



SYLVIA FALLS

canyon v3a3I★

Location

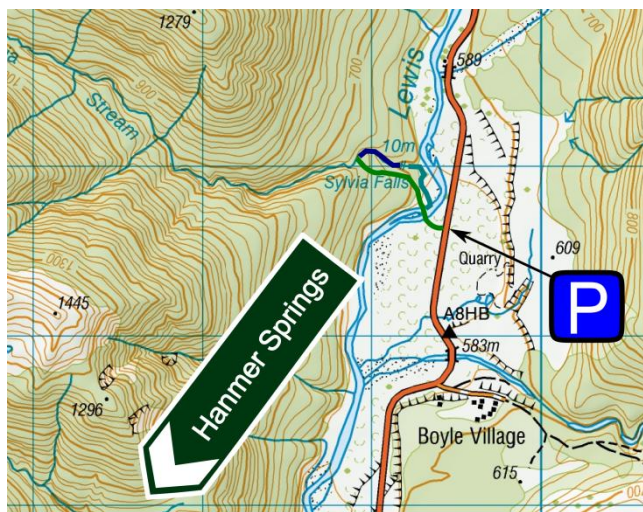
Sylvia Stream. West of SH7, just 14km south of Lewis Pass.

Character

Very short, mostly horizontal gorge with a very beautiful final waterfall.

Map

BU23 Boyle Village



Approach by Car

Take SH7 (Lewis Pass) to the turn off to the Boyle Village Outdoor Education. About 1km north, on your left park next to a NZ Fish and Game Angler Access sign which indicates river access.

Approach on Foot

Cross the fence, paddocks and the Lewis River. Ascend the true right bank of the stream onto a reasonably flat terrace above the gorge. There are social trails that are easy to follow 10 – 50m from the edge of the river. Don't go too close to the edge, as the bank is undercut in places. 15 minutes from the river access sign you can see an easy obvious place to scramble down into the river, immediately before the stream bank climbs more steeply. The fixed handline here is not necessary, but makes it a little easy to get down.

Rock

Reasonably solid, dark Greywacke

Water

Moderate volume, with several short swims.

Catchment

14 km²

Anchors

Artificial anchors. Bolts, nuts and fixed wire handlines. Inspect carefully before use.

Gear

Minimum of 20m rope plus pull cord.

Route Description

The gorge begins straight away with some ropework and small jumps/slides. The gorge is reasonably open and relatively sunny.

Keep an eye out for the R2 Handline, high on the TR. The main flow goes through a very narrow slot on the TL. R2 deposits you in the magnificent final amphitheatre right next to the touchdown of the sizeable waterfall. Either climb awkwardly between the rock and the waterfall, or dive straight under the touchdown and swim away. The pool is very deep and without obstacles at the time of writing. It can make an exhilarating 15m jump for the brave and experienced.

The canyon ends here. Walk easily via the river back to your car

Time

Access Sign to scramble in fixed rope	15min
Canyon descent	45min
Return to Car	10min
Total	1h10m

Flash Flood Danger

Moderate. Large drainage, but very short gorge with some escapes and plenty of places to get up and out of the water.

Escapes

The gorge has an obvious and easy escape 2/3 the way through. However, there are many places where you could escape with a little teamwork and climbing.

Notes

The Boyle River Outdoor Education Center uses this canyon. A courtesy call to the manager is requested to avoid any congestion in the canyon.

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