

The runoff from these springs into the Firehole River:



The side of Excelsior Geyser Crater closest to the river has the yellow/orange/red colors which I believe indicate that the water is cooler there and therefore supports organisms with those colors:



Excelsior Geyser Crater (with throngs of tourists photographing it); the second panorama is from the seemingly coveted "corner spot" on the boardwalk, where the number of tourists in the photo can be minimized:



Looking towards Indigo Spring and the main road:



Grand Prismatic Spring is clearly the most colorful of the springs in this area; unfortunately, we did not have time to get a photo from the nearby Fairy Falls trail:



There is quite a lot of orange color around this spring:



The steam from this pool was blowing towards the boardwalk, so to get a photo which shows more color of the spring I had to wait until the wind shifted (incidentally, note that on a windy day in a geothermal area it is wise not to wear a hat which could get blown off, as it is too dangerous to retrieve the hat if it lands off of the boardwalk—there were likely close to fifty hats which had been blown into areas from which they would be unretrievable by their owners):



Opal Pool:



Opal Pool again, with some nice peaks in the background:



Turquoise Pool:



Our next stop was the Artist's Paint Pots; panorama of this area as we approached it:



The colors in this area were nowhere near as intense as they appear in these photos; this is how the photos I took with my iPhone 5 turned out (which was the only camera I used on this trip):



Mudpots:



This paint pot looks very similar to pots of paint which I have used, especially with the "paint" encrusted around the rim:



After leaving the (very crowded) Artist's Paint Pots trail, we stopped at a turnout for lunch, before reaching Norris. Note that there do exist unmarked turnouts which are not crowded (as the picnic areas are) at which one can walk a short distance to a very nice lunch spot. Although it does not show up very well in this photo, there is a "mushroom rock" upstream of where this photo was taken:



We had also planned to stop at the Norris Geyser Basin on this day, but unfortunately the parking lot was jammed and vehicles were parked on the side of the road leading into the geyser basin all the way back to the main road, so we continued on. We next stopped at Sheepsteer Cliff:



This area is very reminiscent of the Devil's Postpile near Mammoth Lakes:



Looking down the Gardner River, this cliff appears to extend for some distance:



Our final stop of the day was at the Mammoth Hot Springs:



Map of this area; there are less open trails in this area than there were a number of years ago (although I had never been to Yellowstone, I had a collection of old park brochures which I had referenced in planning this trip):



These terraces are being formed by hot water from deep underground percolating up through limestone. While passing through the limestone, the water dissolves calcium carbonate; once it reaches the surface, it deposits the calcium carbonate, which forms these travertine terraces:



Looking towards the loop drive of the Upper Terrace; the large mound seen in the center of the photo is Orange Spring Mound:



Panorama of the main terrace:



Trees which have been engulfed by travertine; the trees absorbed the calcium carbonate, which blocked the absorption of water and nutrients:



Informative sign regarding microorganisms which live at Mammoth Hot Springs:



Another panorama of the main terrace, from further down the boardwalk towards Canary Spring:



There are many interesting "small terraces" near springs along the boardwalk:



More calcified trees as we approach the edge of the main terrace:



Two panoramas from the end of the boardwalk to Canary Spring:





We next checked out the main section of the boardwalk; another photo of the Main Terrace from this boardwalk:



Panorama of the main terrace from near New Blue Springs:



The terracing is more evident in this area:



Continuing down the boardwalk, we encounter more colorful springs:



Two more photos of these colorful terraces:



Ripples in the water over "miniature terraces":



This appears to have been a spring, which has now dried up:



Trees are now growing on sections of the Mammoth Hot Springs terraces where the springs have dried up:



Informative sign at Jupiter Terrace, describing how Jupiter Spring has become dormant and therefore trees can begin to grow there again:



Panorama of the very impressive Minerva Terrace:



Informative sign about Minerva Terrace:



These terraces, despite being drier than they once were, still are quite spectacular:



Panorama of the lower Minerva Terrace and Cleopatra Terrace:



Panorama looking towards the Mammoth Hot Springs "village" and Palette Spring:



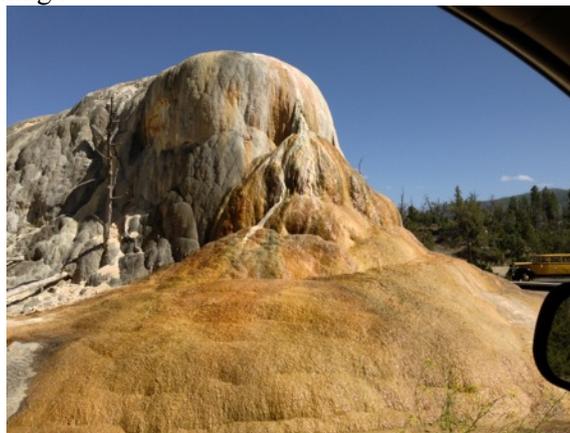
Looking back over towards the upper section of Minerva Terrace:



Two more photos of Cleopatra Terrace as we headed back towards the overlook parking lot:



From here, we finished driving around the loop road. This is Orange Spring Mound, which was earlier shown photographed from the overlook parking lot:



Orange Spring Mound from its other side:



More calcified trees, from the Angel Terrace:



Waterfall near the road into Mammoth Hot Springs from Norris:

