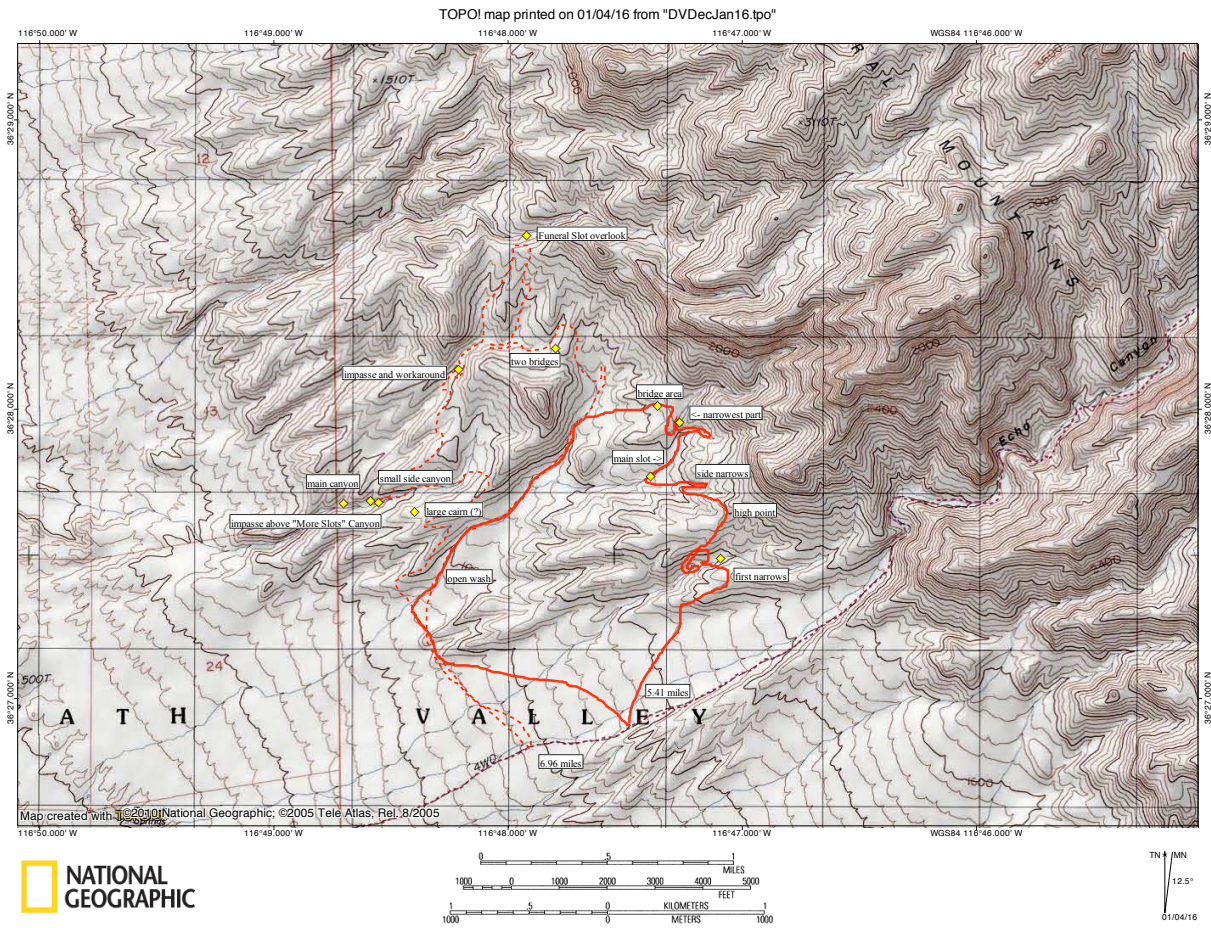
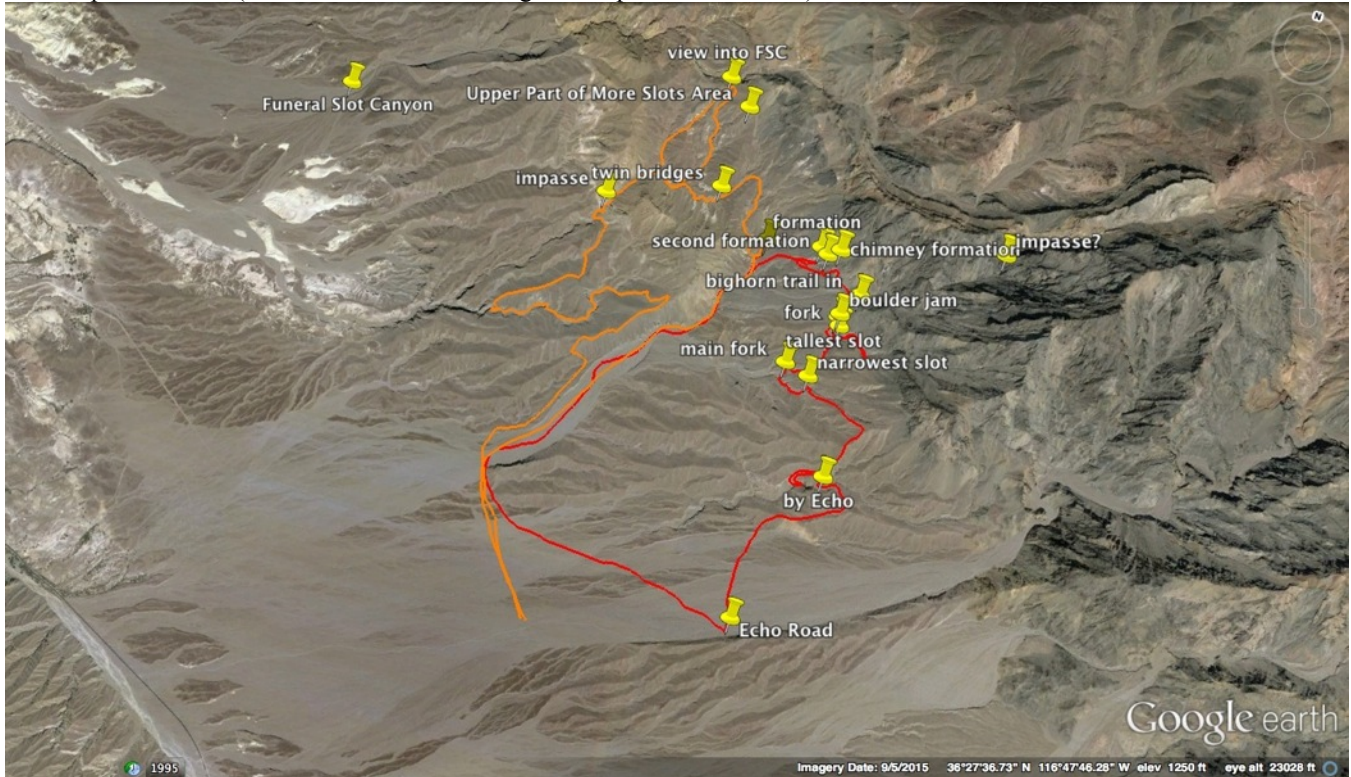


THE NORTHERN OF THE TWO CANYONS BETWEEN FUNERAL SLOT CANYON AND ECHO CANYON ("MORE SLOTS CANYON")

TOPO map for this hike (note that the route marked by a dashed line corresponds to this hike, whereas the route marked by a solid line corresponds to the hike done earlier in this trip, of the southern of the two canyons between Funeral Slot Canyon and Echo Canyon):



Google Earth map of this area (note that the route in orange corresponds to this hike):



There were a few blooming plants that we spotted on our hike over to the mouth of the canyon; here's a Beavertail Cactus:



Desert Gold:



We hiked over to the mouth of the southern of the two canyons between Echo and Funeral Slot, then headed for the ridge to the north of this canyon:



The hiking along the ridge was relatively straightforward:



We decided to follow a well-worn "bighorn freeway" which zigzagged to the top of the ridge rather than head straight up the ridge; it's interesting to notice the trails that have been worn-in by the bighorn sheep:



Zooming in on a large cairn on a nearby ridge; I'm not sure if it was recently put there or if it is a marker left over from the old mining days:



Panorama of the upper reaches of the southernmost fork of the northern of the two canyons between Echo and Funeral Slot:



Panorama of the wide wash in the lower part of the southern of the two canyons between Echo and Funeral Slot:



We first dropped into this southernmost fork, to check out any potential narrows which are in this canyon. Previously (in January 2012) we had hiked the lower part of this canyon, and I'd informally referred to it as "More Slots Canyon". From our hike into the lower canyon, this southernmost fork had appeared to be the most major; however, from aerial imagery and from what we encountered on this hike, it appears that the northernmost fork is actually the main fork of the canyon (the middle fork is quite short):



We didn't encounter any spectacular narrows on this part of the hike; the canyon wash was relatively easy terrain and passed through some small hills:



There were a couple of turns in the canyon that were somewhat narrower, but nothing that I'd classify as a true section of narrows:



Looking out towards the Panamint Mountains; as the canyon walls were generally short through here, we were able to get some nice views of the surrounding area:



The Death Valley Sage was blooming through here:



Up ahead it appeared that we'd finally be approaching a real set of canyon narrows:



The canyon floor begins to get steeper and the walls begin to get taller:



However, right around a corner, we encounter a major dryfall:



Looking down this dryfall, I recognized it from our hike out to the "More Slots Canyon" (see my report from January 2012 for photos of this dryfall from below):



Thus we gained the ridge here and proceeded to hike towards the northernmost fork of this canyon. Notice that to the left in this panorama is the canyon fork that we were hiking down (the narrows start precisely at the big dryfall), and in the center is the middle fork (the northernmost fork of this canyon is just out of view over the ridge to the right):



We then started heading up the ridge between the middle and the southernmost forks of this canyon. The northernmost fork cuts through the gap seen left of center in this photo, between the two prominent bumps in the middle ridge (this area, surprisingly, seems to be easy to pick out when looking in this direction from the Furnace Creek Visitors Center):



Panorama from a high point on this ridge we were hiking, with the middle fork on the left, the northernmost fork barely visible behind it, and the southernmost fork to the right:



Panorama from the ridge above the northern fork (main canyon), from the top of the middle fork; we dropped into this canyon by going down the wash seen to the far right in this photo:



Looking back down at the top of the middle fork, and at the ridge we had followed up to here:



Looking down into the main canyon from here; notice the nice colors seen on the canyon wall in the upper right of this photo:



Upon dropping into the canyon, we immediately saw that up ahead the canyon entered a narrow section:



However, just around the corner is a dryfall. It's probably climbable, but we opted instead to work around this narrow section. Note that due to the steep and slippery terrain in this area, staying on the ridge we had been on earlier and trying to find a safe workaround there would probably actually make the workaround a lot longer:



We headed up the wash to the right in this photo (the left would become too slippery):



Looking down into this nice, colorful section of canyon from the top of the workaround:



Panorama of where the canyon goes between the two tall mounds:



Looking down-canyon from here; we didn't have time to explore the section of canyon between the impasse we'd encountered on the "More Slots" hike and where we had dropped into the canyon. From aerial imagery there doesn't appear to be any narrows or impasses, but this can be deceptive:



Looking up-canyon; the wash appears to be wide and rocky through here:



Just above the boulder impasse, we spotted this interesting formation:



From here, we begin navigating a route up the canyon, through the boulders:



Looking back down the canyon; notice the very colorful section of canyon wall on the right side:



Panorama of the tall mounds we are walking between:



Looking up at the cliffs to the sides of the canyon; this is clearly the same rock formation that Funeral Slot Canyon cuts through, though in this case no narrows were formed:



Up ahead, we see that soon the canyon will cut behind the two mounds and we will be hiking between lower ridges; this is a sort of hidden valley between the Funeral Slot Canyon ridge, the ridge north of the canyon just north of Echo, and these two mounds:



This was a very interesting geological feature; the gold-colored conglomerate and the green-colored conglomerate meet in an almost entirely straight line:



Panorama of the fork in the canyon just past these two mounds; we hiked up the left, less major, fork first:



Looking back down-canyon and out towards the Panamint Mountains from here:



There were some vividly-colored "mud mounds" in this area:



There were also a lot of interesting formations we spotted along the canyon walls on this hike. In this instance, water appears to flow down a small wash and eventually come out the hole seen in the center of this picture, but one can't see daylight through the hole:



Up ahead this side canyon enters an interesting section of "very short walled narrows":



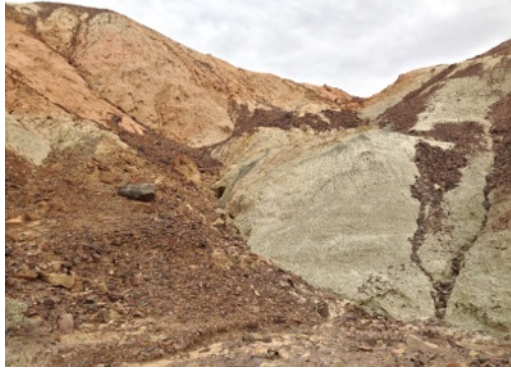
Panorama of a fork in this side-canyon. We took the right fork, as it appeared from the Google Earth aerial imagery to lead directly to a saddle above Funeral Slot Canyon with great views:



Looking back down towards the main canyon; the southern of the two mounds mentioned earlier is seen in the center of this photo:



There were more colorful mud-mounds through here, and another interesting formation can be seen in the center of this photo:



Looking back down-canyon after finally reaching the ridge; again the southern of the two mounds mentioned earlier can be seen right of center in this photo:



Panorama of the upper reaches of the main (northern) fork of the "More Slots" Canyon:



There were a few flowers blooming on this ridge:



The view down into Funeral Slot Canyon was surprisingly good; this looks like a potential, although certainly difficult, route up from the canyon to the ridge:



Panorama from this great viewpoint on the ridge; the canyon we had come up cuts through the gap seen in the left of this photo. I had not been expecting to get such an excellent view of Funeral Slot Canyon from here:



From here, we hiked over to the top of the middle fork of this upper area of the canyon:



We followed this fork down towards the main canyon; it had appeared from Google Earth to have some potential narrow sections. Here are some short hoodoos in this canyon:



Entering the potential narrow section, which isn't as narrow as it appears from aerial imagery but still has tall walls and nice rock formations:



Up ahead are some more hoodoo formations, seen off to the left of the canyon wash:



Looking back up-canyon at this short "narrows" section:

