

AN AREA IN THE NORTHERN KIT FOX HILLS

Google Earth map for this hike:



Checking out this area in the (far) northern Kit Fox Hills was a short hike which we did after driving in to Death Valley in our December 2015 and January 2016 trip. We stopped at the turnout by Ballarat for lunch before driving over Townes Pass for the hike:





Looking up at this area in the northern Kit Fox Hills from the road; it seemed to be easier to find the area I'd spotted from Google Earth when coming from the north, so we drove up to the end of the Kit Fox Hills then turned around:



We headed just to the left of the mud ridge seen right of center in this photo:



The "canyon" is easier to spot, and to confirm that it is the correct canyon, when one gets closer to it:



The "canyon" immediately splits into two forks; the left looked more interesting from Google Earth, and we didn't have enough daylight on the way back to check out the right fork:



The left fork starts out open:



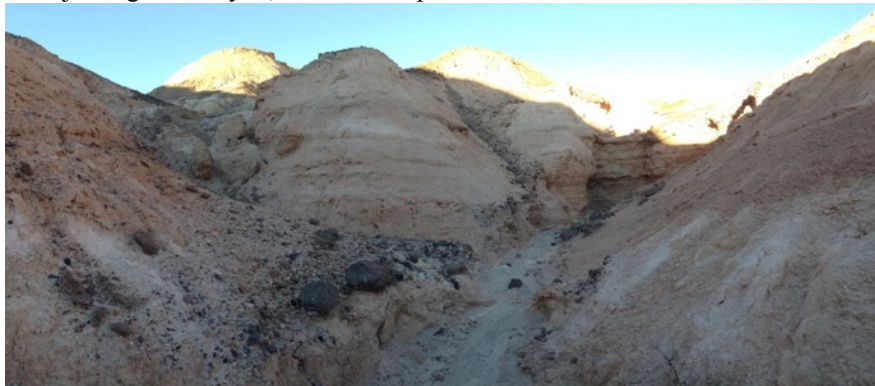
The right fork also starts out as an open wash:



Soon, the left fork starts to narrow down:



There were lots of little washes joining this canyon, which we explored:



Around a corner, we found an interesting formation, which is about a foot and a half tall:



We saw from the other side of this formation that water goes through (daylight can be seen), but it's too small for anything bigger than, say, a Kit Fox to walk through:



We climbed up to the small ridge above this formation, and spotted another strange formation, one of many in this area:



Panorama of this part of the northern Kit Fox Hills:



Looking over at the upper part of the canyon we'd just been in (there is another interesting formation up there, to be seen later):



This is a good place to explore on a short day:



Just over this ridge is the right fork mentioned earlier:



Still another interesting formation, where water enters a 6-inch tall tunnel:



The colors here in this afternoon lighting were spectacular:



Panorama looking into the right fork:



Looking over at an interesting area in the left fork, which we checked out on our way back down:



The interesting area ended up being an overhang, ending at a dryfall:



Looking back down-canyon as it starts to get dark:



But further up the canyon we'd just been exploring, there is one last interesting formation which we found, which is about 1.5 feet tall:

