

This is a typical section of the trail through here:



Another panorama as we enter Hanging Canyon:



The trail heads up through the notch in the center of the photo; the trail increases in steepness even more at that point, and beyond there is when the trail gets more difficult to find:



This is where the elevation and lesser concentration of oxygen in the air starts to make the distance travelled between stops smaller:



A panorama which successfully shows the steepness of the terrain; this is not a very difficult hike for someone who has been doing this kind of hiking for many days, but for the second hike of the trip it is not an easy hike:



This is the notch mentioned three photos previously:



At the end of the snowpack, there appears to be two options. We took the left route on the way up, which likely would work well if there is less snow as it follows the river up from Arrowhead Pool (we bailed on it half-way up and crossed over to the other trail); however, we took the trail to the right on the way back and it turned out to be much easier:



Looking back at how far we have climbed from Jenny Lake:



Panorama from having just started the left fork of the trail; Arrowhead Pool is just over the small rocky ridge in the center of the photo (where this ridge ends and the peak behind it starts may be difficult to see; note the center of the three snowpacks and that the upper edge is a straight line—that is where the ridge is):



Continuing up this left fork; it is possible to join the right fork by heading up the green patch near the sky on the right side of the photo:



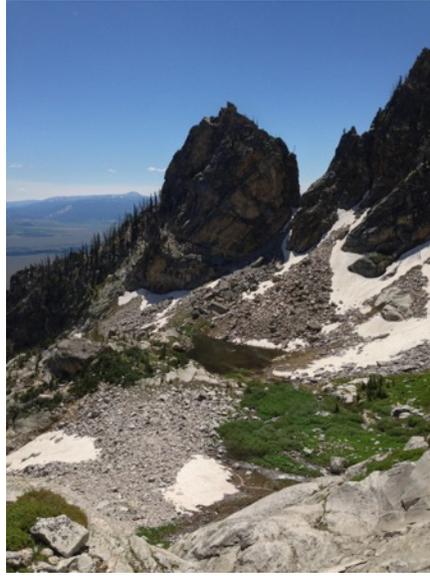
Panorama from the top of this small rocky ridge; Arrowhead Pool is hidden by the brush in the left side of the photo, and this left fork goes up the gorge in the center of the photo (as there appeared to be snow packs across the creek which would be very dangerous to cross, we headed up the ridge to the right and joined the right fork of the trail):



Panorama looking down-canyon at Jenny Lake and Arrowhead Pool from having reached the right fork of the trail:



From this photo, a small trail can just barely be seen heading off from Arrowhead Pool around the base of the rock spire; I'm not sure where this trail goes:



The best route is to go below the snowpack here:



We went above the snowpack on our way out, but then had to descend on the other side to find a safe route across the rocks:



This is the meadow just before reaching Ramshead Lake; the left fork of the trail ends up in the small thicket of trees in the far left of the photo, and that is where a hiker on the right fork should probably go to rejoin the left fork for the best access to Lake of the Craggs:



Looking back at our last view of Jenny Lake from this meadowy area:



This is the route we chose through the trees, as we did not see the trail:



This large snowpack must be crossed to access Ramshead Lake; luckily, the snow was quite stable:



Our first view of Ramshead Lake; on the way back we found the main trail, which reached the lake near the outlet:



Zooming in on the final snowpack which must be crossed before reaching Lake of the Craggs, which is just over the small ridge in the center of the photo:



This is a smaller snowpack by the lake, which is on the main trail; if you try to scramble through the boulders above this snowpack and the lake's edge, you will encounter deep dropoffs between giant boulders, and random patches of unstable snow—not a safe route, in my opinion. Therefore, staying away from rocks and crossing this snowpack on established footprints seems to be the best route:



Another panorama of Ramshead Lake:



Photo of Ramshead Lake (which appears to be a very applicable name!) at the top of the final snowpack; note that this snowpack is steep and slippery, and therefore an ice axe (or at the very least hiking poles) is a necessity for stability and to stop a too-fast descent if one slips:



Our first view of Lake of the Crags (finally!) at its outlet:



Panorama of these two alpine lakes from the ridge between them:



Looking to the north from this ridge:



View to the south:



A nice panorama of the Lake of the Craggs:



There was a small meadow-like area on the north side of the lake, which I believe is the campsite for the lake (each of the three lakes on this hike has one campsite):



This location would be a very nice place to camp if there was no inclement weather, as there did not appear to be as many mosquitoes here (mosquitoes are typical inhabitants at alpine lakes):



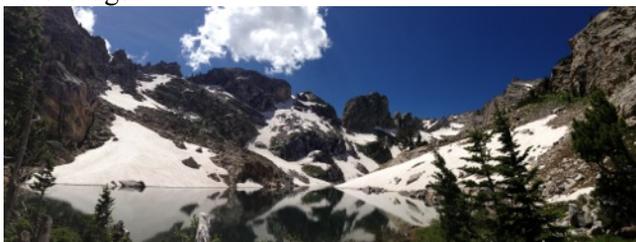
Another view to the north; with more time, it would be an interesting hike to ascend this green section and get a view looking out towards Jenny Lake, if possible:



Lake of the Craggs with some small wildflowers in the foreground (it was wet and mucky here so it was difficult to get a level photograph with both the flowers and the crags in it:



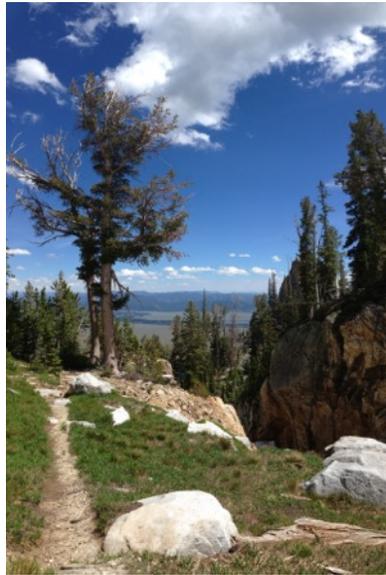
One final panorama of the Lake of the Craggs:



As we had not reached the lake until close to 2:00 pm, we were unable to spend much time at the lake and therefore turned around to head back after taking our photos:



This is where the right fork should join the left fork, just above the gorge that the creek passes through after leaving Ramshead Lake:



These white packets were stapled to many trees in the area:



Vertical panorama of the snowpack in the upper gorge:



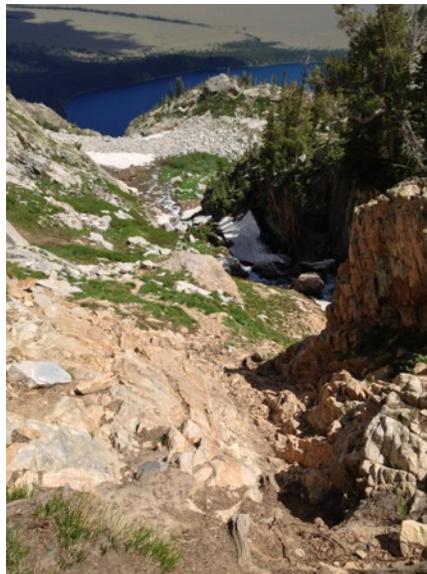
This panorama shows the route down the "left" fork (obviously on the right on the way back down, but "left" and "right" are how the two trails are labeled on other online reports so I will continue to label them as such); note that the trail crosses a snowpack near the creek, and it would be too steep to bypass the snowpack above—therefore, the safest (and really the only viable route) is the right fork at this time of year:



Continuing along the right fork; note that it is easier to cross the rock pile lower down, and therefore the snowpack is crossed below rather than above as we had done on our way to the lakes:



Route down to the left fork from the right fork; this trail does appear to be shorter and seems to have overall less elevation change:



On the left, the right fork of the trail can be seen descending; this is the section which we had missed earlier by following the beginning of the left fork on the way up, and just below where this photo was taken the trail is very steep and very slippery:



More of the right fork; here it is a gently descending trail and is much easier walking than over rocks (both left and right routes appear to have equal amounts of rocky hiking):



Panorama from above the major cliff at the final set of waterfalls; once you reach this part of the descent, the hiking is easier as it is not as steep and slippery, though it would not be safe to let your guard down yet as falls or twisted ankles are still quite possible:



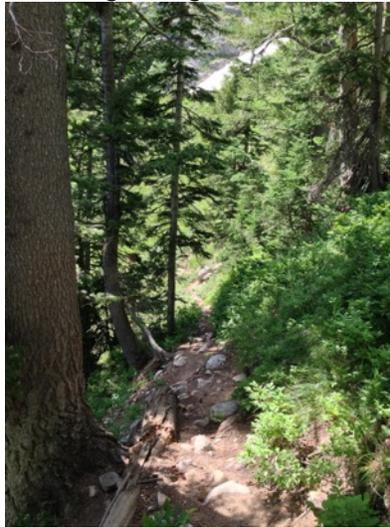
Looking down the meadow with the switchbacks and flowers (which still are not showing up in these iPhone photos):



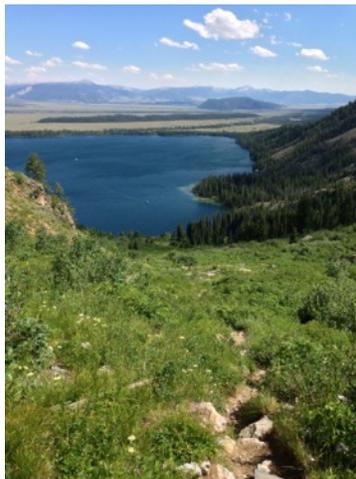
This trail takes off at the switchback in the patch of trees; I'm not sure where it goes, if it just goes to a viewpoint on the ridge or to some more interesting location:



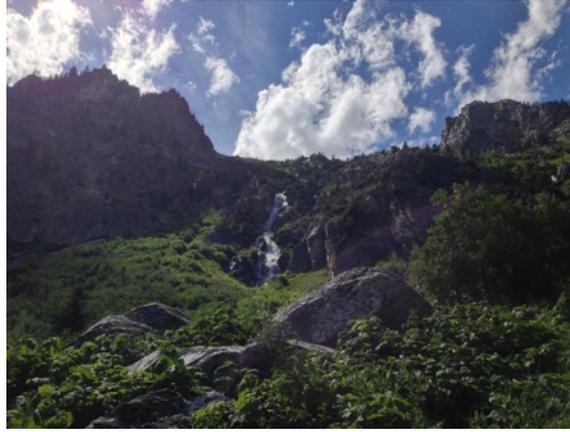
This photo shows the steepness of the trail descending through the trees:



Looking down at Jenny Lake after having reached the base of the last falls:



Looking back at the lowermost falls:



View towards Jenny Lake with the evening sun angle:



Panorama of the tetons, Cascade Canyon, and wildflowers (unfortunately not an HDR):



This section of trail with all the wildflowers and the spectacular lighting made for some incredible HDR iPhone photography:



Another HDR photo of the wildflowers and the tetons (from the same location as one of the photos taken on the hike up):



Looking down the last set of switchbacks through a thick patch of wildflowers at Jenny Lake:



Another view up towards Cascade Canyon:



The wildflowers on this hike were much better than those in Paintbrush Canyon:



Upon reaching the main trail around Jenny Lake, we encountered large crowds of tourists walking around the lake, who seemed very surprised to see a small group of hikers rather than a bear appearing on the trail seemingly out of nowhere. This photo, for which I had to wait until a couple of groups walked by, shows the three consecutive bridges right before the Lake of the Craggs turnoff when coming from the String Lake trailhead:



One final photo from this hike, of the river from String Lake entering Jenny Lake to the north:

