

However, there is an easier way (at least, in my opinion); the boulder jam can be bypassed via a ledge on the right side of the canyon (which is to the left in this photo, since I'm looking back down-canyon):



Just past the boulder jam, there is a small rock-slide that must be crossed:



Then, the canyon begins to open up again:



Here we are getting our first glimpse of the giant rock face just below the 100 foot fall:



This rock face can be seen from the main road towards Furnace Creek in many locations:



Notice the nice turquoise and dark blue/gray colors in this rock:



Looking back down the canyon from here; notice the tramway cable is visible against the blue sky in the upper center of this photo:



Looking up at the contorted rock patterns on this cliff face:



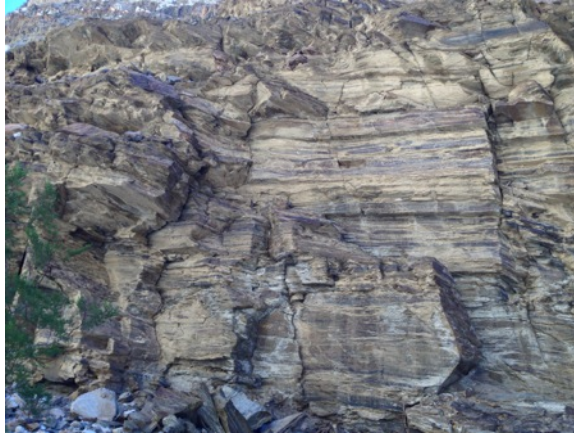
The upper tramway station was just barely visible at the top of the rock outcropping to the left in this photo (but it did not appear in the photo, with the resolution of my camera):



Around another corner, we encountered this dryfall, which is listed as a 22-foot fall in Dignonnet's excellent book:



Notice the coloration of the rock here; there was no editing of this photo:



Looking back out of the canyon from here; at this point, we headed back down-canyon to check out the mule trail:



The base of the mule trail is a little hard to find because of the erosion; the trick is to look for these wood posts:



Looking back out at the valley from the base of the mule trail. Notice how much dust is in the air by the Mesquite Dunes; it became worse later in the afternoon:



Once you're on the mule trail, you can see the part of the trail just ahead of you fairly well, but on the way up it can be difficult at times to see where the next switchback goes:



The trail is narrow, with a steep drop in most places, and the terrain is slippery. Hiking poles would have helped:



Erosion has worn a trough in the trail in some of the steeper places:



The trail gains elevation quickly. Here I am looking towards the lower tramway station (lower left of center). The straight corridor is just out of view, and the contorted rock face is in the shaded area at the bottom left:



In some places, the trail became hard to find due to erosion, but I could always see more of the trail just beyond:



Rocks have also slid and covered the trail in some places:



I'm now approaching a big rock outcropping; I'm not sure whether the trail goes above or below this outcropping:



Continuing to gain elevation, as the trail climbs at a quick rate:



Looking down at the main canyon again:



Looking out at the increasing amount of dust in the valley, near where I turned around on the mule trail:



It was just beyond this point that I had to turn around due to the strong gusts of wind. I'm not sure where the trail goes from here, and how it avoids the rock outcroppings ahead:



I enjoyed the hike up this trail, but one does need to be very cautious when hiking this trail. Not only is the trail narrow and the terrain steep and slippery, but the rock also reflects the sunlight and it can be hard to look at the trail in places. This patch of rock was almost blindingly bright when I walked across it on the way back down:





Panorama of this bend in the canyon from one of the last switchbacks on the mule trail:



Here is another oil container in the wash, near the base of the mule trail; this one says Triton Motor Oil:



The mule trail can be seen switchbacking up the ridge to the right of center in this photo:



Here we are descending the old road, which goes around the section of canyon with the small dryfalls:



Here is another interesting rock in the canyon, with the black line of a different kind of rock (?) running through it:



This is the "giant spool" we saw earlier, near the mouth of the canyon:



Upon exiting the canyon and heading back towards the Keane Wonder Mine area, we noticed that the amount of dust in the air near the Mesquite Dunes had greatly increased:



Looking at the Keane Wonder Mill while following the old road back to the parking area:



The dust in the air by the Mesquite Dunes was continuing to increase:



Looking up Keane Wonder Canyon towards the mill:



This is the view back towards the mouth of King Midas Canyon from the Keane Wonder Mine parking area:



There is some assorted mining debris near the parking area and the road:



This appears to be the remains of tracks that probably carried ore bins somewhere:



We decided to take a short walk towards the Keane Wonder Mill before driving out into the dust-storm in the valley:



Looking northwest towards a trail that I think leads to some more buildings:





This sign warns visitors of the mine hazards and milling contaminants in the area:



Panorama of the Keane Wonder Mill, with the Keane Wonder Canyon visible to the right:



From here, we headed back to Stovepipe Wells. These are two photos of the interesting area west of the mining ruins and south of Cyty's Mill; we would visit this area later in our trip, to see (among other things) Keane Wonder Bridge, which is located somewhere in that area:

