

This photo is looking down the travertine terraces from here; this definitely is a very nice view:



Looking down the valley, and over the southern end of the travertine terraces:



Panorama of the view from just north of Cyty's house. I had forgotten just how scenic this part of the park is, having not been here since before the closure of this area for stabilization/decontamination work:



Taking a closer look at the construction of the stamp mill. Notice how thick these wood beams are:



Previous visitors have collected interesting rocks and other artifacts and lined them up on the windowsills of the cabin:



Some of the cabinetry still remains inside the house. I didn't venture inside, due to concern of mouse habitation as well as unstable flooring, but I took these photos through the windows:



There are definitely some gaps between the boards, which winds would have whistled through if there wasn't something caulking them at one time:



This is the view from the "deck" in front of Cyty's house, looking towards the Keane Wonder Mine area:



One last view looking down the travertine terraces and out to the wash where we parked:



Looking back at this collection of well-preserved mining relics:



One interesting observation I have often made about mining areas is the long trail of cans which ends up down-stream of them (and, in fact, in canyons where I haven't expected to find signs of habitation, such as the old Stovepipe Wells dump in Black Point Canyon, and Mormon Point Canyon, we'll see cans and know to expect more items further up-canyon):



We spotted this (man-made?) mini-bridge a short distance below Cyty's Mill:



Looking back up at Cyty's Mill, with this formation in the lower part of the photo. I'm thinking the drainage channel is probably man-made, but I'm not sure why this mini-bridge was formed then:



This is more clearly a man-made drainage channel, with some odd green sludge (which smelled terrible—maybe sulfurous?) in the bottom:



Looking out towards the valley from just below this drainage channel (more of the green stuff can be seen in the lower part of this photo):



A short distance further down the hillside, we spotted this salty plateau with grasses growing out of it:



The route back down to the alluvial fan was quite scenic, and we followed a small drainage for part of the way:



We had to bypass this small dryfall:



Notice the bluish-green streaks on this reddish-brown cliff-face:



Panorama looking towards the alluvial fan from here, with a short distance further to go before we leave the travertine terraces:



Near the base of the travertine terraces, we crossed this small stream with salt-encrusted banks. I was surprised how much water we were encountering here:



Looking back towards Cyty's Mill (just barely visible as a brown spot to the left of the reddish-brown bump on the right side of this photo):



There were many berries on the desert holly lining the canyon wash:



Looking back towards another drainage leading up into the travertine terraces:



Alongside the wash we spotted this large collection of rock cairns. I'm not sure why they were made, but there is a similar collection just south of the Moonlight Canyon mouth:



These relatively large, thorny plants seemed to be enjoying the water in the canyon wash:



There is also a lot of interesting conglomerate rock in this canyon wash:





The wash cuts through the reddish bumps up ahead, seen in the center of this photo. Also note we are crossing a large expanse of conglomerate rock here:



The "pedestal" of this hoodoo-like balancing rock is actually starting to erode behind the rock as well as in front of it:



The hillsides are starting to get more colorful here (and the colors are more visible because the clouds are preventing the sunlight from being too bright):



Notice how tiny the rock pieces are in this section of conglomerate rock:



There was a surprising amount of salt on the ground in this part of the canyon, but no water at this location. Also note that up ahead (and just out of sight in this photo) there is a small, slanted dryfall (which I didn't get a photo of because I raced up it to photograph a bighorn sheep):



Looking up a small side-drainage towards some cliffs which are reminiscent of a miniature version of Red Cathedral:



This lone bighorn sheep watched us from the hillside (unfortunately, the camera resolution isn't particularly good, but from binoculars we were able to see that this sheep was missing one horn and had a large scar on its chest):



Up ahead, the canyon wash starts to open up:



This is the view looking back down the valley from the top of the small dryfall:



This small side-canyon looks interesting:



Around one more corner, the canyon wash looks like it's going to get steeper, but it still looks interesting. However, we decided to turn around here as part of the group was tired from the previous day's hike:



One more view looking up this canyon, which (according to the TOPO maps) does not go very far into the mountains:



I ascended the hillside a short distance to get a view of the narrow side-drainage. Notice the toadstool-like formation (with the white base and brown top) in the upper left corner of this photo:



Panorama from the hillside, looking back out at the valley:



There is a nice, flat plateau to walk back along, to the southeast of this canyon:



One last view looking up this drainage towards the mountains beyond. I hope to return to this area again someday to explore it further:



Looking southeast, towards what I think is Winters Peak; there appear to be some interesting mud-mound like formations below the peak:



We spotted this very small bighorn sheep horn while walking along this plateau:



Looking across at a particularly colorful part of the northern end of the travertine terraces, which is probably just north of Cyty's Mill:



More colorful mounds in the travertine terraces, these with bluish-green coloring:



The plateau gives great views of the reddish cliffs to the north of where we are hiking:



There are a few of these interestingly-colored rocks in the canyon wash; they must have come from a geological formation further up-canyon:



Panorama from near where we dropped back into the wash, looking up-canyon to the left and down-canyon to the right:



Looking towards Tucki Mountain from here. I think the "glow" just to the right of Tucki is the sun shining through blowing sand by the Mesquite Dunes:



Panorama of the interesting cloud patterns upon our return to the Keane Wonder Mine Road:



Panorama looking towards the dark clouds above the mountains behind Keane Wonder Mine:



Looking towards the reddish cliffs again, which are between the wash we hiked up and the canyon which leads to the Big Bell Extension Mine:



Looking towards the main road, where there are less clouds:



The cloud formations certainly made for very nice photography:





One last photo on the drive back to Stovepipe Wells, looking towards the clouds above the Grapevine Mountains (which we did not visit on this trip):

