

MIDDLE NARROWS OF "MORE SLOTS" CANYON, AND SMALL DRAINAGE BETWEEN THIS CANYON AND FUNERAL SLOT CANYON

As mentioned in my report titled "Lower More Slots Canyon" from earlier this trip (December 2016), we had first visited this canyon in January of 2012. Also, as discussed in the report from December 2016, on these two trips to the lower part of this canyon, as well as the one trip to the upper part of the main canyon in January of 2016, we had been unable to fully explore the first major northern side-slot of this canyon. Our goal for this hike was to finish exploring this side-slot, by bypassing the entire lower part of the "More Slots" Canyon. We were mostly successful; we were able to see all but one short section of the slot, and we were able to determine that there aren't any natural bridges or similar features in this side-slot. On our hike back, we found an interesting formation in the area between the "More Slots" Canyon and Funeral Slot Canyon, which appears to be a not-yet-fully-formed natural tunnel.

The green line on the Google Earth map below shows our route for this hike. The purple line is the route we took on our hike to this area earlier in December of 2016. The orange line is the furthest down-canyon we went in January 2016.



Starting out on this hike, we spotted a tiny false natural bridge, which is less than a foot tall. There seem to be many such formations in the area between Funeral Slot Canyon and Echo Canyon.



Panorama looking east at the convoluted drainages between Funeral Slot Canyon and "More Slots" Canyon.



There are some tall cliffs just north of "More Slots" Canyon (seen in the background of this photo). I had planned the route we would take to attain the ridge just north of these cliffs.



We were surprised to find a very small slot-like side drainage joining the canyon wash we were hiking up. Notice how part of the wall has fallen into the drainage and formed (yet another) small false natural bridge.



The slot-like side drainage was not narrow for very long.



Looking up the wash we had been following. The drainage we would be following to get to the ridge can be seen to the left of center in this photo.



As I'd predicted from looking at maps, this seems to be the furthest south one can easily access the ridge; the cliffs are just too steep between here and "More Slots" Canyon.



The walls of the wash gain height quickly.



We saw this interesting object in the wash; I have no idea what it could be.



Panorama of the mouth of this minor drainage. It was a very cloudy day, so the colors in some of the photographs in this report aren't entirely accurate (I think it's due to how my iPhone takes photos).



There is one lone hoodoo-like formation on the right side of this canyon near the entrance.



A short ledge near the start of the canyon made a great place to stop for second breakfast. The views from here are better than I had expected.



Looking across Furnace Creek at one of the many canyons near Tucki Mountain which I hope to explore someday.



From here, we continued up this minor drainage towards the ridge.



There is one narrow bend in the canyon.



We ascended the ridge as soon as the canyon walls weren't too steep to climb.



Looking out towards the valley from here.



There are two small rock piles along this ridge. I'm not sure if they were put here recently or if they're from long ago.



Panorama of the upper part of this side canyon of "More Slots" Canyon. The two hills to the far right are where the main "More Slots" Canyon cuts through and gets close to Funeral Slot Canyon. Also, notice that the northern Black Mountains can be seen to the right of center in this photo.



Looking south towards the top of this side-slot of "More Slots" Canyon.



The side-slot forks shortly past where we were stopped when we ascended from the lower part of the canyon. This is the top of the southeastern fork.



This is the top of the northwestern fork.



I was able to walk some distance down the ridge between the two forks before it became too steep to continue. There is a considerable amount of distortion in this panorama; the canyon forks are further apart here than they appear, and where the forks join is not as close as it looks to where this panorama was taken.



From here, we backtracked a short distance up the ridge and then dropped into the (more major) southeastern fork. This is the view looking up-canyon.



The narrows started off very shallow.



Here is a single narrow bend before the canyon widens for a short distance.



This impasse stopped us from progressing down to the fork.



Looking down-canyon from the top of the impasse.



From here, we headed back up-canyon until we could attain the ridge on the southeast side of the canyon.



Panorama from the ridge.



Looking down this side-canyon towards the main "More Slots" Canyon.



Looking back at the upper reaches of "More Slots" Canyon, which we had explored in January of 2016.



Looking across at the other side of "More Slots" Canyon, and the narrow side-drainage on the southeast side of this canyon which looks interesting to explore from the top someday.



Spectacular view looking down "More Slots" Canyon from here; notice how colorful this area is when it isn't in direct sunlight.



This is the view into this side-slot near where it forks. The more major southeastern fork is to the right in the photo, and the northwestern fork is to the left.



Looking down into the section of this side canyon between the fork and the main canyon. Notice all the narrow ridges above the slot.



Looking down at where the side-canyon widens at its fork from a different cliff-side vantage point.



Panorama of this side-slot from here, with the main "More Slots" Canyon to the left and the side-canyon fork to the right.



The route down into the side-slot at the fork looked doable, so we decided to try it. The terrain is quite loose and unstable, so extreme caution is required when descending this.



One more view into the main "More Slots" Canyon before descending into the side canyon. Notice that the conglomerate rock "tower" at the entrance to the side-slot can be seen in the lower left of this photo.



This is not a possible route into the side canyon.



Once in the side-canyon, we decided to check out the southeastern fork first. It has an impressive entrance.



It actually isn't as narrow as it appears from above.



This fork soon ends at the dryfall which had stopped us from above.



Heading down-canyon, we chose to first see if we could get to the top of the impasse which had stopped us when ascending from below.



Here we are approaching the edge of this impasse.

