

Looking back out at the valley from here. This was a more difficult hike than I had expected it to be.



View into the main part of Hellfire Canyon, where the side canyon meets the main canyon. I am not sure how many dryfalls are in the side canyon past the one which stopped us in 2009.



Looking straight down the very steep cliff at all the small drainages joining this side canyon.



Panorama of this interesting side canyon of Hellfire Canyon.



Looking out at the salt flats from here.



Another panorama of the Panamint Mountains and the spectacular view we had.



Looking across at the Artists' Palette area and up the valley.



Looking across the valley at Trail Canyon and the Trail Canyon road.





Zooming in on a more major side-drainage of the main side canyon of Hellfire Canyon.



From here, we began to head back to where the northern and southern ridges join.



This is the point where the ridges split.



Hiking along this narrow part of the ridge, I wasn't sure how steep it would be past the point up ahead.



Some previous hiking group probably built this cairn here (or perhaps it could be older).



Panorama looking down the top part of this southern ridge. Notice the nice view into Hellfire Canyon from here.



Looking across at the main Hellfire Canyon. Perhaps someday I'll return to this canyon to get better photos than I had gotten on our trip in 2009.



The main Hellfire Canyon itself also has many interesting looking side drainages.





This ridge descended steeply at a steady rate, but there was nowhere so far that I felt it was too steep to walk comfortably. (Hiking poles really help, though!)



Looking across at the northern ridge and the second goal which had proved to be difficult to reach.



View up the valley from here.



We finally got a glimpse of most of the rest of the southern ridge.



Looking over at the side-drainages of Hellfire Canyon again.



We certainly gained a bit of elevation on this hike.



Another steep and narrow side drainage of the main canyon, this one on the north side, became visible.



We were getting increasingly good views of Hellfire Canyon from here.





This was the first of two steeper stretches on our descent; I probably would have walked up this one, but it was slippery on the way down.



Looking over at two of the more major side drainages of Hellfire Canyon, before it forks.



We are getting closer to the valley floor now.



At this point, we began to notice an interesting colorful area to the south, between Hellfire Canyon and Natural Bridge Canyon.



Looking back at the part of the ridge we had just descended.



Looking over at the upper part of the northern ridge.



There certainly is still much to explore in this area.



Looking towards Badwater from here. This probably would be an excellent view earlier in the morning.





The reddish colored area between Hellfire Canyon and Natural Bridge Canyon looks interesting to check out sometime.



Now we have descended far enough along the ridge that we can look up the narrows of Hellfire Canyon.



We passed through an area where most of the rocks were thick slabs with these interesting indentations in the top.



Panorama looking back up the southern ridge, with the northern ridge to the left (and our "second goal" visible as the prominent high point), and Hellfire Canyon to the right.



Looking over at the mouth of Hellfire Canyon.



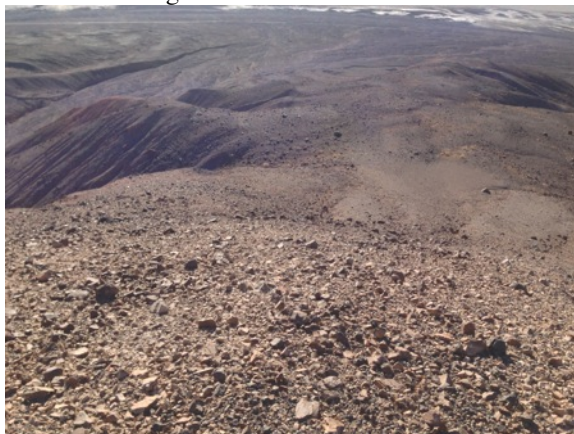
I don't think the reddish colors on this hillside are visible from the road.



Panorama looking out at the valley from here. Notice that we are almost done with the descent now.



This is the second of the two steeper stretches of the ridge.





After descending the last steep stretch, we decided to drop into the drainage between the northern and southern ridges rather than continue down the southern ridge to its very end.



Panorama of the northern ridge from this drainage. Notice how the steepest stretch on this ridge is the one just before reaching what I had labeled as our second goal.



Panorama looking up this main drainage between the northern and southern ridges.



Looking out at the valley from here.



View of the southern ridge from where we had parked. Notice that if we had followed the southern ridge all the way to its end then we would have reached the road a bit south of where we had parked.



Panorama of this area from the road (the sun angle hadn't been good for taking photos this direction in the morning).



From here, we decided to drive through Artists' Palette. This is looking south from Artists' Drive.



Panorama from just above Artists' Palette, past the Second Dip.





I hadn't noticed this interesting small canyon near the First Canyon at Artists' Palette.



Another panorama of the Artists' Palette area.



Looking over at the two main canyons which drain into Artists' Palette.

