

Looking back towards the main canyon from here. Interestingly, there is a flat ledge between the major canyon wall where the chute seen in the previous photo is located and the effective canyon wall next to the main canyon wash.



Looking out at the multitudes of balancing rocks on the northern canyon wall. Interestingly, they have not eroded into hoodoo-like formations, but instead are balanced on eroded ledges on the canyon wall.



Panorama of this impressive view of balancing rocks.



Looking down the top of the small "slot" I had just climbed up.



Looking out and down the canyon again. Notice that the top of the natural tunnel should be visible from here, but I could not see any place where the water drains into it (so it is still an unsolved mystery for me).



Photo looking out of this small slot.



From here, we continued up the main canyon. The canyon walls became taller and more impressive as we continued on.



From the Google Earth maps, I knew we were fortunate to have been able to hike this far in this canyon.



There are less balancing rocks further up-canyon, but we began to notice interesting mud-drip formations on the canyon walls.



Looking up at some of these mud-drips, some of which extend almost all the way from the top of the north wall to the canyon floor.



Taking a closer look at where some lighter colored mud has dripped over darker colored rock/mud.



Rounding a nice bend as we continue up the canyon.



Here, we could see the first major impasse. I had expected our progress up-canyon would almost certainly be stopped by an impasse near here from looking at Google Earth maps.



Vertical panorama of this impasse, which I'm guessing is about 18 feet tall. It is crumbly, but I think it is probably climbable by a skilled DV climber. However, it appears that there is a much more major impasse just beyond.



Looking back out at the walls above the north side of the canyon, and a few balancing rocks.



Looking back down the canyon from here.



This is one of the most impressive collections of mud drips I have ever seen, on the south wall of this canyon just before the impasse.



Panorama of this incredible wall of mud drips.



More mud drip formations on the south wall of the canyon, which we spotted on our hike back down the canyon. There are certainly many interesting things to see on this short hike!



This is a narrow bend in the canyon shortly before reaching the natural tunnel.



This is the second of the two small boulders which need to be climbed to progress further in the canyon.



Now we are back at the long straight stretch near the start of the canyon.



Looking back up this straight stretch of canyon towards where the highest concentration of balancing rocks are (left of center in this photo).



From here, we headed back down the main canyon to the small fork which takes off to the south. We then followed this fork to see where it goes. I had hoped to be able to get a view into the main canyon from the upper reaches of this side canyon, and I was successful, although it did require a bit of scrambling.



This is a chute between two hills where some very large boulders have rolled down.



Up ahead, the wash forks, with the left (straight) fork going to an overlook of the main canyon.





We briefly checked out the right fork first, since it didn't appear to go as far.



It soon reached an impasse. Notice the interesting mud formations in this area



HDR photo looking back out of this side-drainage towards the valley.



Looking back down the side-canyon from a short distance up the right fork seen four photos ago.



I didn't take many photos of the slippery stretch of this route as I was focusing on keeping stable footing rather than taking photos. This photo is of the upper part of the drainage once it levels out.



Looking back down at the side-canyon from here (notice how much elevation has been gained to reach this point).



This is the view looking into the upper part of the main canyon. I think the large "balancing rocks" seen in the center of the photo are the ones which were visible previously, at the top of a major impasse just beyond the one which stopped us. I'm guessing (but not entirely sure) that the minor drainage between this viewpoint and the main canyon is the one which drains into the side-drainage with the natural tunnel and small slot.



Looking straight down into the main canyon from this viewpoint, and across at some balancing rocks on the north wall. Notice how precipitous this drop-off is here; one would not want to slip and fall into the canyon.



I was a bit rushed for time since the rest of the group was waiting back at the fork before the slippery stretch of canyon, so I did not take very good panoramas from this viewpoint.



Looking down into the main canyon again.



This is the view back towards the valley. The overlook along the Artists Drive Road which we parked at is barely visible from here (although not with the resolution of this photo), and is to the right of center.



One last photo looking at the upper reaches of "Balancing Rock Canyon."



This is the only part of this route which I photographed; it is a crumbly rock jam/dry-fall, about 7 feet tall, which must be climbed (carefully) to continue.



Looking back up towards the route to the viewpoint from further down this side canyon.



Looking out at the valley and towards the Artists Drive Road from here.



On our way back to where we had parked, we continued down the main canyon wash to see where the narrow slot we had spotted earlier from above on the north side joins the main canyon. Where it joins the main canyon, there are two small false natural bridges. This one is about 3 feet tall.



The second false natural bridge can just barely be seen in the background of this photo, behind the first one. Unfortunately, it would be difficult to access the second false bridge without disturbing the first one. Please be very careful of these delicate natural formations if visiting this area!



From here, we gained the ridge. Panorama with "Balancing Rock Canyon" to the far left in this photo, Brimstone Canyon to the right of center, and Badwater to the far right.



Looking over towards the mouth of Brimstone Canyon (left), and the area between Brimstone Canyon and Hellfire Canyon we had explored on a previous trip (December 2016) to the right.



There are some interesting drainages between "Balancing Rock Canyon" and Brimstone Canyon, which appear to be smaller than "Balancing Rock Canyon" but are still probably worth exploring.



Looking back at "Balancing Rock Canyon" from partway back to the parking area. From here, we could finally see the viewpoint of the main canyon from the upper part of the side canyon, but unfortunately the resolution isn't good enough in this photo to see it.



Looking over towards the main Artists Drive Road. The terrain here is bumpy enough that, although it might be shorter to hike to this canyon from further up the road, one might not really save any time.



Panorama from here, with the first Artists Dip Canyon to the far left, "Balancing Rock Canyon" to the left of center, the mouth of Brimstone Canyon to the right of center, and Badwater to the far right.



Looking back at "Balancing Rock Canyon" from the parking area.

