

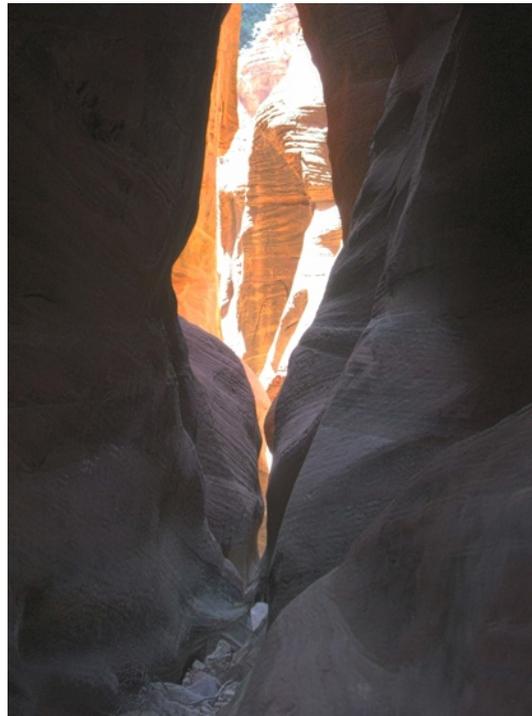
UTAH TRIP JUNE 2012: TRIP REPORT PART 1 OF 4

Observation Point, Echo Canyon, Hidden Canyon, Pine/Clear Creek, Keyhole Slot, Red Hollow, Kanarra Creek, Kolob Plateau, Taylor Creek

Our first hike of the trip was in Zion National Park, to Observation Point. HDR panorama from the point:



On our hike back from Observation Point, we took a side trip into a set of narrows of Echo Canyon, which can easily be accessed from the Observation Point trail. HDR of the narrows:



Another photo of the canyon which shows the incredible red color of the walls and gives more of an idea as to the size of the narrows:



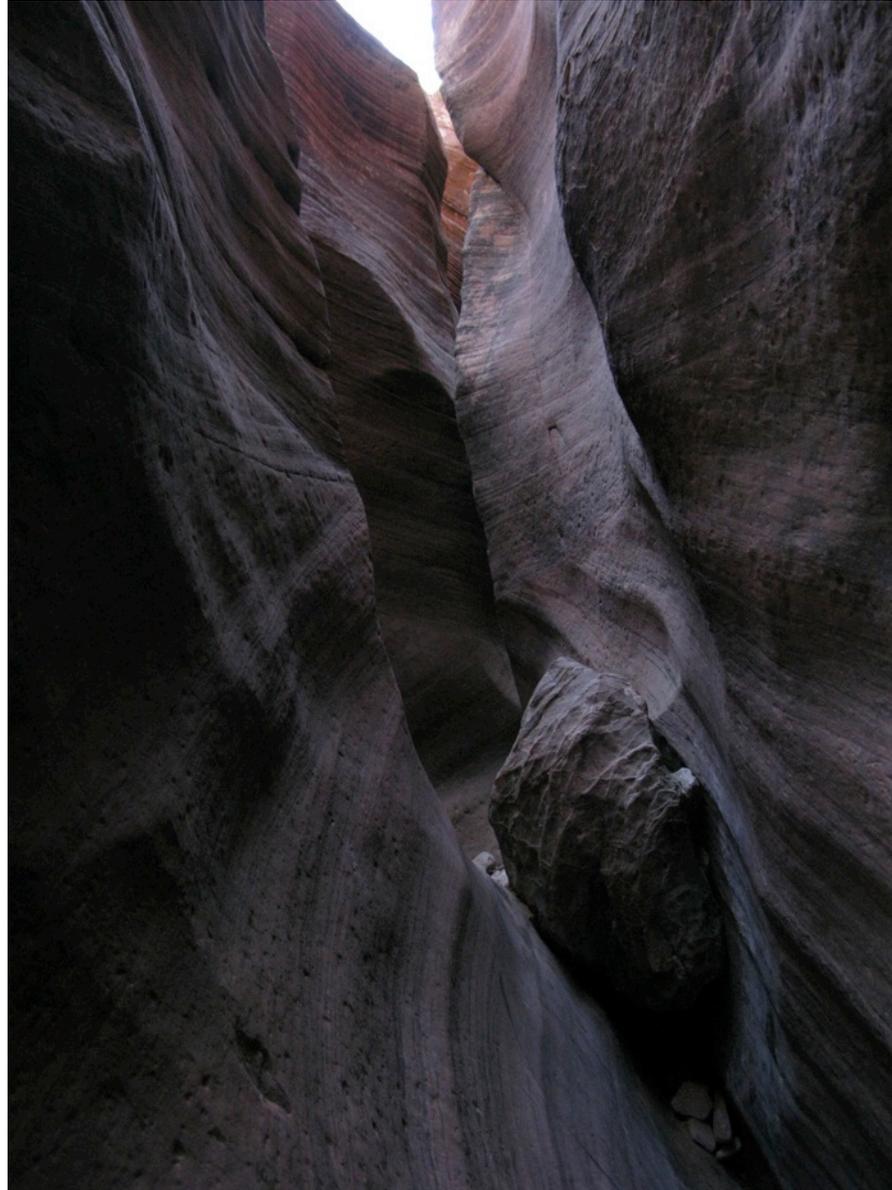
We also checked out Hidden Canyon, which can be accessed from the Observation Point trail. We continued on past the first bridge until the canyon began to get steep; we could have gone further, but as it was getting dark we decided to turn back. I hope to return to this hike again and attempt to get to the second bridge which is supposedly up canyon a little ways further. This photo is of the first Hidden Canyon bridge:



On our next day we checked out Pine Creek from where it crosses the road a bit above the Zion–Mt. Carmel Tunnel and joins with Clear Creek; we did not go downstream to where the narrows and rappelling start. This photo is of the narrows just above the small bridge and below the road:



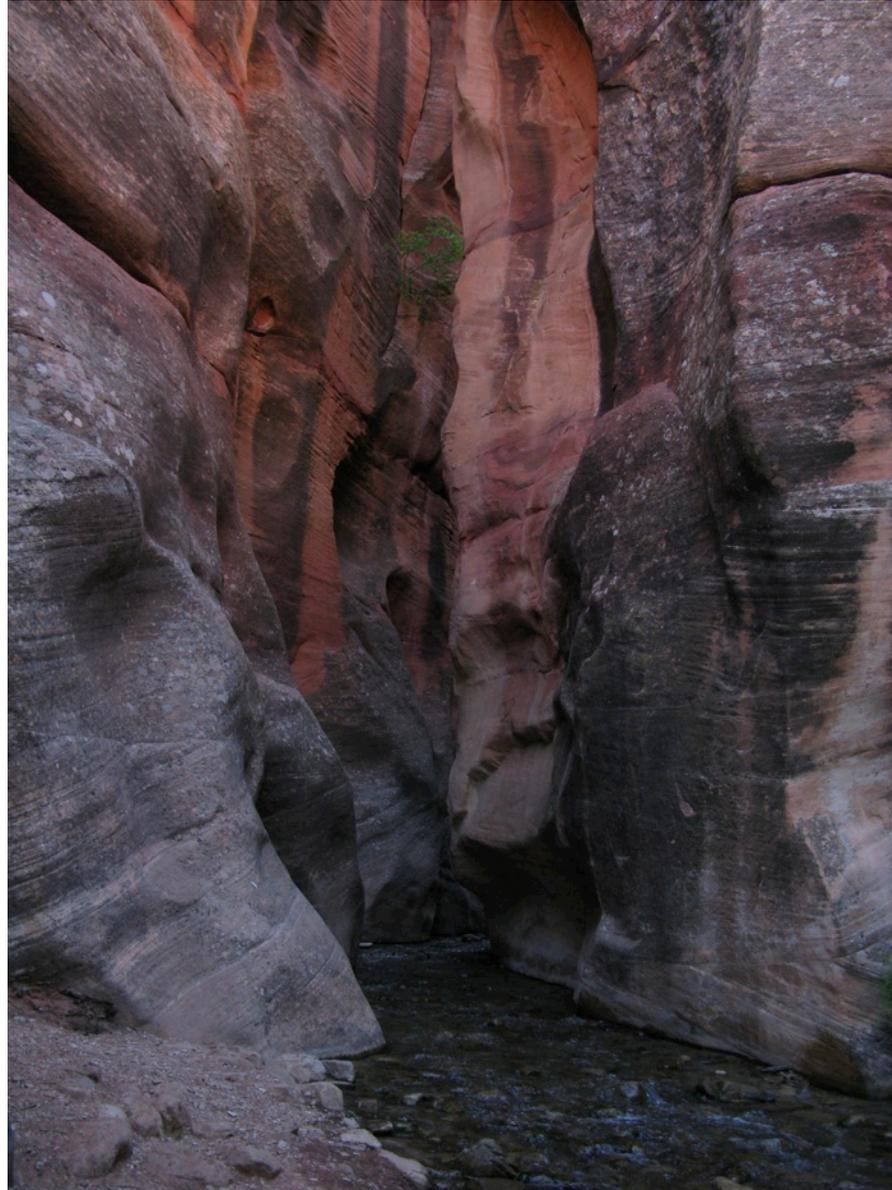
The next slot that we hiked was Keyhole (accessed from further up the Zion–Mt. Carmel road); we entered the canyon just below the middle set of narrows and went up them, over a few easy chockstones, until we encountered a large pool of water just above yet another chockstone. After backtracking, we looked at the descent into the upper narrows and decided not to hike over more slick-rock (the temperature was probably about 100 degrees at this point). This photo is of one of the chockstones in the middle narrows. As you can see, the floor of the canyon is tilted at an angle, making walking difficult:



Red Hollow, accessed from near Orderville, is a short and very easy slot to a 15-foot fall. The fall is climbable (it even has a rope hanging from it, although the rope is old and probably not trustworthy), but due to the hot weather I did not attempt it. As with Echo Canyon and Keyhole Slot, Red Hollow has tall red walls which make for nice photographs. This photo is of an easy chockstone in the mid-narrows:



One of the highlights of our trip was Kanarra Creek. Although I did not get to see the second set of narrows, I feel that this has to be one of my favorite hikes. The canyon is very accessible to the first falls, which has a “ladder” (a log with boards nailed across it), but the second set of narrows was too wet for me to continue. It probably would have been much easier to explore the canyon if there was less water, but the first narrows might have lost their appeal for me. This photo shows the entrance to the lower narrows:



The ladder over the 15-foot chockstone fall:



The entrance to the upper narrows:



A photo of the second falls, taken by one member of our group who attempted to continue through the upper narrows. The water was waist deep in places, and as can be seen from the photo water is coming down the second ladder:



We also checked out the Kolob Plateau area of Zion:



This panorama photo is of Double Arch Alcove near Taylor Creek, in the Kolob Plateau:

