



NORTH FALLS

canyon v5a2IV ★★

Location

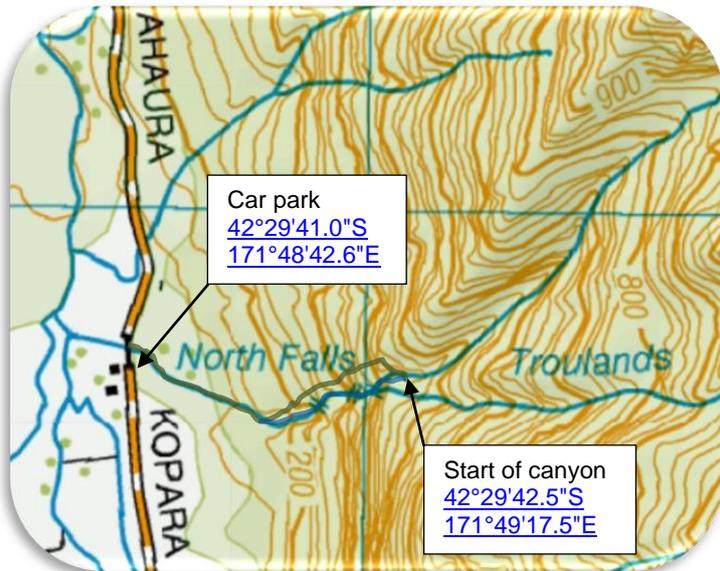
Ahaura Valley (between Reefton and Greymouth)

Character

A great vertical, reasonably low flow canyon. The three impressive 80m waterfalls are clearly visible from the road. The canyon is well worth the drive to get there.

Map

[BU21 - Haupiri](#) (click to download printable topo map)



Approach by Car

From State Highway 7, turn off at Ahaura (midway between Reefton and Greymouth) and head up the Ahaura Valley for 30km (45mins). Park near the bridge over Troulands Creek.

Approach on Foot

Enter the creek at the bridge and follow it until just before the bottom waterfall. Enter the bush on the true right. Stay close to the creek until the terrain gets very steep and bluffy. Sidle to the true right as needed and pick your way up through the bluffs. It is steep and a little loose, but you shouldn't need ropes. At 440m altitude, sidle into the creek where it flattens.

Rock

Granite

Water

Low volume in normal flows.

Catchment

3.0 km²

Anchors

Combination of natural anchors and double bolt anchors.

Gear

Minimum 2x80m ropes.

Route Description

The first part of the canyon is a series of small, sculpted drops. Combine multiple cascades into a few rappels to make use of limited tree anchors. The volume here is lower than the main falls, as you're in the smaller of the two tributaries.

When you reach the confluence with the true left tributary, you are at the top of the first of three big waterfalls. This first one is the most awkward, with a rappel down past the lip of the waterfall to some free-hanging bolted anchors out of the flow on the true right. The second big waterfall follows immediately afterwards. Using a sling around the big boulder to access bolted anchors shortly below the lip. The anchors for the third big waterfall are easier to access. Follow the creek 500m back to the car.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	1h30m
Canyon descent	4h
Return to vehicle	30m
Total	6h

Flash Flood Danger

Medium. Reasonably small catchment, but the big rappels are mostly out the flow and there are escapes.

Escapes

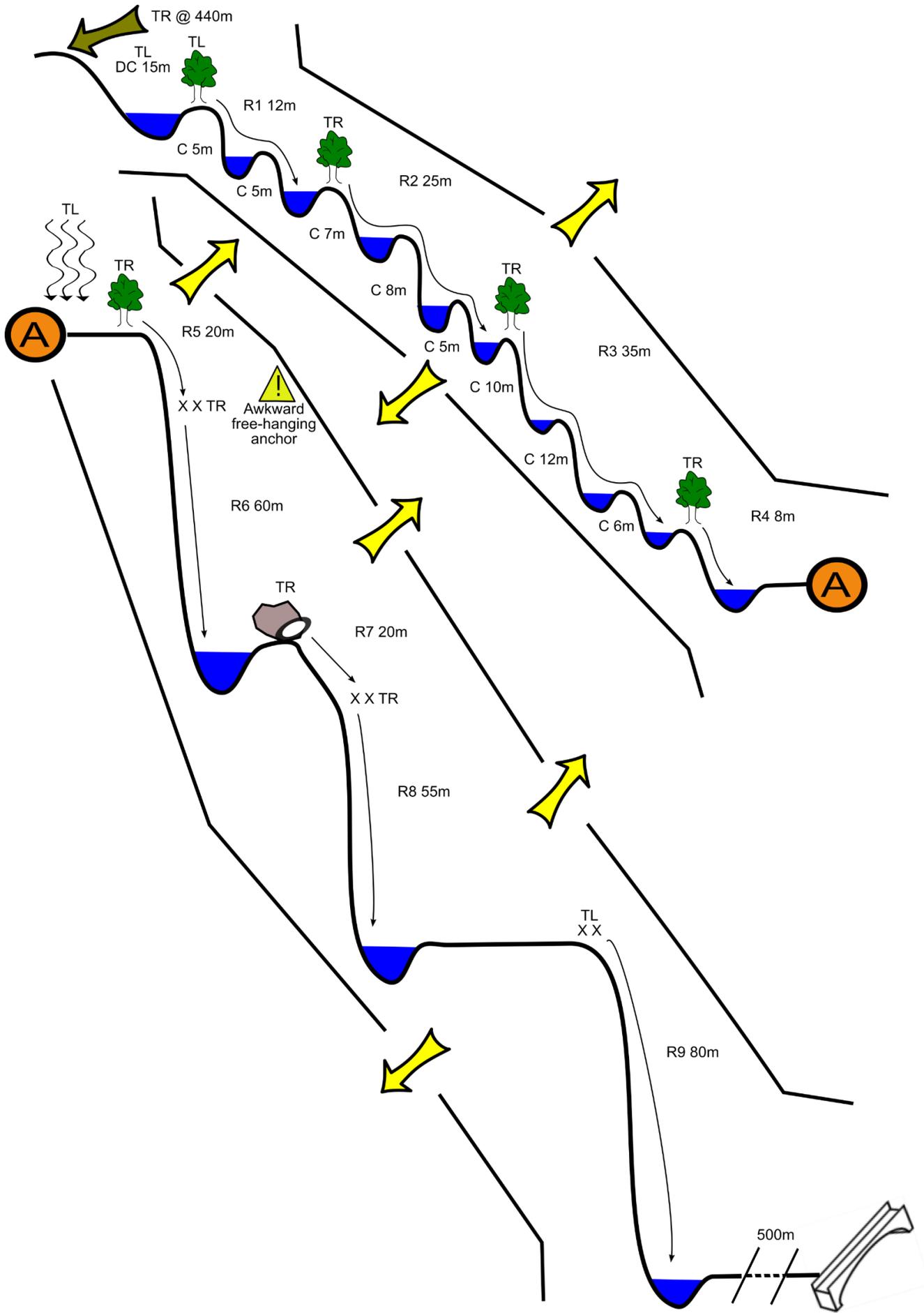
There are escapes at the top of the first and third big waterfalls (R5 & R9). And if pressed, it is also possible to escape from the top of the second big waterfall (R7), but only with some sketchy climbing around bluffs in the bush.

Notes

First descent: Pete Choate, Oscar Hadley, Stuart De Haas, Lee Den Haan, Richard Bramley 30/11/2017

Fun2Effort Ratio: $(4+3)/2 = 3.5$

At the time of writing, the true left tributary had not been descended.

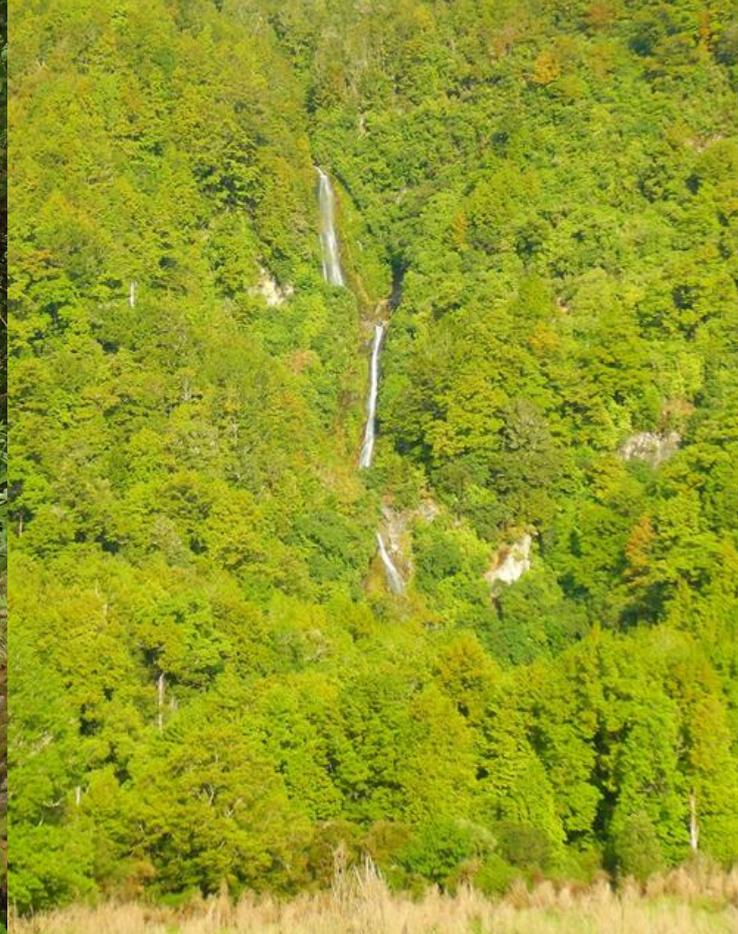


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Topo by Pete Choate and Richard Bramley

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