

MARBLE CANYON 1ST AND 2ND NARROWS AND MARBLE MAIN SIDE CANYON

We returned to Marble Canyon for the first time in a number of years to check out the main side canyon (the third major side canyon, as can be seen from the Google Earth map below), which has been reported to have some spectacular narrows. This side canyon did not disappoint, and the narrows were indeed incredible! I have also included photos of our trip up the main canyon to the side canyon, passing through the 1st and 2nd narrows, as I did not have a camera when I first hiked this canyon. At the end of this report are some photos of petroglyphs in this area. Note that I will not give out any information regarding the location of any sort of rock art. For those interested in finding these petroglyphs, an internet search may give more clues to their location, but, due to the high danger of damage to ancient rock art, exact directions will not be findable. Also note that I am by no means an expert in ancient rock art, so some of the photographs may include modern human graffiti, which commonly defaces many easy-to-access panels of petroglyphs.

Google Earth map of Marble Canyon and Marble Main Side Canyon:



Heading up the road to Marble Canyon after the turnoff from the Cottonwood Canyon Road:



Approaching the beginning of the first narrows of Marble Canyon, and where the end of the road is currently:



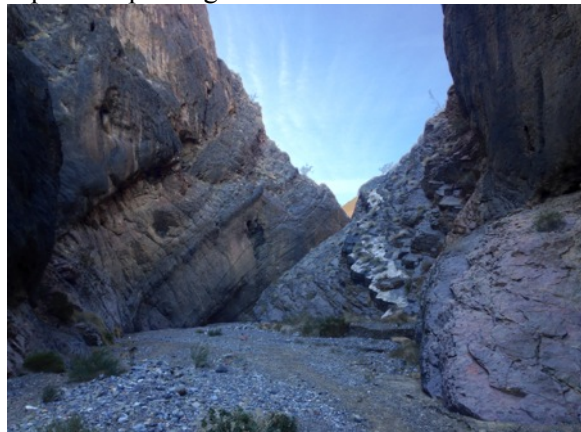
Looking up-canyon at the parking spot; I think the road may have continued further up-canyon many years ago, but I'm not sure:



Looking down-canyon from here:



The next two photos show our progress heading up-canyon just past the parking area:



The canyon has some tighter spots and some wider spots in the first narrows:



Continuing up-canyon with good lighting this morning for HDR photos:



Panorama of the junction with the first side canyon (coming in on the right):



Nice rock-bands/stripes on the canyon walls through here:



Panorama at the spot where the wash widens and splits around this large rock in the middle of the canyon:



Looking up at the tall cliffs in front of us:



These were interesting marble-like rocks imbedded in the rock walls of the canyon, which reminded me of the "moki marbles" in Utah:



A nice HDR photo when passing through another tight spot in the narrows:



The next four photos show our continued progress up-canyon through the first narrows:



Here we are approaching the end of the first narrows:



Interesting rock feature at the end of the first narrows which I believe is sometimes referred to as the Devil's Bathtub:



Panorama of this interesting rock feature at the end of the first narrows, with the chockstone fall at the far left (which seems to be taller than usual as more of the gravel in the wash below it has been washed out):



There is a very (!) well worn use trail bypassing the chockstone fall on the right side of the canyon; as it was quite cold on this morning, we opted to take the bypass rather than climb the fall:



Looking back down at the first narrows from the bypass trail:



Looking up-canyon from here:



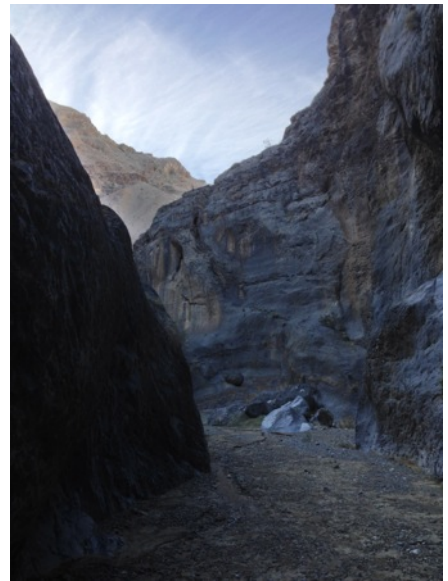
Dropping into the canyon wash, we see the entrance to the second narrows just ahead:



This is the impressive entrance to Marble Canyon's second set of narrows:



The next three photos show the beginning section of the second narrows, which are very nice but not quite as impressive, in my opinion, as the rest of the second narrows:



Here we are approaching a turn in the narrows after which the canyon becomes even narrower:



Interesting conglomerate rock in the bottom of this picture:



Panorama of the bend in the second narrows:



The next eight photos show the second part of the magnificent second narrows of Marble Canyon; note the traces of the mud flow in the wash which we would be seeing more of further up-canyon:

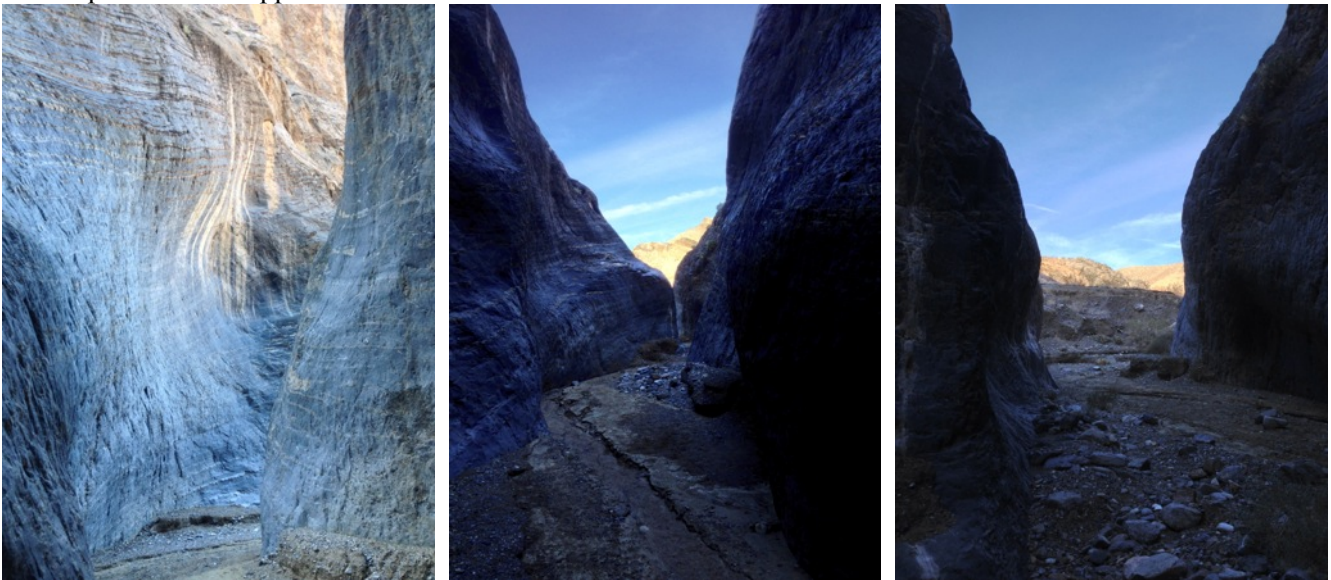




Looking up at the tall walls of this narrow section; this photo doesn't really do justice to the impressive height of these canyon walls:



Three more photos as we approach the end of the second narrows:



Panorama of the canyon just past the second narrows, with the second side canyon coming in on the left:



Looking back towards the entrance to the second narrows:



Continuing up-canyon, with a constriction just around the next corner:



The next four photos show our progress towards the third side canyon, which I am referring to as the main side canyon of Marble Canyon:





This is where the third side canyon splits off of the main Marble Canyon:



Looking up-canyon towards the second constriction between the second and third narrows; notice the thick layer of hardened mud which must have occurred before the water cut the channel seen in the center of the picture:



The side canyon starts out relatively wide:

