

The Geologic Evolution of Northern Alaska with Paul Layer

ITINERARY - June 21-26, 2026

Our daily activities will depend on weather and road conditions. While a sample itinerary is included below, please note that it may shift as conditions change.

Sunday, June 21 - Geology of the Yukon-Tanana Terrane, Fairbanks area. Possible stops: selected outcrops of the Birch Creek Schist, loess, basalt, TAPS viewpoint, Permafrost Tunnel, Ft. Knox mine, Gold Dredge, UAMN.

Monday, June 22 - Fairbanks for Coldfoot: Geology of the Tozitna, Ruby, and Angayucham terranes. Stops at Livengood, the Yukon River, Arctic Circle, Finger Mt., Grayling Lake, the Coldfoot Arctic Interagency Visitor Ctr., and other key geologic features. Stay at the Slate Creek Inn, Coldfoot.

Tuesday, June 23 - Coldfoot to Toolik Field Station: Geologic evolution of the Brooks Range and Arctic Alaska terranes: Stops include Wiseman, Sukakpak Mountain, a frozen debris lobe that caused the rerouting of the Dalton Highway, and Atigun Pass.

Wednesday, June 24 - All-day visit to the Atigun River and Galbraith Lake environs. We will duck under the pipeline, hike into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge along a major geologic contact marking the northern edge of the Brooks Range, have a picnic lunch, observe and catch and release resident arctic ground squirrels, and visit the Galbraith Aufeis and permafrost thaw sites. Breeding golden eagles and peregrine falcons are nearby.

Thursday, June 25 - Toolik Field Station and North Slope geology. Additional research tours illustrated by TFS students and principal investigators. Course wrap-up, sharing stories.

Friday, June 26 - Up early with packed lunches for the 9-hour drive from TFS to Fairbanks with southbound stops, arrive before 7 pm.

Recommended Text: Diel and Banet, 1993, *Riches from the Earth: A Geologic Tour Along the Dalton Highway, Alaska*, BLM publication.