

UTAH TRIP JUNE 2012: TRIP REPORT PART 2 OF 4

Elkhart Cliffs Slot, Willis Creek, Widforss Point North Rim Grand Canyon, Wire Pass/Buckskin Gulch Vermilion Cliffs

The Elkhart Cliffs have many slot canyons, but I found this one to be often labeled as The Elkhart Cliffs Slot in trip reports I found on the Internet, so that is the name I will use. This canyon can be accessed from US 89 between mile markers 78 and 79 at a large curve in the road. Each section of “narrows” was short and not nearly as good as any of the other slots I had done so far, so I would not highly recommend this canyon. This photo is of a short climb just before the middle narrows:



From Kanab, we hiked Willis Creek Slot, which reminded me a little of Fall Canyon in Death Valley. It's a nice canyon, but the dirt road access (from Skutumpah Road, off of Johnson Canyon Road, east of Kanab) is long. I would have preferred to have gotten out there earlier and hiked Lick Wash and Bull Valley Gorge as well on the same day. This photo shows one of the narrow stretches of this canyon:



The next day we went to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, and hiked out to Widforss Point. This HDR Panorama was pieced together from 24 photos:



The hike through Wire Pass and Buckskin Gulch in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument was by far the best hike I did this trip. I only wish I could have seen more of the narrows; I will definitely be returning to this area to do more hiking! The Wire Pass slot is narrower than most of Buckskin Gulch but definitely not as long or having as tall walls. This photo was taken just above the big chockstone in the slot:



The next three photos give just a glimpse of the narrows of Buckskin Gulch:







An alcove high up above us in Buckskin Gulch:

