

Sunlight Bridge

Due to the sensitive nature of the Sunlight Bridge and Sunlight Slot area, I will not be disclosing its location. Also, due to the somewhat difficult access to this area, I will not be posting any photos of the route to the bridge and the slot.

After many hours of research on Google Earth while planning my April 2013 trip to DV, I found an area which looked like it would have some incredible slot narrows and perhaps even a bridge. Due to high temperatures in DV in April 2013, however, I was unable to complete this hike. Therefore, I postponed the hike until my December 2013–January 2014 trip. In the fall of 2013, I was contacted by a fellow DV hiker, Steve Hall, asking if I knew anything about this area. As Steve was planning a trip for November, while my trip was planned for December, we agreed that anything we found in this area would be labeled as a co-discovery, as my school schedule prevented me from making a trip to DV in November. Additionally, we agreed not to share any information on what was found in this area until we had both explored what we wanted to see in the area, as much of the thrill of hiking in DV is not knowing what is around the next corner in a canyon. Please see Steve's report for more information on our co-discovery of this bridge: <http://panamintcity.com/grapevine/sunlightbridge.html>

Before entering the Sunlight Bridge slot, the canyon has a small side-slot off to the right that we explored first. The next three photos show this slot:



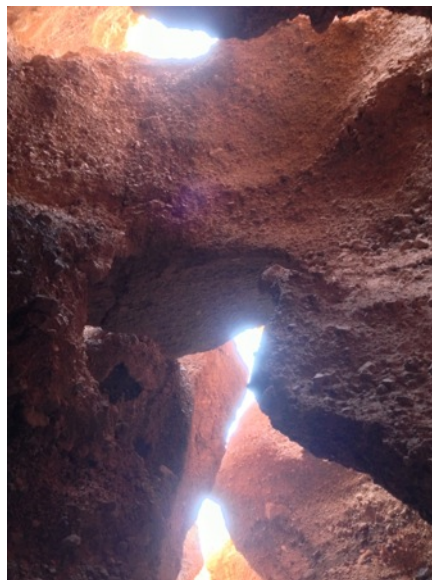
Interesting rock in this side-slot:



Entering the main Sunlight Bridge slot, without knowing anything about what was ahead of us:



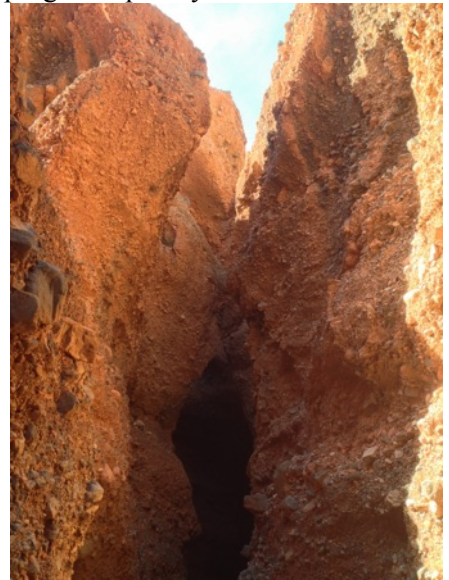
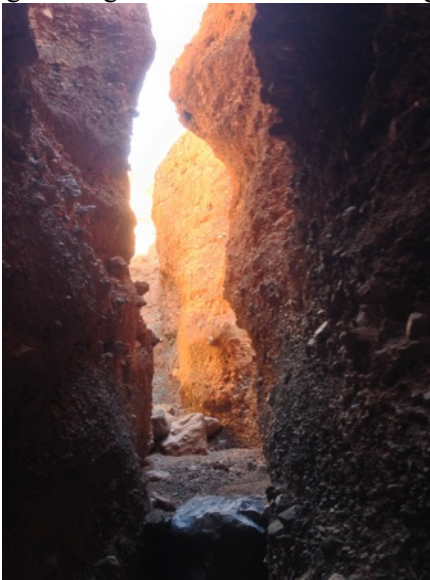
Very shortly, we encounter a bridge:

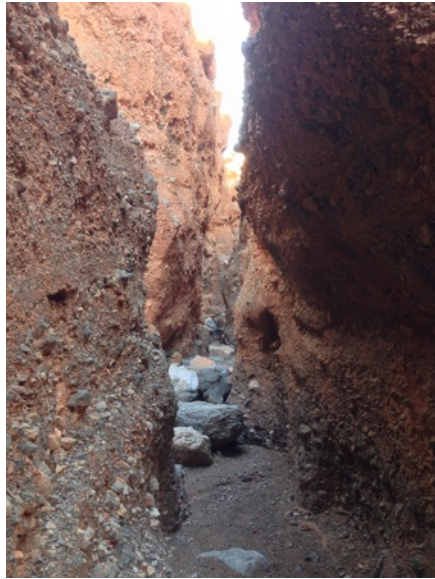


The bridge has a similar canyon-span to that of Moonlight Bridge:



We quickly continue up-canyon, unsure what more this canyon holds, planning to spend more time photographing Sunlight Bridge on our return back through the slot. The next four photos show progress up-canyon:



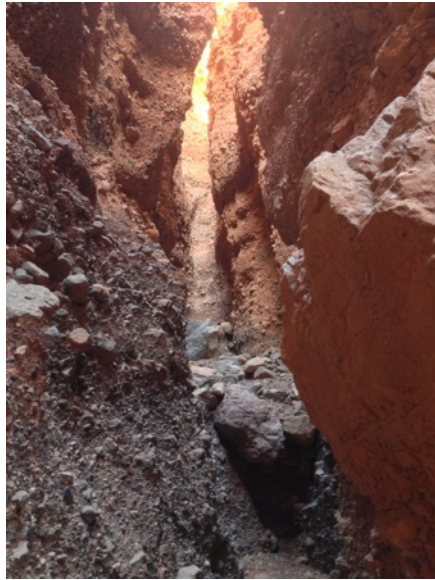
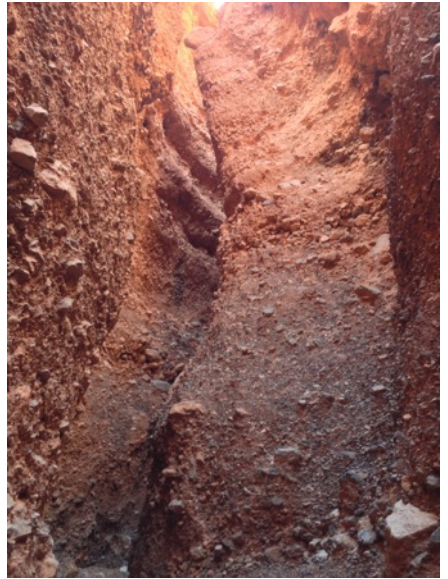


Panorama of a major fork in the canyon; we decided to take the left fork first:



The left fork turned out to be the less-major fork, but it also turned out to hold some of the tightest slot-narrows I have seen in Death Valley. The next seven photos show this side-slot:

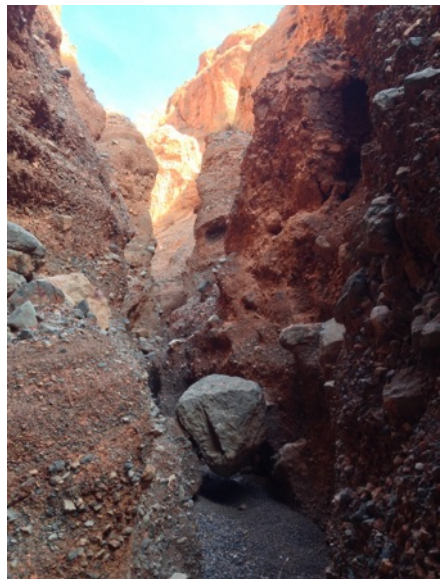
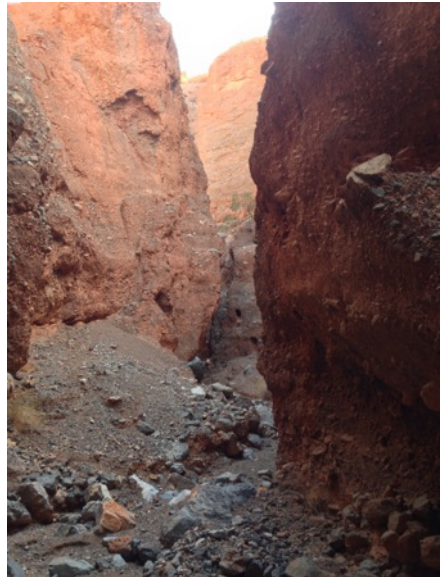
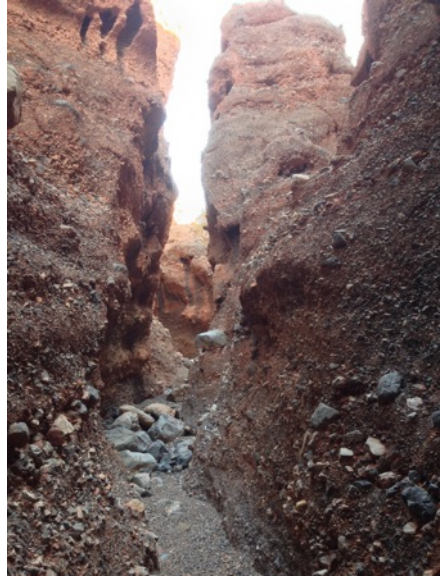


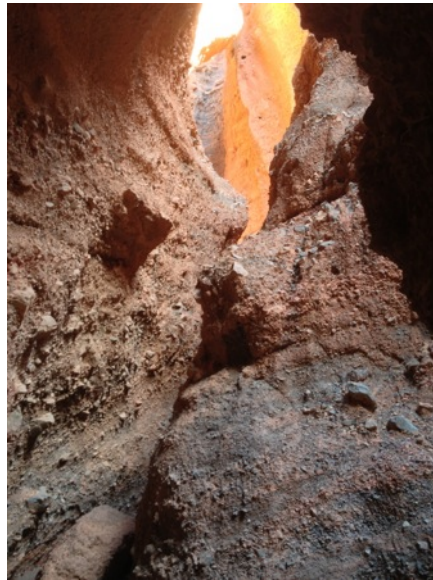
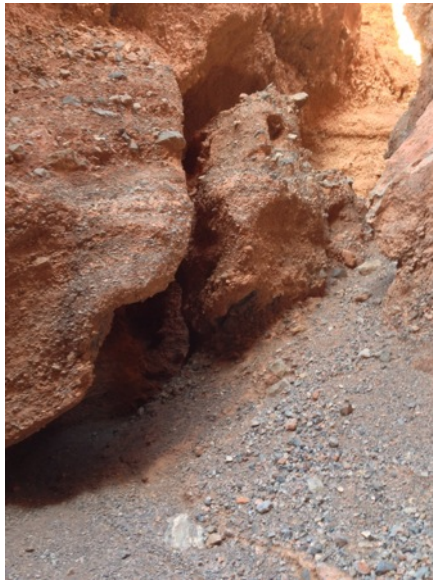
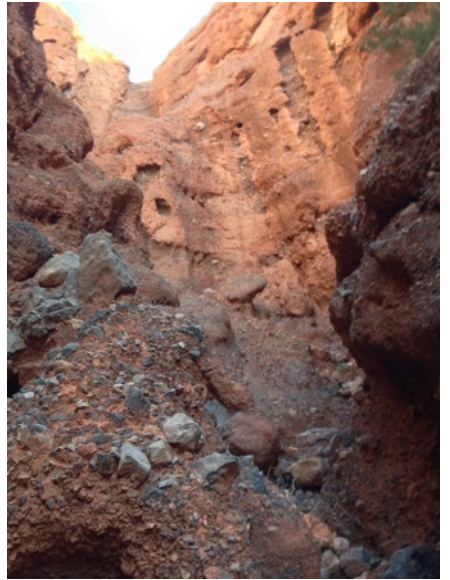
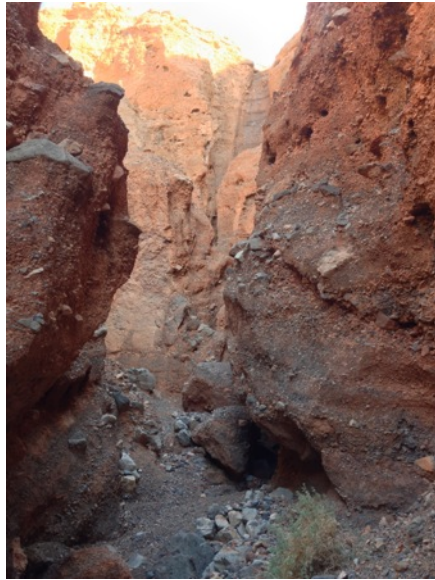


The fork dead-ends at a tall, crumbly, unclimbable dryfall, so we turn around and head back to check out the rest of the main canyon:



Continuing up the main Sunlight Bridge Canyon:





The slot finally ends at a very tall dryfall:



Arriving back at Sunlight Bridge, we take more photos of this impressive bridge. This is my favorite panorama of the bridge, taken from up-canyon of it:



Another photo of Sunlight Bridge, taken from down-canyon of it:



This is where Sunlight Bridge connects to the canyon wall on the left side when looking up-canyon; it is clear that the water originally went around the bend seen in the photo, then cut through the rock fin sticking out and thus formed the natural bridge:

