

Panorama of the incredible rock "wall" between where we are and the upper part of the Paradise Valley; just on the other side of these peaks is Horseshoe Lake, which I hope to someday check out (there is no official trail to the lake from Horseshoe Meadows):



This is actually steeper than it looks; however, the talus chute on the far right in this photo may possibly be climbable (but I could be wrong):



Looking back at the eastern part of the Ten Peaks, with Eiffel Lake visible in the center of this photo:



Panorama with the summit of Eiffel Peak in the clouds to the far left, and most of the Ten Peaks now visible. Wenkchemna Pass is to the far right:



Panorama Ridge is barely visible in the far background, right of center in this photo, but the Tower of Babel is not quite visible around the slopes of Eiffel Peak:



This frog hopped across the trail, then posed for photos on a rock:



Panorama of the increasingly spectacular views we are getting of the Valley of the Ten Peaks:



Looking at the ridge between us and Paradise Valley, with Wenkchemna Peak on the left and Eiffel Peak still in the clouds to the right:



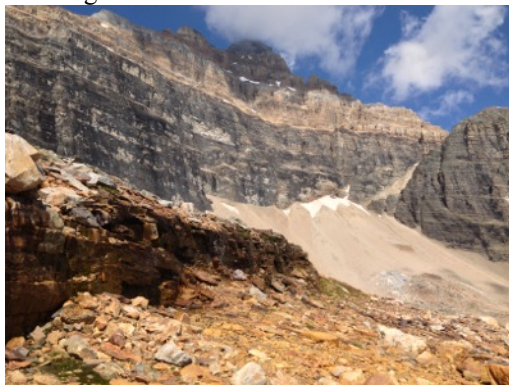
Finally we are approaching the last steep stretch to the top of the pass; notice the yellow flowers that were scattered throughout this meadow area alongside the trail here:



I don't recall if this smaller lake (center of photo) was as full on our last trip as it is now:



Looking up towards Wenkchemna Peak as we are hiking below it:



The Tower of Babel is now visible, right above Eiffel Lake, with Panorama Ridge behind it and the ridge across the Bow Valley barely visible below the clouds now. Mount Temple is also coming into view, behind and to the left of Eiffel Peak:



The trail switchbacks a couple of times through the rock, then crosses this small meadow:



We are quickly gaining elevation now and are getting increasingly good views down the Valley of the Ten Peaks:



Looking up the trail, which has now switchbacked and is heading towards Wenkchemna Peak (this iPhone panorama is somewhat distorted):



We are getting great views of the peaks along the ridge west of Eiffel Peak:



Looking over at the sheer face of Neptuak Mountain:



This is the last steep stretch of trail, where there is sometimes a snow field (we were very fortunate this trip that we were able to walk around the lingering snow patches on the trail). It would be hard to get too far off-trail here, but care is required to take the best (and safest) route through the rocks:



We are nearing the ridge now (no more false summits):



Panorama of our first view into the upper reaches of Prospectors Valley, with Neptuak Mountain on the left and Wenkchemna Peak on the right:



Panorama looking towards where we have just hiked up, with Wenkchemna Peak on the left this time and Neptuak Mountain on the far right. Eiffel Lake is right of center, with Eiffel Peak above it, and the Valley of the Ten Peaks to its right:



This is the ridge towards Wenkchemna Peak; you can get fairly close to the rocky cliffs before the talus gets too steep to continue:



We walked across the ridge to the southeast to get a better view into upper Prospectors Valley, which is an area that I've wanted to hike into. The ridge we will be following to get better views is to the far left:



This may be a use trail down into the valley, or it may be just a route visitors take to get better photos of the valley. From here and from further along the ridge, I couldn't see much of the rest of the route down, but this does look like one of the less-steep places to descend into the valley. The grey rocky outcropping barely visible in the valley is called Eagle's Eyrie:



Panorama looking straight down into the upper part of Prospectors Valley; the peak just to the right of center is Curtis Peak, and the one to its right (and barely in view with the clouds) is Mount Biddle:



This was one of the wind shelters that hikers (and perhaps campers, though I'm not sure what the camping rules are here) have built along the ridge. We were very lucky not to have much wind while we were visiting the pass:



This was an interesting rock I spotted on the southeastern side of the pass; I'm not sure what caused these odd formations:



We soon found a use trail which led along the ridge to the southeast and towards Neptuak Mountain. This trail is easier to find when you get closer to the narrower ridges, and in general isn't an obvious path:



Looking down on Eiffel Lake, with Eiffel Peak above it and Mount Temple coming out of the clouds behind Eiffel Peak:



There were cairns at most of the high points along the ridge, and the use trail lead down and back up from each bump to the next:



We can now see Opabin Pass on the far right here (this pass leads to Opabin Lake, in the Lake O'Hara part of Yoho National Park). We can also see many more of the peaks in the lower (southeastern) part of Prospectors Valley:



Looking over to the last bump that we can easily access along this ridge before the route gets too steep:





Looking up at the sheer cliffs of Neptuak Mountain looming far above:



Panorama with Opabin Pass on the far left, Wenkchemna Pass to its right, Wenkchemna Peak above Wenkchemna Pass, Eiffel Peak left of center (with Mount Temple directly behind it), the Valley of the Ten Peaks to its right, Neptuak Mountain to the right of the valley, and the lower Prospectors Valley to the far right:



Looking across at Opabin Pass, and Mount Biddle to its left. The peaks visible in the far background are some of the peaks in the Lake O'Hara area (I'm not sure exactly which ones):



Looking out at the ridge across from the Trans-Canada Highway (left), Panorama Ridge (center), and mountains Babel, Bowlen, Perren, and Tuzo (right), with Moraine Lake finally coming into view (lower center):



Neptuak Mountain looks even more difficult to climb from here, as we get closer to it:



Mount Temple is now directly behind Mount Eiffel. Both of these peaks I hope to ascend someday:



This is an incredible view looking along the Prospectors Valley, which lies in British Columbia, from its southeastern end in Kootenay National Park to its northern end in Yoho National Park. We are currently in Banff National Park, Alberta; Neptuak Mountain is where these three parks meet, and the ridge (including Wenkchemna Pass) is the British Columbia/Alberta border:



Looking down the Prospectors Valley, which is quite long; note there is another set of peaks which can be seen beyond the set on the other side of this valley:



Looking up at the next part of ridge towards Neptuak Peak, which we won't be checking out today:



Looking out at Eiffel Peak and Mount Temple again, across the wider part of the pass here. Notice how we can now see over the ridge west of Eiffel Peak and across to some of the peaks on the other side of the Paradise Valley:



Looking back at the small bump along the ridge that we just came from (there is a nice use trail leading down from the top), with Wenkchemna Peak behind it:



Another panorama from here, with Opabin Pass on the far left and the lower part of the Prospectors Valley on the far right (the photo is somewhat distorted because it is a 270-degree panorama):

