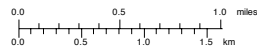
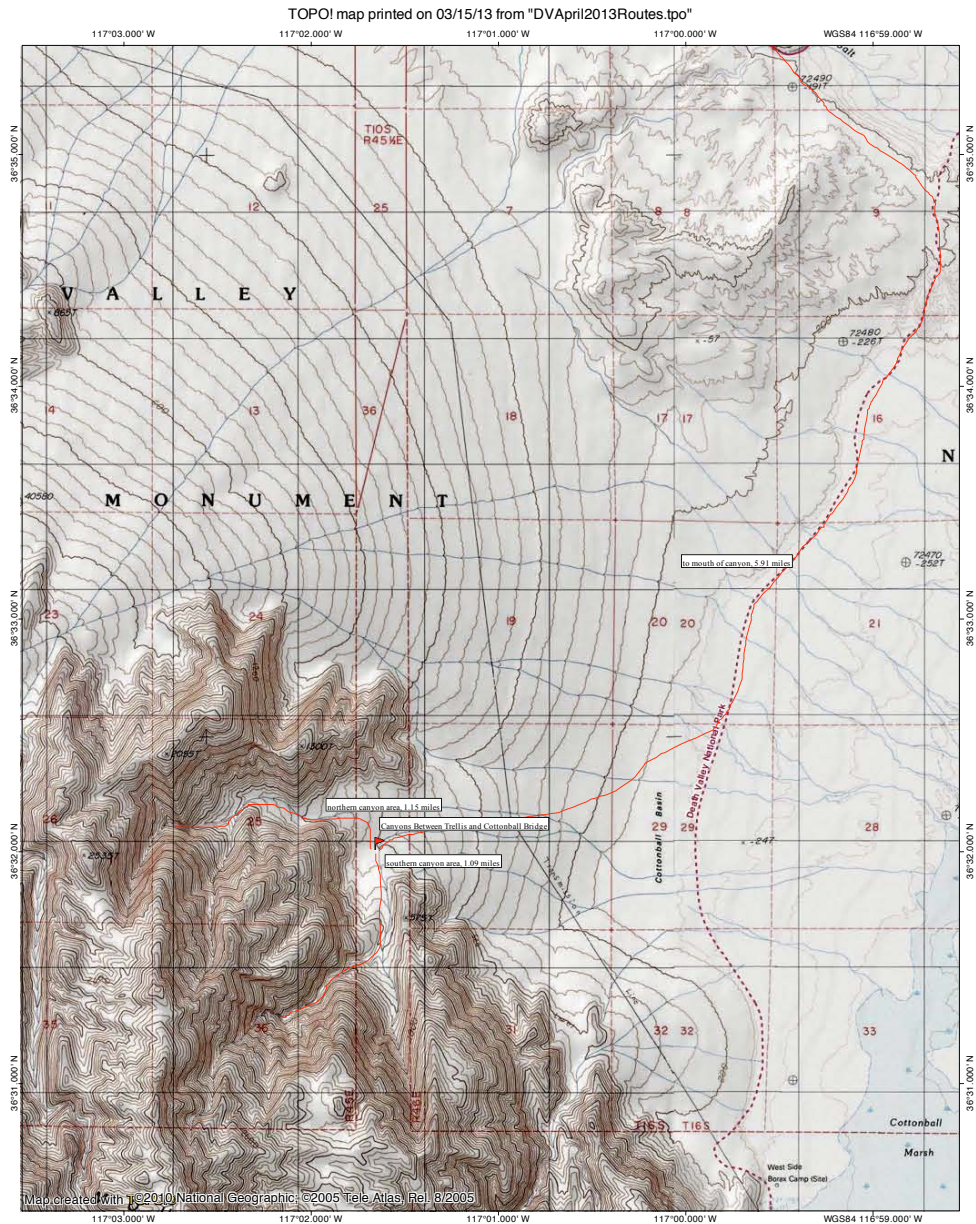


The Canyon Just North of Cottonball Marsh Canyon

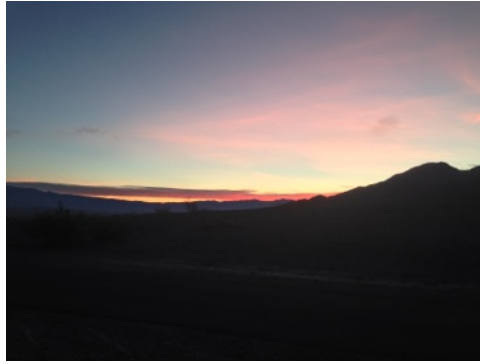
TOPO map of this area:



Google Earth maps of this area:



As the hike across to this canyon from Salt Creek is so long, we left very early in the morning. This is looking down the valley from Stovepipe as we were driving out:



Panorama looking towards Tucki Mountain and this canyon from the hills near Salt Creek. Do not despair if, when hiking to or from this canyon, both the canyon and Salt Creek appear to get further from you as you hike—it is only an illusion:



The canyon mouth finally appears to get closer:



As can be seen somewhat in this photo, the canyon has a north and a south fork, and each of these forks has a left and a right sub-fork. We decided to check them out north to south, right to left:



The next three photos show progress up the north fork:



Panorama of the left and right sub-forks of the north fork:



Very soon we appear to be approaching a steep and narrow section:



A small boulder jam at the beginning of this narrow section:



More boulders beyond this first jam:



Around just one more corner, we encounter an impasse that is too big to climb:



Although this appears to be a possible workaround, it gets too steep further up and the rocks are very loose:



Therefore, we head back down canyon to check out the left sub-fork of this north fork. The next four photos show progress up this sub-fork:



Here we see three bighorn sheep on the walls of this canyon:



The boulders get bigger and bigger:



Around the corner is another impasse, which may be bypassable, but as we had the south fork of this canyon to still check out we decided to turn around here. The canyon beyond may or may not have nice narrows, with or without large boulders—it will require another trip to this canyon to determine the answer. Heading up the south fork:



Nice stripes on the walls:



The canyon splits, with the left sub-fork appearing to not be as interesting as the right sub-fork (we only had time to check out the right one):



There were lots of footprints in this part of the canyon, whereas we saw none in the other forks. The next four photos show progress up this right sub-fork of the south fork of the canyon:



Up ahead, the canyon quite obviously enters a narrow section, and we are concerned we will be unable to continue:



This boulder jam is actually much more simple to climb than it appears:



Interesting rock walls here:

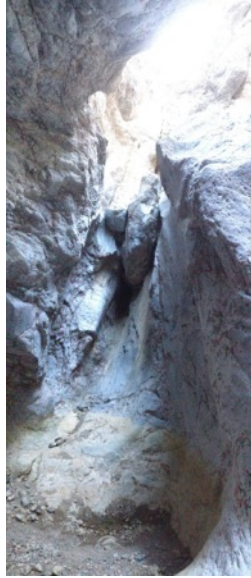


The next ten photos show the absolutely incredible slot narrows of this canyon. These are definitely some of the best narrows I have ever hiked through:





All too soon, we encounter an impasse:



I climbed up into a niche in the wall on the left to get a view above the impasse; the canyon appears to be significantly narrower beyond this impasse (!):



Unfortunately, it was getting very late and we still had the long walk back across to Salt Creek, so we were unable to explore the left sub-fork of the southern fork:



Panorama of the valley from the mouth of this canyon:

