

The canyon is still staying narrow; these narrows were much longer than I'd remembered:



Notice the carved alcove up ahead, to the left of center in this photo:



The canyon finally became less narrow and the walls became shorter, as we approached where the second (main) side canyon joins with the main canyon:



To the left in this photo is where the side canyon drops into the main canyon; the main canyon continues to the right:



This dryfall is taller than I remembered, so I'm guessing that the gravel underneath may have eroded since our last trip:



I'm estimating that this dryfall is 12-15 feet tall:



The sun angle wasn't great for taking photos looking up the main canyon, but it did continue to be narrow for a short distance further:



Looking back at the impasse that blocks the beginning of the second (main) side canyon. It certainly looks like there are some very nice narrows just above this dryfall:



From here, we continued up the main canyon:



We stopped at a large rock in the wash for second-breakfast. Here is the view looking back down the main canyon. Unfortunately, it doesn't appear that a work-around for the impasse at the beginning of the side canyon would be any better than just climbing the impasse itself:



There were many ants crossing the boulder we were sitting on, and they seemed to be collecting the berries off this desert holly plant:



This interesting alcove was just across from where we stopped for a short break:



Continuing up-canyon, we began to see more colors on the hillsides, mostly purples and reds:



The colors really stood out on this impressive bend in the canyon. Further ahead, we started to see more bluish-green colors, too:



Looking ahead towards the peaks above Hellfire Canyon and Natural Bridge Canyon:



Looking back at the ridge to the north of Hellfire Canyon, which we had descended the previous year:



The canyon began to widen again:



Panorama from the impressive bend we were currently hiking through; this canyon winds around more than some of the other canyons in this area:



The tall peaks towering above this canyon certainly look forbidding from this perspective:



Here is a small desert holly plant and another plant which I didn't identify:



Notice the deep bluish-green and purple colors in this rock. I'm not sure what sort of rock this is:



Looking back at yet another view of the ridge we had descended in December 2016:



Here we are entering a section of canyon which has more reddish-orange rock rather than the purples we were seeing earlier:



On the right side of the canyon was yet another castle-like formation:



This castle-like formation had multiple mud-drips coming down the sides:



Looking back down-canyon, we noticed a small arch (left side of photo) on the canyon wall:



Continuing up-canyon, the wash became narrower again:



Up ahead, the canyon enters the mountains:





But first, we decided to explore a small, short side-canyon which takes off from the main canyon to the left (north):



There is a small, slanted dryfall that must be climbed near the start of this side-canyon:



The side-canyon first passes through some light tan rocks:



Looking back down a collection of small dryfalls near the start of this side-canyon:



The side canyon soon widens:



We are starting to leave the (harder) tan rock and enter a reddish-brown formation:



We would be able to get just below the peak seen in the center of this photo by following this side-canyon:



At this point, we thought the canyon would end at an impasse, but this was just a short narrow section that we could hike through:



This side-canyon is like a miniature canyon in places, with the impressive bends and tall walls:



After exiting the narrow section, we turned a corner and saw this view of the mountain up ahead:



Looking back towards the main canyon and out at the Panamint Mountains from here:



The side-canyon goes through a couple more bends before reaching the cliff face:



Here we can see that the side-canyon has a straight stretch, then reaches the base of this tall peak:



It appears that the side canyon curves to the left upon reaching the base of this peak, and that there is a very tall (series of?) dryfall(s) past that point. I'm also not sure if it would be possible to gain the ridge between this side canyon and the main northern side canyon at this point:



Notice the tall, fluted mud cliffs on the right side of this side-canyon:



From here, we headed back down this side canyon:



Notice the hoodoo-like formation which kind of looks like an Easter Island head, in the center of this photo on the canyon wall:



We had gained some elevation in this side-canyon:



This thin-looking part of the canyon wall was just too tall to look over:



Here we are descending to the narrow stretch of this side-canyon:



The join between the softer reddish-brown rock and the harder tan rock is almost a straight line here:



This is a surprisingly scenic side-canyon:



Looking back out at the main canyon from where the side-canyon joins it:

