

SOME NARROWS IN THE KIT FOX HILLS AREA

Since our hike in the northern Grapevine Mountains had turned out to be so short (see my report "Narrow Canyon just south of Backthrust Canyon"), we decided to spend the rest of the afternoon checking out a colorful area in the Kit Fox Hills which we had previously seen from the road. We were surprised to find a reddish-colored "canyon" (although it really is too short to be called a canyon, so perhaps I'll call it a "pseudo-canyon") which had some nice narrows. There is much more to see in the Kit Fox Hills than I would have expected just driving by them to the northern Grapevine Mountains. Also, as one may observe when hiking the old Rhyolite-Skidoo Road through Kit Fox Canyon as suggested in Dignonnet's excellent *Hiking Death Valley* book, distances in this area are somewhat deceptive, and what may seem like a short hike might become a much longer hike.

Google Earth map showing the location of this short narrow "pseudo-canyon."



Looking across at the Mesquite Sand Dunes and over towards the Cottonwood Mountains from where we parked for this short hike.



Panorama of this colorful part of the Kit Fox Hills.



Here we are approaching one of the small washes seen to the right in the above photo.



Looking back towards the sand dunes while ascending this minor wash.



We soon came to the edge of an unexpected cliff.



Looking down into this short narrow "pseudo-canyon".



View towards Tucki Mountain from here, in the afternoon sun.



Looking down at the mouth of this "pseudo-canyon."



The "pseudo-canyon" soon terminates at the base of the nearby hill.



From here, we backtracked a short distance and entered this "pseudo-canyon."



These narrows were surprisingly nice, especially considering I had not expected to find any narrows which were this deep.



The wash started to get steeper and have more rocks.



There is one minor obstacle where part of the "pseudo-canyon" wall has slid down and covered the canyon floor, although water can still pass underneath an overhang. As typical of the Kit Fox Hills area, the terrain is rather slippery.



Continuing up the "pseudo-canyon," we knew from our view earlier that the narrows would end soon.



The "pseudo-canyon" eventually began to widen, and we could now see the hill behind it.



This is an interesting natural "chute" where rocks and dirt must have slid down the "pseudo-canyon" wall.



Interesting natural cut in the "pseudo-canyon" wall here, which forms a sort of bench.



This is the sort of terrain I had been expecting to see here.



Looking back down the "pseudo-canyon" as the light is starting to fade; notice how the reddish colors become more prominent as the sun is no longer directly hitting the walls.



Some interesting mud drip cluster formations.



We soon encountered this dryfall, which is climbable, but the gravel above it was too loose for my liking, so since it was getting late we decided to turn around here.



I climbed partway up this impasse and held my camera up to get a photo of what is beyond it. The "pseudo-canyon" appears to continue on for some distance.



The next three photos are of our progress back down the "pseudo-canyon".



This part of the wall, near the "pseudo-canyon" mouth, appears to have partially broken off; notice how light from the setting sun can be seen through the crack.



Looking back at the entrance to the "pseudo-canyon".



There are many more interesting things to see in this area of the Kit Fox Hills.



Hardened "sand-bars" appear frequently when hiking in this area.

