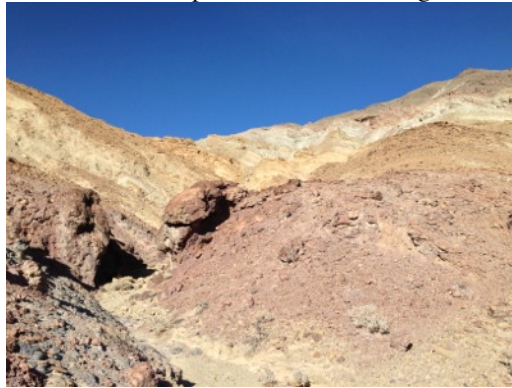


Here's another panorama from partway down the steep stretch:



Upon reaching the small drainage again, I took a brief look up it, towards the orangish-brown mound:



From here, we headed over to the base of the gray mound and began to ascend it. The reddish mound is visible to the right of center, and the orangish-brown mound to its right. The ridge I was following is the closer of the two reddish ridges (the farther one is too precipitous):



Panorama from partway up the gray mound. The terrain here is softer, but there are many small rocks:



This was the worst stretch of the ascend up the gray mound; the cliff band at the top is about four feet tall and has to be climbed, but the ground underneath it was too unstable to get a photograph:



Looking towards the orangish-brown and reddish mounds from near the top of the gray mound:



Looking across at USMM 2191 (far left) and Borax Benchmark (far right) from here:



Panorama of the impressive view from this point, looking towards the main part of the valley (center):



This panorama is looking the other direction from the previous panorama, towards the area above Twenty Mule Team:



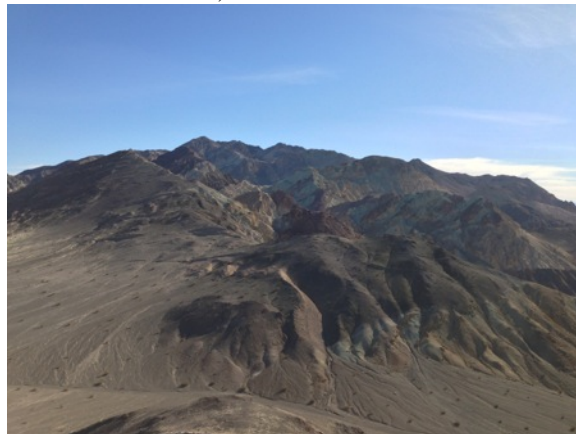
Taking a closer look at the badlands-like area near the drainage which (I think) leads into an upper side canyon of Twenty Mule Team Canyon:



Looking south from here, towards where we'd ascended to this flat area below Borax Benchmark:



Looking directly across at the route up to Borax Benchmark, and the colorful area to the west of it:



Looking straight down towards the drainage leading to the second Artists Palette canyon:



Looking over at the other two mounds in this part of the ridgeline:



The gray rock at the top of this mound is an interesting form of conglomerate, with tiny white pebbles (?) embedded in it:



From here, we continued along the ridge of the gray mound to get more views:



Here we are looking down into the (very) convoluted badlands area which separates the top of "40-Foot Canyon" and the top of the side canyon of Twenty Mule Team Canyon:



Here is the ridgeline which one could follow to get to the top of the orangish-brown mound, and eventually (and hopefully) on to the reddish mound. The ridge further on, above Desolation Canyon, looks much more precipitous and difficult to follow:



Looking at more sharply pointed peaks in the distance, which must be above the Gower Gulch/Zabriskie Point area; I think the peaks in the far distance to the right of center are part of Red Cathedral:



The greenish hills seen to the left of center in this photo are above "40-Foot Canyon":



Looking down at the badlands-like area we would cross to get back to the flat area below Borax Benchmark:



The gap in the ridgeline in the center of this photo is where Twenty Mule Team Canyon cuts through:



Panorama looking down the route we'd descend; the wash seen to the right of center is the uppermost part of the "40-Foot Canyon" wash:



It's easy to get cliffed out when trying to work your way through this badlands-like area without a good Google Earth map:



Here is a relatively narrow side drainage joining a side canyon of Twenty Mule Team Canyon:



This side-drainage looked interesting to follow, but it soon had some dropoffs, and it was starting to get late in the day:



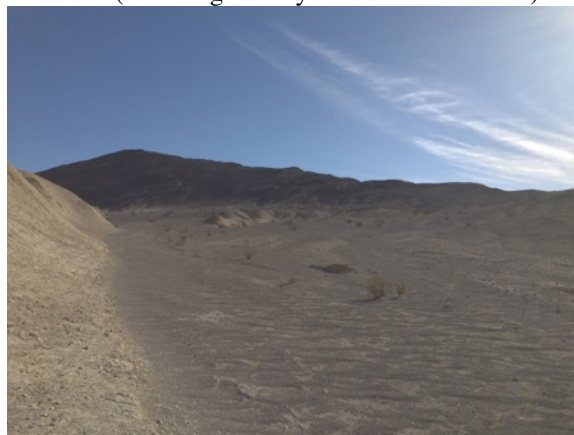
Looking down towards the tall cliffs where Twenty Mule Team Canyon drops steeply and cuts through the hills:



Panorama looking back at the small drainage we'd just hiked out of when exiting this badlands-like area. The gray mound can be seen in the upper left of this photo. Note that, although the terrain is much easier to hike through in this badlands-like area, it is also much easier to get lost and/or cliffed out:



Looking towards Borax Benchmark, and the long, flat stretch back towards the route down from here. Even on a relatively cool day, this part of the hike is almost guaranteed to be hot (it's also generally sheltered from wind):





We did, however, find a break in the mud-mound hills to the east, where we could look down on the upper part of Twenty Mule Team Canyon. The canyon below looks very interesting and narrow, but there will also be (probably many) dryfalls just down-canyon (I'm not sure):



Looking down at the part of the canyon near where we turn off via a side-canyon to access the flat area below Borax Benchmark:



These posts on the hillside between where we are hiking and Twenty Mule Team Canyon may be part of the "remains of the fences strung out by the Pacific Coast Borax Company around 1916 to discourage encroachment" mentioned in Dignonnet's *Hiking Death Valley* book:



Looking back across the flat area at these three bumps:



This is the view looking back at where we'd just hiked up from, and where water drains into a side canyon of Twenty Mule Team Canyon:



Looking down at our route back:



Notice the reddish colors on the rocks here, in the small drainage we followed down:



The reddish colors on this rock are near where the side-drainage joins the upper part of Twenty Mule Team Canyon. I don't recall seeing colors this vivid on previous trips up this side-drainage, so more erosion could have occurred recently:



Looking down the canyon just south of Corkscrew Canyon, in the evening lighting. The formations through here are quite interesting:



More mining relics we spotted on our walk back to the main road:



I'm not sure what this metal object is, but it's been slowly washed down towards the main road over the years:



These small blue shards were puzzling; I'm not sure if they're broken pieces of rock, or maybe (though unlikely) of some old pottery:

