

F E A T U R E

YORK

DRIVE THRU

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"The trouble with most forms of transport, he [Arthur Dent] thought, is basically one of them not being worth all the bother. On Earth — when there had been an Earth, before it was demolished to make way for a new hyperspace bypass — the problem had been with cars.

The disadvantages involved in pulling lots of black sticky slime from out of the ground where it had been safely hidden out of harm's way, turning it into tar to cover the land with, smoke to fill the air with and pouring the rest into the sea, all seemed to outweigh the advantages of being able to get more quickly from one place to another — particularly when the place you arrived at had probably become, as a result of this, very similar to the place you had left, i.e. covered with tar, full of smoke and short of fish."

Excerpted from "The Restaurant at the End of the Universe" of *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* trilogy by Douglas Adams (Pan Books, London 1980).

