

This smaller dryfall is about 6 feet tall and is just around the corner from the previous impasse.



This was an interesting (relatively large) plant in the canyon wash between the two impasses.



The pinkish-reddish-orange rock through here was very pretty, especially since it was in the shade which was helping to make the colors more noticeable.



The canyon continued to be narrow and V-shaped. I was surprised that we could still see the tramway cable crossing the canyon high above.



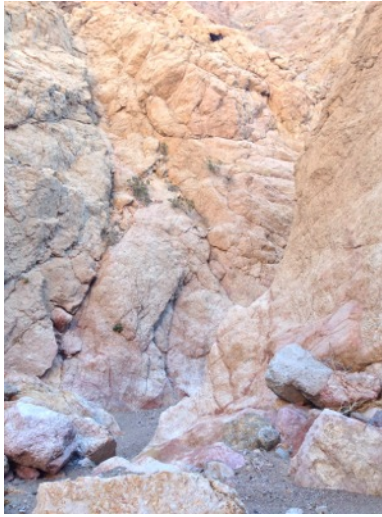
Up ahead we see some more sculpted narrows, and are concerned that we will soon reach a major impasse.



The colors in the rocks through here were the best in the entire canyon.



Looking back down this set of polished narrows.



Notice how deep the pink, red, and orange colors appear on these rocks (note that in full sunlight these colors won't be as obvious).



This is the impasse which stopped us. I'm estimating that it is close to 20 feet tall, with hand- and foot-holds that aren't deep enough to make climbing safe except to skilled climbers.



Panorama of the area surrounding this dryfall (the impasse is to the right in the photo). The rock chute to the left may appear to be a potential bypass, but the terrain is too steep, and the rock is too crumbly and unstable.



What I can see of the route back down the other side doesn't look particularly good either.



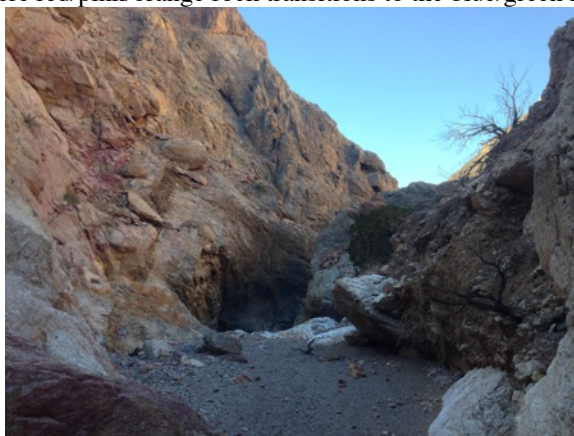
I climbed up a short distance on the left side of the canyon here, but the rock is very loose. I think the best way to continue might be to look for a (much longer!) workaround on the south side of the canyon, and hope there is a way back into the canyon at some point somewhere. Alternatively, it might be interesting to try to access the tramway station from the ridge.



From here, we headed back down-canyon. This is an interesting rock we spotted in the canyon wash. I'm not sure why geologically this rock looks the way it does.



This is the top of the second dryfall, where red/pink/orange rock transitions to the blue/green rock.



Looking down from the top of the second dryfall; the top of the first dryfall is visible just around the corner.



Notice the fine veins of gold-colored rock in the blue/green rock.



View down-canyon.



This was an interesting chunk of metal buried in the wash; I'm not sure what mining equipment it might have come from.



This is another interesting rock we found in the canyon.



This strangely colored rock had been set on top of one of the many boulders in the wash. Perhaps a previous hiker had also found it.



You can just barely see the upper tramway station on the cliffs high above from a few spots in the main canyon.



We spotted this metal object in a nook on the side of the canyon, near the lower tramway station. I don't think it is a ladder, but I'm not sure.



This object was next to the object in the previous photo.



The concrete slab and surrounding fence was in the sun at this time, so we could get better photos of it.



This construction doesn't look like it is going to go anywhere soon.





View back up-canyon from the canyon mouth. That brown summit in the far back looks interesting to possibly hike to.



From here, we ascended the northern canyon wall to head back towards the Ashford Canyon Road. The lower tramway station is just barely visible near the canyon floor, left of center.



Another view looking up-canyon from further down the north side. The ridges in this area don't appear to be particularly friendly to hikers.



We started hiking towards where the side-road off of the Ashford Canyon Road once was. This large cairn caught our attention, as it is visible from some distance.



Looking up at the steep mountainside behind this cairn, which is most likely related to an old mining claim.



We crossed a large canyon draining from this mountainside, but never found the old road. Perhaps we were too far south.



Looking out at the Owlsheads (left), with the southern Black Mountains to the right (note this iPhone panorama is somewhat distorted).



Looking back at Tramway Canyon from here.



The canyon just south of Tramway Canyon also looks to be worth exploring someday.



View across what must have been an incredible flower field in the Spring 2016 super-bloom, towards Ashford and Scotty's Canyons.



Looking out at the southern Panamint Mountains, which I hope to explore more in the future.



Panorama of the Owlsheads Mountains (unfortunately the winter sun angle didn't make for good photography of this area at any time of day).



This is a very large example of the cacti which always seem to be where you put your hands when climbing, and whose thorns are generally quite difficult to extract.



Since we had turned around in the canyon earlier than expected, but not early enough to try ascending the ridge on either side of the canyon, we decided to check out the nearby Ashford Mill ruins, which we hadn't been to for about 10 years (when we visited Ashford Canyon).



There are still remains of the structures which were here.



Looking over at the southern end of the Panamint Mountains.



Panorama looking towards the southern Black Mountains (left) and Owlsheads Mountains (right).



Two walls of this building are still standing.



Looking over at Tramway Canyon (right of center) and the short canyon just south (right) of it.



One last panorama from the Ashford Mill Ruins site, with Tramway Canyon and the southern Black Mountains to the left, and the Owlshead Mountains to the right.

