

Upper Crescent Bridge Canyon

I had first hiked Crescent Bridge canyon in December 2012, but I had not continued past the boulder jam. As I mentioned in the Lower Crescent Bridge Canyon trip report, I'm not telling where this canyon is located because of the natural bridge in the canyon. The original hike plan for this day of the trip was to go up the major canyon south of Crescent Bridge, ascend the ridge, then follow the ridge up for some views. However, due to hearing great reports of the upper canyon, we decided to drop into the main canyon from the ridge to see the upper canyon. The upper canyon is definitely as spectacular as the lower canyon!

Upper Crescent Bridge Canyon as seen from the ridge:



We continued along the ridge, then dropped into a short side wash of Crescent Bridge Canyon. Looking up canyon:



Approaching the main fork in the upper canyon:



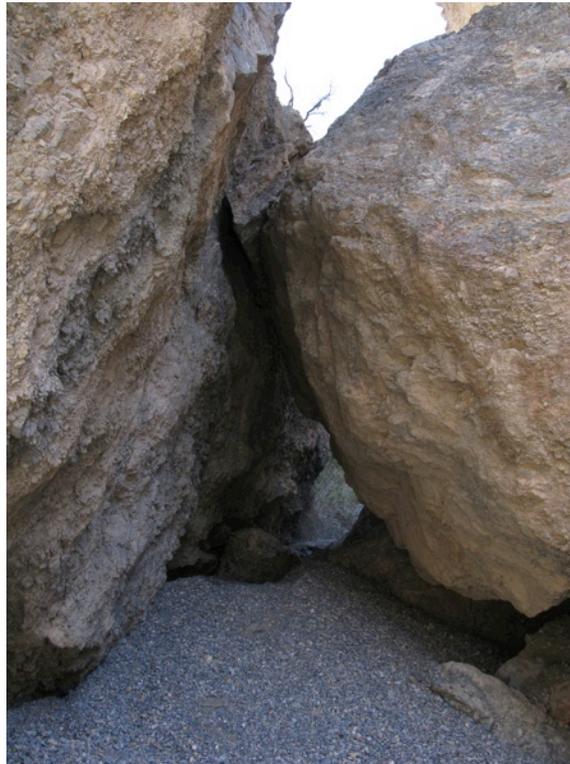
The right fork has the best narrows:



After a while we leave the red mud narrows and enter a more rocky narrows area:



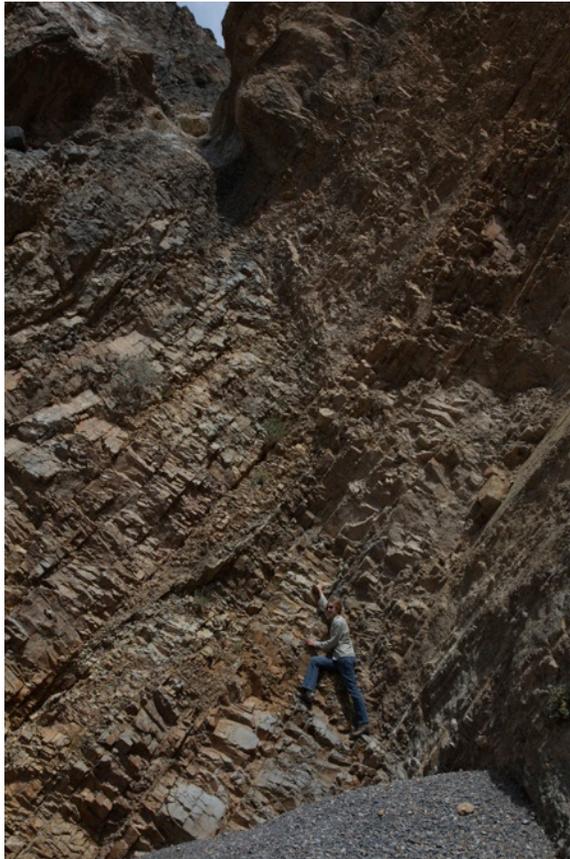
A boulder fallen in the wash that we walk underneath:



More impressive canyon walls:



And then there is the impasse: a 25 foot fall of crumbly rock. It looks like the canyon gets steep after this:



We decided to head back down canyon and check out the left fork:



The left fork had a short stretch of narrows, but then it started getting steep and boulder-filled:



So we then continued down Crescent Bridge Canyon to see the narrows between the boulder-fall and where we dropped into the canyon from the ridge:



A chunk of canyon wall fell into the wash, and the best way to get past it was this “tunnel” to crawl through:



More narrows up ahead:



Finally, we reach the boulder pile above the boulder-fall that we stopped at last trip:

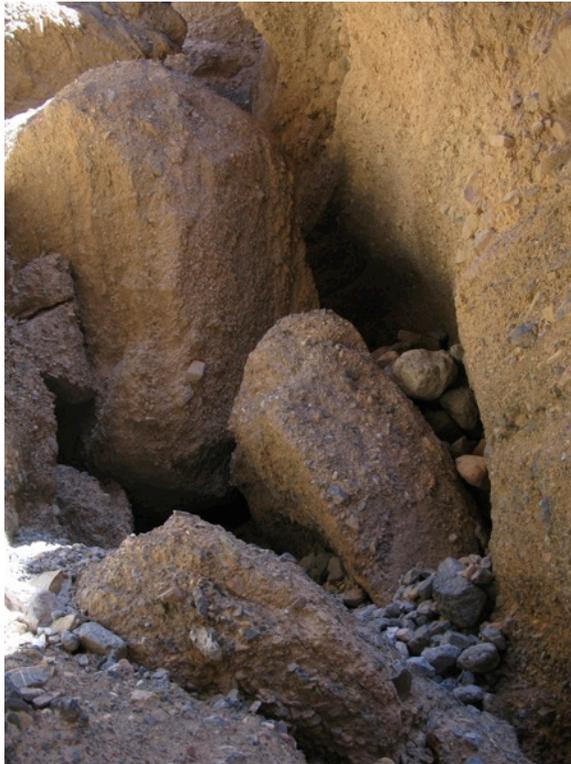


Photo from the top of the boulder-fall:



Since the bypass didn't look as scary as I remembered, we decided to follow Crescent Bridge Canyon down instead of backtracking our route along the ridge. One final HDR photo of Crescent Bridge:

