief station to slow the gravity-fed flow of oil descending from Atigun Pass in the Brooks Range. Glacial moraine marks the southern boundary of Brooks Range glaciers during the most recent ice age.

**Private Aircraft:** Airstrip; length 5,000 feet; lighted runway. This airstrip is used as a BLM fire fighting staging area.

J 138.1 D 275.9 Jim River Station (DOT/PF highway maintenance) to west; no services.

J 140.1 D 273.9 Small turnout to east at south end of **Jim River No. 1** bridge; informal campsite. Fishing for burbot, chum and king salmon, grayling, pike, whitefish. **CAUTION: Bears here for fall salmon run.** ◀

J 141 D 273 Small turnout to west at south end of **Jim River No. 2** bridge; fishing. ▶

J 141.8 D 272.2 Douglas Creek crossing.

J 144.1 D 269.9 Large parking area at APL access road to east at south end of **Jim River No. 3** bridge crossing the river's main channel. Fishing. ▶

J 145.6 D 268.4 Pipeline passes under road.

J 150.3 D 263.7 Grayling Lake Wayside to east; parking, outhouse and litter barrels overlooking lake.

J 150.8 D 263.2 Turnout to east.

J 155.2 D 258.8 Turnout to east.

J 156 D 258 Large parking area with outhouse and litter barrels to east at south end of **South Fork Koyukuk River** bridge. Self-contained RV camping in turnout. Fishing for grayling, whitefish, chum and king salmon. ▶▲

This large river flows past the villages of Bettles, Allakaket, Hughes and Huslia before draining into the Yukon River near Koyukuk.

The road is passing through the foothills of the Brooks Range. There is an active gold

mining area behind the hills to the west. Many side roads off the Dalton Highway lead to private mining claims.

J 157.4 D 256.6 Turnout to east.

**Steep uphill grade next 1.2 miles northbound.**

J 158.8 D 255.2 Turnout to east.

J 159.1 D 254.9 Bridge over pipeline; large-animal crossing over pipeline.

J 160 D 254 Good view of Chapman Lake west of road as highway descends steeply northbound. Old mine trail is visible from the road.

The 2 mountains visible to the north are Twelvemile Mountain (elev. 3,190 feet), left, and Cathedral Mountain (3,000 feet), on right.

J 161.1 D 252.9 Turnout to west.

J 164.3 D 249.7 Example of sag bend to east. This is a short section of buried pipeline that allows large animals to cross.

J 165.6 D 248.4 Turnout to west.

J 166.4 D 247.6 Pipeline goes under road.

J 168.5 D 245.5 Turnout to west.

J 169.8 D 244.2 Creek culvert.

J 170.7 D 243.3 Distance marker shows Deadhorse 244 miles.

J 172.6 D 241.4 Large turnout to west.

Steep downgrade northbound.

J 173.8 D 240.2 Turnout to west.

J 174.8 D 239.2 First turnoff northbound for Coldfoot (to east via loop road); see description following.



J 175 D 239 Second turnoff northbound on loop road to east for **COLDFOOT**; food, gas, lodging, tire repair, visitor information, Troopers and Fish & Wildlife office.

A former mining camp at the mouth of Slate Creek on the east bank of the Middle Fork Koyukuk River, the name Coldfoot was first reported in 1933 by Robert Marshall, a forester who made a reconnaissance map of

the northern Koyukuk Region. "As early as 1899 the town of Slate Creek was started at the mouth of the creek which bears that name. In the summer of 1900, one of the waves of green stampedeers got as far up the Koyukuk as this point, then got cold feet, turned around, and departed. This incident was enough to change the first, unromantic appellation of the settlement to Coldfoot." A post office was established here in 1902, when Coldfoot consisted of "one gambling hole, 2 roadhouses, 2 stores and 7 saloons." Mining activity later moved upstream to Nolan and Wiseman Creeks. The post office was discontinued in 1912.

A construction camp during the pipeline boom, today Coldfoot Camp (phone 907/474-3400 or 1-866-474-3400) offers motel lodging and 24-hour restaurant. The "trucker's table" at the restaurant is a good place to get news on the highway. There is also a gift shop, general store, laundromat, fuel facility with gas, diesel and avgas; tire repair, minor vehicle repair; RV park with hookups and dump station; post office and phone. Area tours are available. Coldfoot is the jump-off point for flights into Gates of the Arctic National Park. ▲

There is a 3,500-foot runway to west, maintained by the state. An Alaska State Trooper is located at Coldfoot. A visitor center here, the Coldfoot Interagency Visitor Center, operated by the BLM, USF&WS and National Park Service, offers travel information and nightly slide presentations on the natural and cultural history of the Arctic. It is open from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. daily, Memorial Day through Labor Day. Topographic maps for sale.

**Coyote Air.** Experience the vast wilderness beauty of the Brooks Range the only way possible, by aircraft with Coyote Air. We offer a full range of flightseeing trips throughout the Gates of the Arctic National Park and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, along with remote access to the wilderness of the Brooks Range. Coyote Air is located at the Coldfoot State Airport. When in Coldfoot phone 678-5995. For advanced reservations or information, please call 1-800-252-0603. See display ad this section. [ADVERTISEMENT]

**Coldfoot Camp.** See display ad this section. ▲

**NOTE: Next services northbound are 244 miles from here.**

J 175.1 D 238.9 Narrow bridge over Slate Creek.

**Pavement ends, gravel begins, northbound. Asphalt surface treatment under way in summer 2003 between Milepost J 175 (Coldfoot) and Milepost J 209.**

J 179.7 D 234.3 Turnoff to east for

# COLDFOOT CAMP

**Your base camp for exploring Alaska's Brooks Mountain Range!**

Found 260 miles north of Fairbanks along the Dalton Highway, Coldfoot Camp is your base camp for exploring the Gates of the Arctic National Park and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Lodging • Food • Flightseeing • River Rafting • Tire Shop • Transportation

P.O. Box 81512  
Fairbanks AK 99708

907-474-3400, 866-474-3400  
www.coldfootcamp.com Fax: 907-474-4767

## Coyote Air Service

Gates of the Arctic National Park  
Arctic Refuge - ANWR

**1-800-252-0603**  
www.flycoyote.com