



BLACK MILLER

canyon v3a2II★

Location

Kaikoura coast North.

Character

Black Miller Stream is a short fun canyoning trip which is not difficult in normal flows & so is an excellent trip for experienced canyoners to introduce beginners to the sport or to break up a road trip through Kaikoura with a short diversion.

Map

BT28 Mangamaunu.



Approach by Car

30km North of Kaikoura on SH1 and just South of Okiwi Bay, SH1 crosses Black Miller Stream by a small bridge. 50m North of the bridge there is a layby on the coastal side of SH1 for parking.

Approach on Foot

Walk South to the bridge and drop into the stream crossing under SH1 and the railway line. 50m upstream on the TL enter the bush starting uphill following a hunter's path marked by orange string. This brings you to the plateau at the 120m contour. Cross the fence following it East overlooking Black Miller Stream across a grassy plateau. Where the grass turns to bush drop downhill until you intersect an old farm track. Follow this down towards the stream until it is cut off by a slip, a handline helps you down to the stream.

Rock

Greywacke

Water

Low flow in normal conditions, suitable for beginners led by the experienced.

Catchment

2.5 km²

Anchors

Double Bolt Anchors (DBA)

Gear

Longest drop 20m

Route Description

Boulder hop downstream for 15 minutes until a sharp left changes the stream character to a gorge, R1 (6m) DBA on the TR is reached shortly thereafter.

Beyond this several small down climbs and pools are crossed leading to R2 (12m) and R3 (20m) both DBA on the TL which follow in quick succession.

Boulder hop downstream and back to the car.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	35min
Canyon descent	1hour
Return to vehicle	10min
Total	1h45m

Flash Flood Danger

Low

Escapes

Escape from the stream is generally possible excepting for between R2 and R3. Escape back to the car would require very steep bush bashing and is not recommended.

Notes

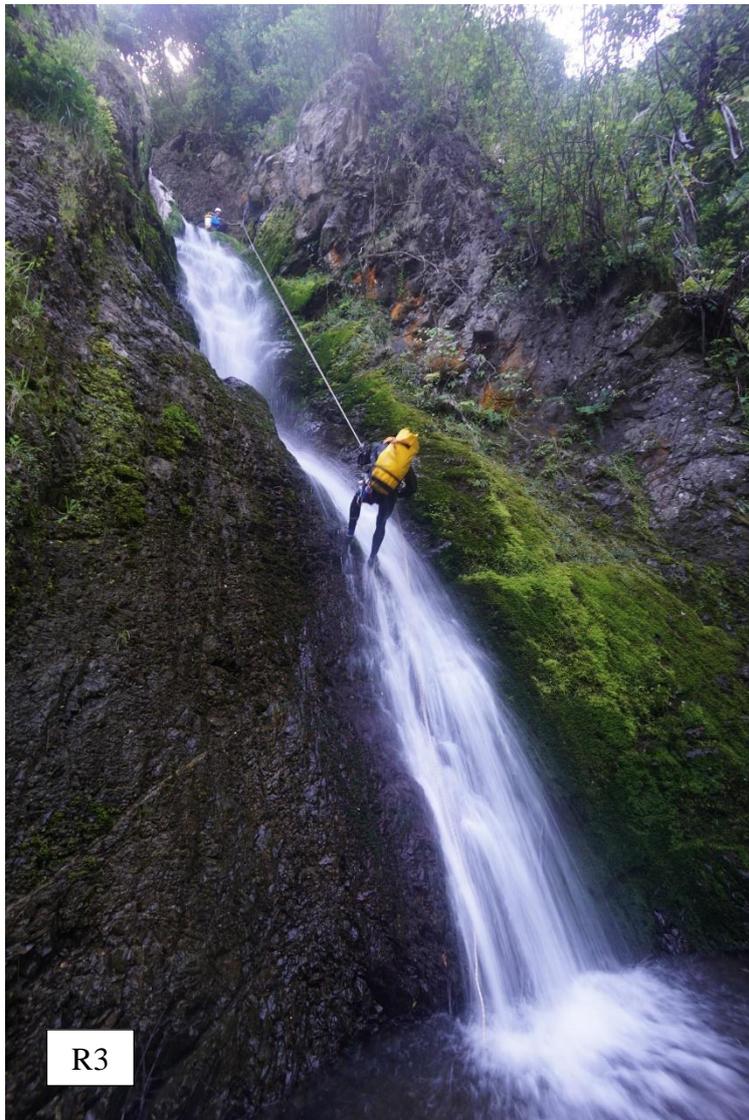
First descent: 15 November 2019 (Justin Hall, Jonathan Carr, Hamish Castle, Jeff Hall)

Fun to effort ratio: Medium (short canyon – easy access)

Access issues: The land on the TR after R3 is private property, stay in the streamway until you get back to SH1, do not short cut through the access roads.



R1



R3

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Topo by Author
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