



# ATIWHAKATU

## Gorge v1a3II★

### Location

Mt Holdsworth Area, Eastern Tararua Ranges.

### Character

A short, non-technical gorge with some wades, floats and rocks to jump off.

### Map

BP34 Masterton.



### Approach by Car

Leaving Masterton on SH 2, cross the Waingawa River bridge, then turn right onto Norfolk Rd (signs for Mt Holdsworth). Continue for 10.7km then turn left onto Mt Holdsworth Rd, reaching the road end about 4km later.

### Approach on Foot

Take the main track west, following signs to Atiwhakatu Hut. At the bridge before the track junction up to Pig Flat, scramble down to the river.

### Rock

Solid Greywacke

### Water

Low flow in normal conditions. Some pools to swim.

### Catchment

23 km<sup>2</sup>

### Gear

Wetsuits may not necessary on a very hot day. Some floatation in your pack is helpful.

### Route Description

The gorge is very straightforward, with simple wading, swimming and walking. There are a few nice sections of bedrock gorge, as well as some spots where you can climb up and then jump back into the water. After an hour or so of gorge travel, the river opens up and you can choose to tramp down river, or scramble up on the true right to regain the access track.

### Time

Holdsworth Car park to put in	1hr15min
Canyon descent	1h
Return to Vehicle	30min
<b>Total</b>	<b>2-3h</b>

### Flash Flood Danger

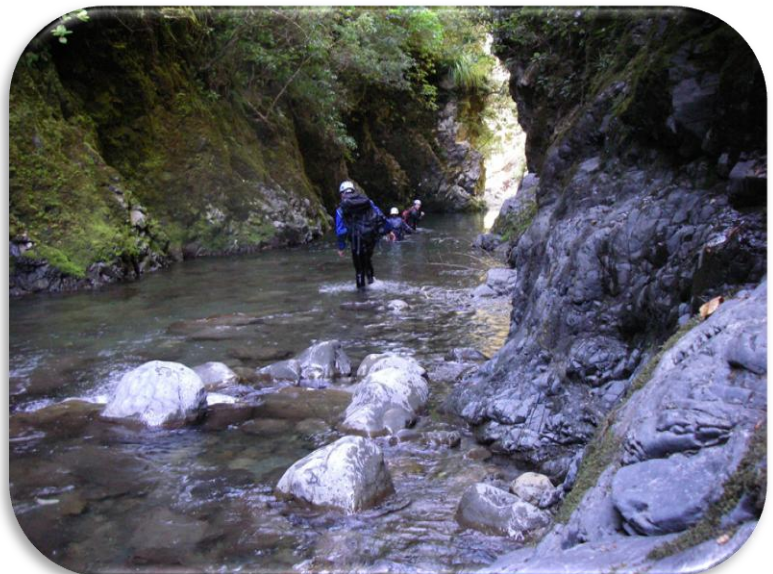
Low. Large catchment, but short gorge with options to get out of the watercourse.

### Escapes

It may be possible to escape up to the track on the true right, but the best escape is to complete the gorge.

### Notes

An excellent short introduction to Gorge travel, or as a alternative route to return from a tramping trip on a hot day.



*Topo by Daniel Clearwater*  
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