

Canyon name: Deep Creek

Grade: v1a1l

General area: Skippers Canyon

Character: Our group investigated it because of rumours of gold miners encountering “a very tight gorge.” It is an impressive gorge but is very short and has no features other than wading and scrambling. Worth a look if you’re passing by but maybe not worth going out of your way for. It’s possible there may be more canyon sections further upstream, but nothing else is known.

Start of the canyon (topomap link): <https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap?v=2&ll=-44.893124,168.67816&z=15&pin=1>

Carpark (google maps link): <https://goo.gl/maps/dy9VfdjsDNUVSEWp8>

Highest waterfall: 0m

Suggested gear:

Canyon dimensions:

Rock: Schist

anchors:

Approach time:

Descent time:

Back to your car time: 1 hour

Approach by car: Drive down Skippers Road until you cross the bridge over Deep Creek, then park on the left.

Access: Public access

Approach on foot: From the bridge walk up the creek for about 100m, either through the creek or follow a vague track by the side.

Canyon descent description: Walk upstream through the canyon then return the same way. No significant climbs or swims, but some wading up to stomach height. If you want to avoid the deepest part there are some nails hammered into the TR canyon wall that you can hold onto to traverse above the water (this is more difficult but less cold). Very soon the gorge opens up again; the entire trip could probably be done in 20 minutes but allow longer to look around, maybe explore upstream. Cold but doable in Winter, nice icicles.

Committment/Escapes:

Other notes:

First descent: First descended by some goldminers probably, it will have been done many times before. This information from a trip by Christian Miller, Amy Burney, Stefan Przychodzko and Josh Hudson, July 2020.