

Holts Creek

Water	Drop	Rope	Anchors	Rock
Moderate	40m	2 x 50m	Bolts and Natural	Greywacke

Holts Creek is a big day in a remote alpine canyon. It is bolted but come with natural anchor rigging materials. The upper canyon starts with pool drop waterfalls. The only escape is a scree mid-canyon before giving way to enclosed steep walls. On the way down make sure to look back up the canyon at the spectacular series of waterfalls. Recommended for experienced canyoneers and strong teams.

Approach by car

Travel on SH 73 and park on the Otira side of the Otira/Rolleston River bridge (beside the rail over pass). The Mt Barron route starts 150m along the road towards Otira township.

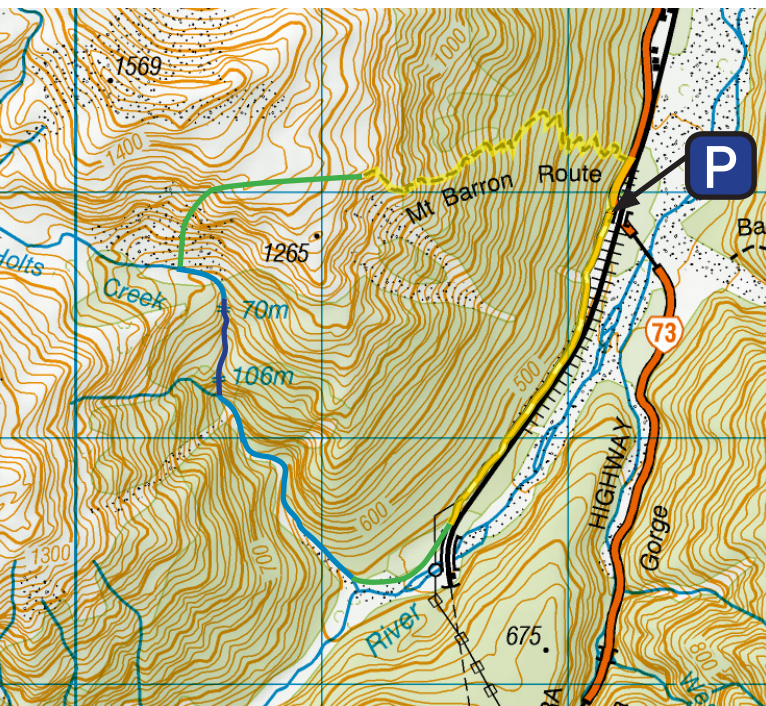
Approach by foot

Climb the Mt Barron Route for about 2 hours to 1200m. Once on the open tops head west for around 30 minutes and find a steep descending gully. It is a long descent down the gully then onto the scree above Holts Creek. Follow the creek down until the beginning of the canyon proper.

Route Description

The canyon descends around 260m of mostly pool drop waterfalls. The upper canyon is a series of four pitches before opening for a short distance for the only escape and then 50m of down climbing. Once the canyon narrows in the lower section, you are entirely committed. The lower canyon is more technical than the upper with several rigging and water challenges.

The R6-R7 transition is one of the crux areas in the canyon. It is difficult to gain access to the R7 bolts (TL) from R6 (TR) as it's super slippery.



From the top of R8 assess the water as an eddy can form. Come up with a suitable strategy to get across the flow from the end of the rappel.

The last half of the R10 rappel is in the waterfall however is fanned out. If the first person finds the going a bit tough, a guided rappel can be set up using a large boulder at the bottom (TR).

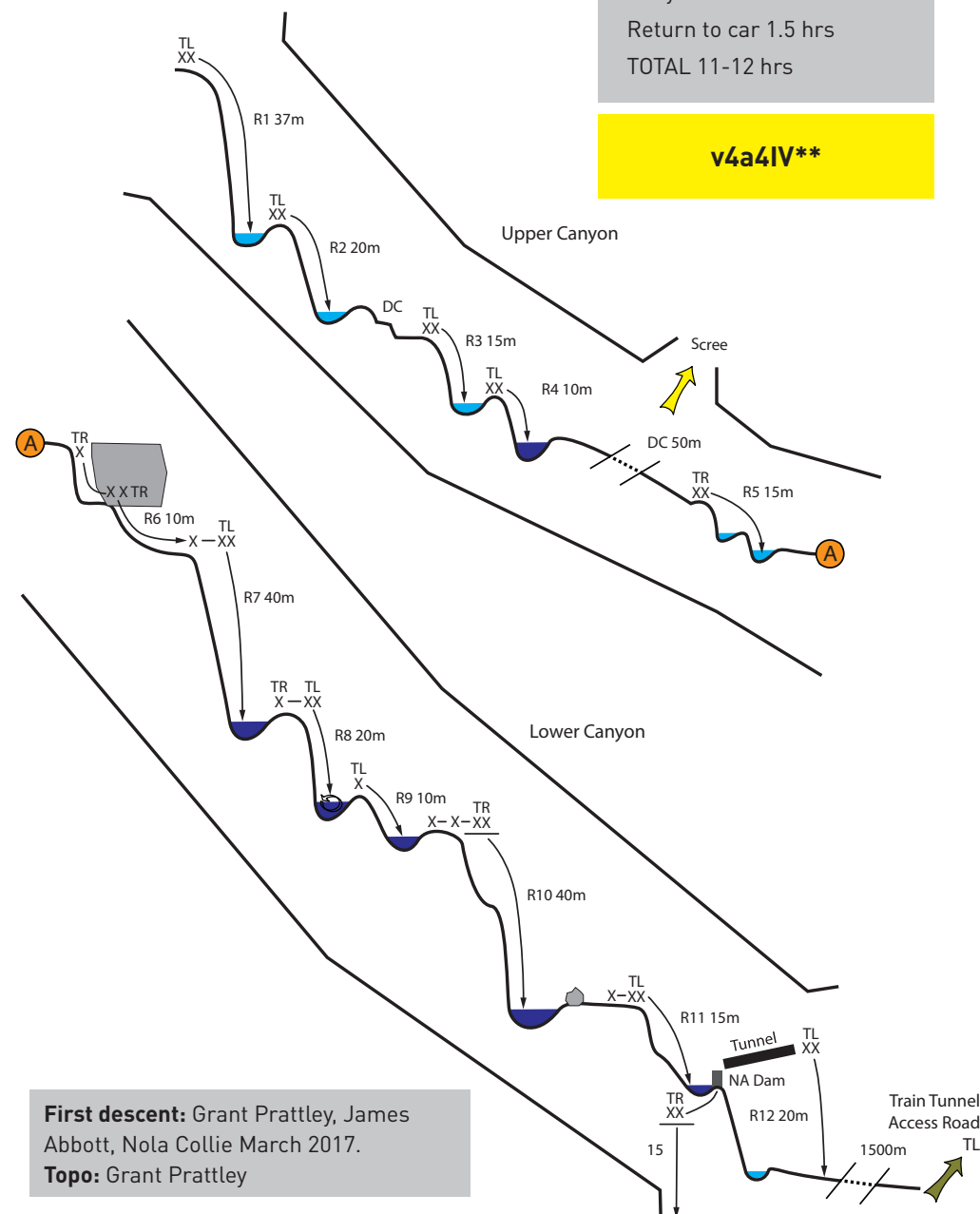
Be sure to check out the old hydro tunnel (TL) at the top of the last drop.

Once past the final drop, the way out is to follow Holts Creek to Rolleston River and walk back along the rail tunnel access road.

Time

Carpark to start 4 hrs
 Canyon descent 5.5-6.5 hrs
 Return to car 1.5 hrs
TOTAL 11-12 hrs

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First descent: Grant Prattley, James Abbott, Nola Collie March 2017.
Topo: Grant Prattley

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