

THE CANYON JUST SOUTH OF LITTLE BRIDGE CANYON

We had been planning on doing this hike on many previous trips, but we never ended up doing it because of the long distance across from the road to the canyon mouth, and also because it appeared from TOPO maps and Google Earth that there would almost certainly be a major impasse soon into the narrow section of the canyon. This was indeed the case, and we did encounter a 30+ foot dryfall once the canyon narrowed; however, the surrounding rock at the end of the hike was spectacular enough to make us feel that the hike was definitely worthwhile.

Google Earth map of this canyon:



Approaching the transmission line on our way to the canyon mouth:



Looking towards the mouth of the canyon:



We followed the northern part of the wash into the canyon mouth; from Google Earth, we could see that the wash split just after leaving the canyon, and the southern part is more major, but since we were hiking in from the north that would be an easier wash to pick up and follow:



Panorama of the valley just before we reached the northern wash:



Heading up this wash towards the canyon mouth:



This is a very small canyon which drains into this northern wash:



This was our first view into the main canyon; here we see the long open stretch which was clearly visible on Google Earth and TOPO maps:



Looking over towards a small side canyon to the south, once in the wash:



Continuing up-canyon, this long straight section doesn't seem quite as long as it appeared to be from the maps:



Looking up at the impressive cliffs to our right; we saw even more impressive canyon walls further on:



Approaching a major bend in the canyon:



Looking at a steep major wash dropping in to this canyon:



Continuing up-canyon, we spotted this opening to the right in the canyon, which we hiked up to investigate:



It turned out to be a very interesting "hole" going back into the rock a short distance:



Back in the main canyon, we continued on, hoping that we would not reach an impasse shortly:



Looking back down towards the valley:



Approaching this bend in the canyon; as can be seen from the photo, the wash is very steep here, and therefore we were hopeful that we would not reach an impasse:



The canyon cuts into this bend:



Then it comes back around, with no impasse:



We continue on towards the base of this huge cliff seen in the distance in the center of this photo:



This is a narrow side wash dropping steeply into the main canyon:



Looking up at this huge cliff from below:



The canyon narrows substantially up ahead:



Looking back towards the valley before we round a big turn and it goes out of sight:



We could see that we would reach a major impasse soon, but we hoped that we would at least have some nice narrows before progress was stopped:



As we continued, we noticed that the canyon walls were getting taller and substantially more impressive:



We could now see the impasse in the distance which would put an end to our continuing up-canyon:



There were some boulders and short falls to scramble over before reaching the base of the impasse:



The boulders got bigger and the walls got taller:



Finally, we reached the base of the impasse:



Looking back down the canyon from here; we had gained some elevation from where we had been earlier:



Looking at the dryfall from the side:



Trying to get a view over the dryfall; it appeared that there would be another major impasse just around the corner from this one:



No easy workaround here, but the canyon walls are incredible:



From here, we headed back down-canyon. This is the view looking towards the valley just before reaching the major bend in the canyon:



Panorama looking down at the long straight section of the canyon; the wash looked a lot steeper on the way back than it did on the way out:



Another view looking into the southern side canyon (this time with a better sun angle):



Looking down towards the Death Valley Buttes from the canyon mouth:



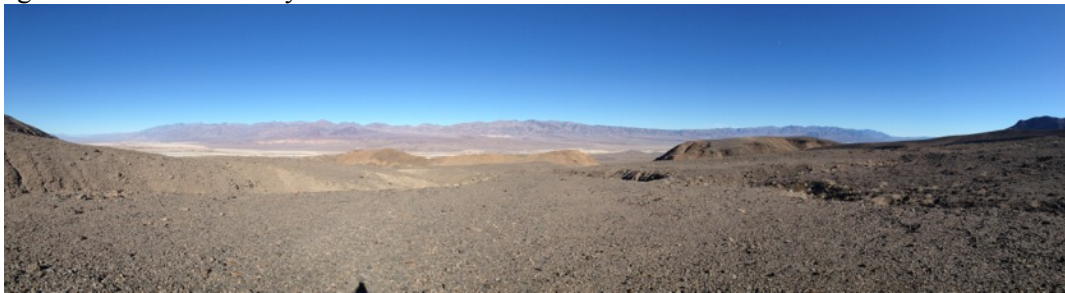
This is the southern wash of the canyon, which cuts between the two hills seen in this photo:



There were many good examples of hypolithic algae around here. Always remember to replace the rocks exactly where they came from, so as to not harm these amazing living creatures:



Panorama looking out towards the valley from here:



Interesting rock:



Looking out towards the Mesquite Sand Dunes:



View towards where the wash cuts between these two hills:



We decided to attain the ridge of the northern of these two hills. Panorama looking out towards the Funeral Mountains:



Looking back up towards this canyon, with Trellis Canyon to the left:



Another view of the valley from this ridge:



Looking at the multitude of small washes coming from this canyon:



This butterfly appeared to be posing for a photograph, and it left as soon as I put my camera away:



This ridge provided an exceptional view of the sand dunes:



Another view of these interesting washes coming from the canyon we just checked out:



One final panorama after we have descended from the ridge, looking up the valley:



A cairn on the way back; since cairns in two directions could be spotted in a linear fashion from this one, it appears to be marking some sort of boundary:

