

More of these interesting holes in the rock:



The canyon changes in nature through here, always giving new photo opportunities:



This seems to be where two different kinds of rock meet in an almost straight line:



This boulder section is easily navigable, and it marks the end of the slot narrows of Little Wild Horse Canyon:



Looking back down the passage we just came through:



We have now reached the very end of the slot; hikers not doing the loop hike and going back down nearby Bell Canyon will probably choose to stop here, to ensure that they have enough time to see Bell Canyon and perhaps other slots in this area:



We continued on, as we were not yet aware of the amount of water currently in Bell Canyon; looking back at the upstream entrance to the slot:



The canyon rounds some bends with impressively tall walls, these perhaps reminiscent of Hackberry Canyon in the Grand Staircase:



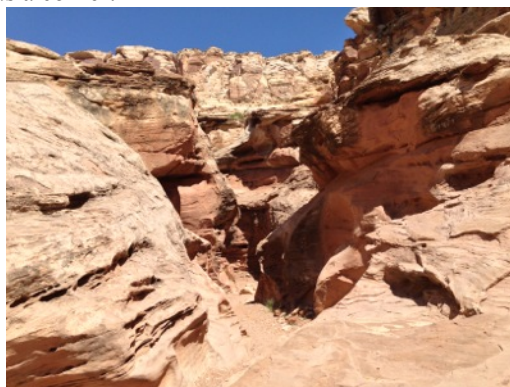
It looks like the canyon will enter a short narrow section up ahead:



There is a side canyon dropping in from the right, which looks like it is filled with large boulders and ends abruptly at a sheer cliff:



The canyon narrows very briefly and rounds a corner:



Then, the narrow section is exited by scrambling up and around these large boulders:



The canyon continues somewhat open for a short distance, then appears to enter another narrow section:



I think this is the 15-foot fall which is noted in guidebooks as being a half-mile from where the Little Wild Horse Canyon wash crosses the Behind the Reef Road (there are a few smaller impasses as well); there is a pothole at the bottom which makes it deeper than it looks in the photo, and there was water coming down it when we were there, which made climbing it slippery. There doesn't appear to be any bypass, so one must climb up it directly. I would advise not trusting the boulder pile at the bottom (if it's still there) as it looked very unstable:



Heading up-canyon, the walls get shorter and the canyon gets wider; there were a few nice overhangs which would provide welcome shade in warmer times:



Another impasse, this one only 10 feet or so, which is easiest bypassed by scrambling up on the right side:



Continuing up-canyon, the canyon still remains interesting though nothing like it previously was:



Hikers can sight on this interesting formation up and to the left of the canyon to figure out where they are on topographical maps:



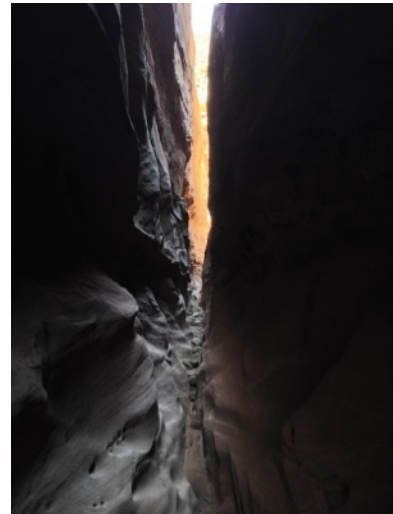
At this point we encountered the group of hikers who informed us of the wading conditions in Bell Canyon, so we headed back down Little Wild Horse. Arriving back at the tall walls of the canyon just before it enters the slot narrows:



The lighting was certainly different on our hike back down-canyon. Here one can see the line between two different kinds of rock seen in this canyon:



Five more photos of the absolutely incredible narrows of Little Wild Horse Canyon:





Upon reaching the Little Wild Horse/Bell Canyon junction, we headed up Bell to see how far we could get before reaching water:



This canyon narrows down at the beginning just like Little Wild Horse, and we know excellent narrows must be up ahead:



Unfortunately, we quickly encountered this short impasse with the water pool below it. The water is actually a bit deeper than it looks (it's a pool, not a small puddle), and since we didn't know what might be living in it we chose to turn around. It might have been possible to bypass this much further down-canyon, but it certainly wasn't possible to bypass it right here (due to the narrows we had just hiked through), and we knew there would be more water up ahead:



Thus we headed back to the road and continued on down towards the trailhead for Ding Canyon; this photo is looking up the Ding-Dang wash:



There are a few small, interesting-looking washes heading off to the right, but you'll know when you reach the actual fork:



The wash passes by some really nice rock formations on the way to the Ding-Dang fork:





This is the canyon fork; we didn't get to check out the narrow section seen here at the bottom of Dang Canyon, as by the time we got back to the fork we knew we would be getting to Moab late already. From the fork, you can see Ding Canyon cutting through the reef:



Up ahead, Ding Canyon is starting to look spectacular (kind of like the short slots near Escalante, coming off of the Escalante River Canyon):



This is the rock slab that must be climbed up to gain entrance to Ding Canyon; it's really quite easy to walk up, although it might be a bit more difficult if there was rain (though one shouldn't be hiking here anyway if it's raining because of flash flood danger!):



There is a small boulder pile that is easily navigated just pass this rock slab:



The impasse here is slipperier than it might appear (though hand-holds have been chipped into the left side of the rock wall); if a hiker decides not to climb it directly, it can be bypassed on the ledges to the left, where the slickrock is not as slippery as it appears:



We are now approaching the narrows of Ding Canyon; I think this canyon has a much more impressive first appearance than Little Wild Horse and Bell, and I'm disappointed that we didn't get to see more of it:



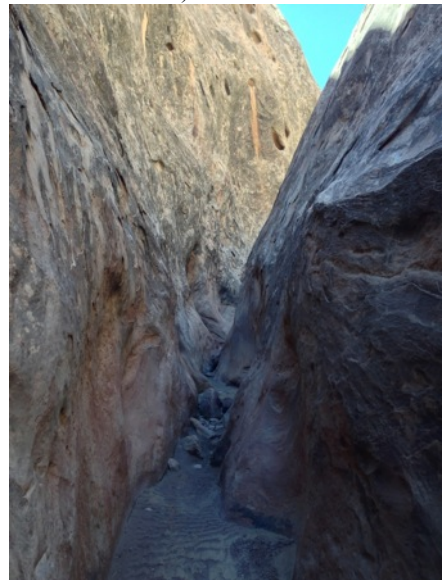
This section of pinkish rock would probably be more colorful in the early morning:

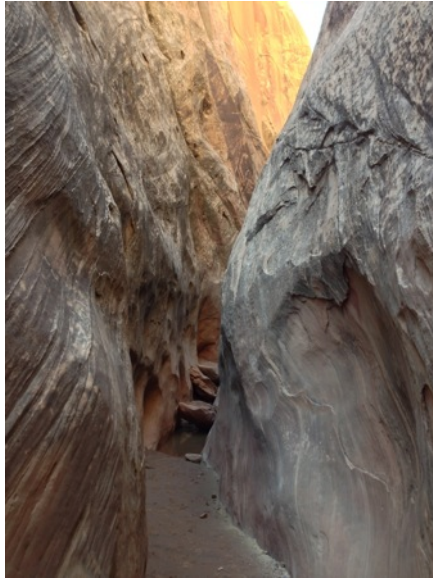
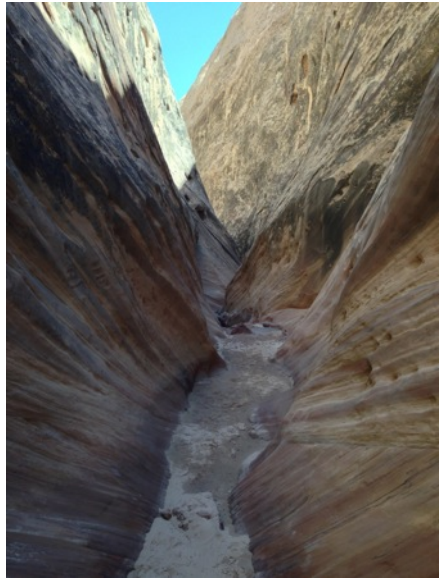


The wash floor at the entrance to the narrows of Ding Canyon looked like it had been raked flat:



The next 14 photos show the (early) narrows of Ding Canyon; they are very nice, and different from the lower narrows of Little Wild Horse (more similar to the later narrows, just before the very end of the slot narrows of Little Wild Horse):

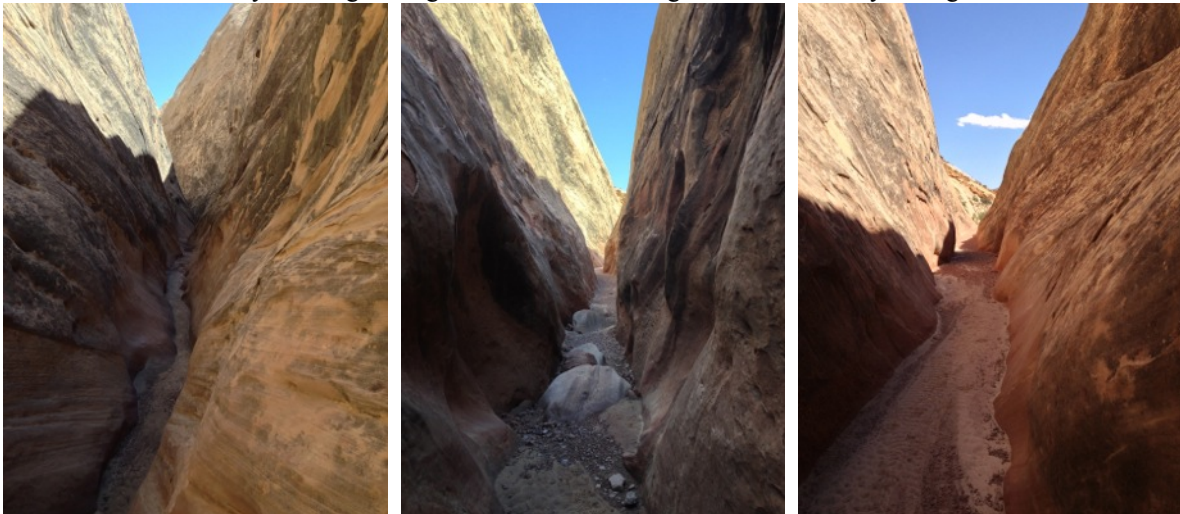




We had been encountering water in the narrows previously, which we had been able to stem over, but this pool looked to be too difficult to get past:



Thus we headed back down the canyon. I'm guessing that we were able to get at least half-way through the narrowest section:



Looking down the Ding Canyon wash from the top of the rock slab, towards the Ding-Dang wash (just in front of the big hill in the back of this photo):



There were quite a few of these yellow flowers in the Ding-Dang wash, many of which seemed to have wilted because of the warm weather (it was perfectly bearable to hike to the mouth of Ding Canyon, but I wouldn't have wanted to walk much more than a mile and a half in this heat):



We got some brief views into Goblin Valley on our drive back to Moab; this area is just outside the park, where there are some dirt roads leading to campsites:



More views of the Goblin Valley area:



The two buttes seen to the left in this photo are Gilson Butte and Little Gilson Butte; the La Sal Mountains are seen to the right:

