

Looking back down the main canyon from here; the sun angle was better for photography at this time of the day:



Continuing up the main canyon; notice the colorful spot on the hillsides just above the center in this photo, which has blues, greens, pinks, reds, and oranges:



Up ahead, the canyon is starting to get narrow again:



Panorama of this scenic stretch of canyon:



We could see the moon above one of the ridges:



High up on the hillside (top left in this photo), we spotted what is either a small slot or a small natural tunnel:



Here we see that we are going to reach an impasse soon, as the canyon approaches the mountains:



This large plant was growing in the middle of the wash:



Another small side-canyon joins the main canyon from the left at this point:



Panorama with this small side-canyon coming in on the left, and the main canyon continuing just right of center. Also notice another colorful section of canyon wall to the right:



There are many places where water drains down tall, steep chutes from the canyon walls:



Here, the canyon leaves the conglomerate formations, becomes narrower, and enters solid rock:



The first impasse is small and easy to climb:



Just beyond it is this taller dryfall, which I think is about 8-10 feet tall. It's not particularly difficult to climb, but I chose not to ascend it because the rock was slippery:



I did climb up a short distance and held my camera over the top to get a view up-canyon:



I also scrambled up the left wall of the canyon to get another view:



There is another dryfall just ahead, and there's a photo of it in my previous report on this canyon:



Looking across at one of the nearby peaks, north of this canyon:



Looking back at the impasses from the main canyon floor:



From here, I decided to briefly check out the nearby side canyon:



This side canyon actually forks immediately, and both forks have tall dryfalls; I'm not sure how interesting the forks of the side-canyon are beyond these impasses, but they do seem to go some distance beyond this point, so they probably are worth checking out:



This is the right fork:



And this is the left fork:



Looking up at where water pours down from the left fork:



Back in the main canyon, we spotted this almost neon red patch of rock on the hillside to the south:





Zooming in on this neon red spot on the hillside far above us. We would see another patch of this color near the mouth of the canyon, on our hike back:



One last panorama of the end of the easily passable part of Hellfire Canyon. This had certainly been a much more interesting and enjoyable hike than I'd remembered:



Two photos of our hike back down the main canyon towards the narrow section; in the first photo, the ridge we had descended in December 2016 can be seen:



Here we are back at the purplish-red bend in the canyon; notice how tall and sheer this wall is:



We also noticed that water seemed to be seeping out of the rock here; it did not appear to be coming down the rock:



Looking towards ridge we'd been hiking on the previous year; the views from that ridge into this canyon were quite nice:



Here is another panorama of the bend in this canyon; the wash was not quite as steep as it appears in this (slightly distorted) photo:



Two more photos of our continued progress back down the main canyon:



This appeared to be the only spot where one could access the ridge to the north during this section of the canyon:



Here is another view of the impasse at the start of the second (main) side canyon:



These next two photos are of our walk back through the tightest section of narrows:



This patch of rock up on the canyon wall was reflecting the late afternoon sun:



The reddish colors of the canyon walls really showed up in the late afternoon; I'm wondering if that's why this canyon has the unofficial name "Hellfire Canyon":



Looking north again at the ridge we'd descended the previous year:



These large boulders must have made a big sound when they broke off the canyon wall:



Here is another section of neon red rocks, on the south side of the canyon:



These rocks really are this shade of red:



Looking back up-canyon from here:



Here is the view up a small side-drainage on the south side of the canyon, which appears from the Google Earth maps and from what we saw from the ridge to the north to lead to more reddish hillsides:



Looking towards Badwater from the Hellfire Canyon alluvial fan:



Looking towards the southern Panamint Mountains from here:



Panorama looking back at the Hellfire Canyon mouth and the surrounding part of the Black Mountains:



Here is a panorama from closer to the main road as the sun was starting to set, looking towards Badwater again:



This panorama was taken from back at the main road, looking towards Hellfire Canyon, with the Artists Drive area to the left and Natural Bridge Canyon to the right:



Here is another view of the peaks above "40-Foot Canyon" and Desolation Canyon, on our drive back to Stovepipe Wells; I hope to do more hiking in that area someday, too:

