

### UPPER MOSAIC CANYON

As we hadn't hiked through Mosaic Canyon up to the 25-foot fall for a number of years, we decided to take the canyon route rather than the rim trail on the way out. The first ten photos in this report show this part of Mosaic Canyon:







The 18-foot fall seems closer to 25 or 30 feet now, as there appears to have been a bit of erosion in this part of the canyon; the fall is more difficult than casual hikers should attempt, especially as there is a very easy and well-worn bypass trail on the right side. It is quite climbable for hikers familiar with climbing dryfalls in Death Valley; I found the last 5 to 10 feet to be too steep and slippery for me, as there was a lot of rock debris on the fall, so decided to take the bypass rather than climb the last bit:



Continuing up-canyon:



The third side canyon of Mosaic:



The slot just before the major 25-foot fall:





The 25-foot fall:



The somewhat steep and slippery bypass trail for the fall, which joins the rim trail then drops back into the main canyon after the major 25-foot fall and the subsequent major impasses:



Nice cactus near the bypass trail:



Continuing up the trail; note there are multiple "braided" trails in the bypass route, so it is necessary to pick the best route rather than simply follow a trail:





Panorama looking into the area above the 25-foot fall:



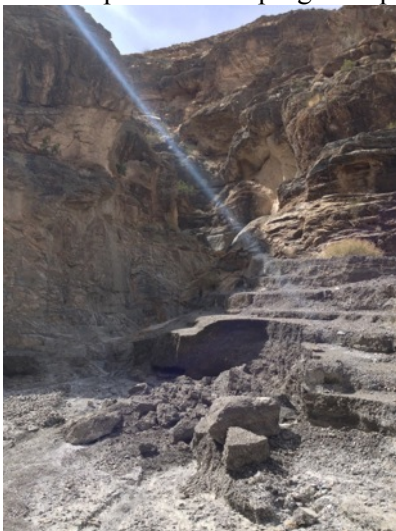
Panorama from the end of the bypass trail:



Panorama of where the 4th side canyon joins the main canyon:



The next five photos show progress up the main canyon, up to the next major impasse:





The major impasse, which must be bypassed:



Panorama of the impasse, the narrow section, and the start of the bypass route:





The start of the bypass route, just below where the canyon narrows; note that again there are multiple use-trails for the bypass; the one furthest to the right seems to be by far the easiest:



Looking down-canyon from near the highest point on the bypass route:



Looking down at the bypass route:



View down to the top of this impasse; note the webbing above the dryfall shows canyoneers seem to have rappelled down this canyon:





The next seven photos show progress continuing up-canyon through a nice section of narrows:





All too soon we encounter a gigantic fall, at least 60 feet tall, likely taller:



Mud drippings on the canyon wall:



From here we re-ascended to the bypass trail to attempt to bypass this fall. We continued up the use trail to an overlook of the canyon. The trail seemed to continue along the rim of a canyon, but it appeared to be a very sketchy route, possibly more a bighorn route than a hiker use-trail. Panorama from above the canyon:





Surprisingly, the trail seemed to cross this steep section in the distance above the canyon (!); none in our group were daring/foolish enough to attempt it:



It may be possible to ascend the steep ridge on the western side of the canyon as a bypass; one member of the group attempted this, but as the weather was hot and it appeared the bypass would be quite long we were unable to see more of the canyon beyond this fall. Note that a bypass on the other side of the canyon would most probably require hiking all the way into the 5th side canyon, as it was too sheer on the other side of the canyon to drop back in. Panorama back towards the valley from here:



Looking back up a steep section of the attempted bypass route, where it appears steps were carved in by hikers to aid in the ascent:



Back at the junction with the 4th side canyon, this is a wash between the side and main canyon, which appears to be the best route for a bypass into the 5th side canyon:



The rim trail, from near where it starts on the upper end of the canyon:



Panorama of the upper canyon, where it appears there is a bypass route up the wash between the side and main canyon:





A chuckwalla near the rim trail on the way back; interestingly, the last time we had hiked to the major impasse beyond the third narrows we had also encountered a chuckwalla:

