

Slate River Lower Gorge v1a3III*

8 Km SW of Collingwood, Golden Bay.

Heard about from a Kayaking Guide book.

Normal flow is 3 Cumecs and paddling flows are 15-20 cumecs. So, with normal levels, it should be feasible to swim/tube/leap through the gorge... Make sure you know how to estimate flows before giving this one a go...

Access: 2h30mins from Carpark to put in.

Public access (www.wams.org.nz) from the end of Devils Boots Road, via the vehicle track south to Moonlight flat, and again back along the vehicle track at the confluence

with the Aorere.

Descent: 2hrs from put in to confluence with Anatoki River.

There are some long deep pools to swim, but in normal flows all obstacles are easily bypassed. The stream alternates between sections of shallow bedrock gorge and open but steep sided river valley. There are some nasty log jams to be avoided, which is easily done if you are careful. There are a few places to climb up and do jumps from.

Return: 45mins

Search for the start of the track as marked on the map, which is not entirely easy. About 50-70m back from the confluence, on the TR of the Slate, scramble up into the forest, along a bushy ramp. You'll arrive at a Gold Prospectors hut, which is a little spooky. The trail continues from the hut, but requires some care to follow, until you get back onto the top of the ridge and it joins the main access track.

