

Ghast Attack

I stepped forward and entered the Nether Portal. All I could see for four seconds was swirling purple light and then I emerged into the Nether. It was very dark, and the sky was the color of blood. Zombie pigmen, piglike zombies with half of the skin peeled off their bones that carried swords, were everywhere. I could hear them snorting wherever I went.

I turned to the left and headed up a steep hill of netherrack, the dark red stone which the Nether was made up of. The netherrack crunched under my feet as I went. When I reached the top of the hill I saw a medium-sized magma cube.

It jumped into the air, and its skin stretched out and its face opened up, making it look like it was screaming with evil happiness. It smashed into my face, and intense pain filled my boxy body as I took half a heart of damage. At the same time, I struck out with my stone sword, and with two quick jabs I murdered the magma cube, and its body exploded into three smaller magma cubes. I quickly disposed of those as well, and then pocketed the magma cream.

After that, I walked back down the hill towards the portal, but I was not going home. I was now sweating from the heat inside my iron armor. I turned down a two-block wide path that was sandwiched by a netherrack cliff on the right, and a lava sea on the left. The lava bubbled softly as I made my way through the red and orange darkness. Once I stepped on a magma block and my feet began to burn. The block hissed as I took half a heart of damage before I hastily stepped off of it.

I decided that this looked like a good spot to begin work on my snake skin build, a system of tunnels I planned to build out over lava so that I could cross it safely. I tried to place cobblestone out over the lava, but then I realized that I did not know how to bridge, and so I gave up.

That was when I heard the catlike cry of a ghast in the distance. My heart began to beat faster. I decided it would be wise to get away from the lava. As I stepped down from my failed

build attempt, a baby zombie pigman ran up to me. I was nervous that they were going to attack, but they did not. I continued along the path.

Soon, I exited the lava path, and came out onto a long, flat strip of land. At first I was not sure that the path would connect to it, but I could not yet bridge, and so thankfully, it did. Unfortunately, the strip was largely covered in soul sand, and I filled with annoyance as my feet sunk in up to the ankles. There were also a considerable number of magma blocks here, and so I had to watch my step. From a distance, their orange glow resembled the inside of a magma cube. As I began my journey across the strip, I came across another baby zombie pigman, as well as many adults, but that was true almost everywhere. I was very careful not to bump into one by accident, because zombie pigmen were usually peaceful unless you attacked them, which would provoke all of them in the area to turn hostile.

I continued to trudge along, placing cobblestone blocks here and there as I went, so that I could find my way back. The front half of the strip was open to the lava sea, and the back half was surrounded by netherrack walls on both sides. Occasional fires were burning the ground. I saw a group of three baby zombie pigmen chasing each other near the center of the strip.

There were also adult zombie pigmen all around the place. I thought about how I had probably seen one hundred zombie pigmen by now, since five percent of them are babies.

Before too long, I made it to the far end of the strip. Across the lava, I could see another landmass, although I could not see a way across. I mined into the netherrack wall on the right side of the strip for a minute or two to see if I could find another way to get across, but no obvious way revealed itself. I decided it was time to go back home. I turned around, and as I walked back, I mined an occasional nether quartz or magma block to take back to the Overworld.

When I had made it about halfway across the strip I decided I needed a break, and so I went to go stand on the side of a hill that was situated where the wall began. I stood there for a minute, and then I heard it. The cry of a ghast. It sounded very close, although it was difficult to tell for sure. I turned around to look, and there was a ghast right there.

They opened their eyes and mouth, which were bright red inside, and screamed. A ball of fire burst from the ghaſt's mouth, and exploded juſt a few blocks away. They fired again, and again I narrowly dodged. I was now in full panic mode. I tried to ſhoot an arrow at the ghaſt, but I was in ſuch panic that I fired the arrow in the exact oppoſite direction. The ghaſt ſhot yet another fireball, and this time it was a direct hit. The terrain ſcreamed as its fleſh was obliterated, and the nearby blocks that ſurvived burſt into flames, never to be extinguished. Half of my body was burnt and blown off, and my nerves ſeared with pain as I took five hearts of damage.

As faſt as I could, I ran for the ſide of the hill, and frantically began to mine into it. I dug a tunnel two blocks wide and ſeveral blocks long and plugged off the entrance with dirt. My heart beating faſt, I quickly began to eat carrots. At firſt they did not help, but after ſeveral, I was back at full health.

After that I broke through the dirt wall and ran as faſt as I could back in the direction of the portal. My heart was ſtill beating faſt, and I knew that the ghaſt could find me again any minute. They did not, however, and I managed to find my way back to the portal and ruſhed through.



I was very glad to be back in the Overworld. But deep down, I knew that that was far from being my final ghaſt encounter. That trip to the Nether had gone very badly, but at least now I knew how dangerous it could get, and next time I would be ſure to go much better prepared.