

Sleeping Beauty Canyon

Location

Kauaeranga Valley

Map

T12 Thames

Park cars at road end, Kauaeranga Valley.

Canyon starts @ S 37 03.365, E 175 41.370

Character

A committing descent with a series of waterfalls in relatively low volume water.

Access

From the carpark at the road end, follow the Billygoat track up, crossing Atuatumoe Stream. Another 30 mins takes you to the high point of the track. Descend until an obvious water run scar appears on the left, drop in there.

Rock

Good quality rock with a lot of moss lower down.

Water

Generally low, better for a little rain. (I did say a little)

Anchors

Trees all the way. A little thought needed in places.

Gear

Ideally a 55m plus pulldown cord, but you can just get away with a 50m plus pulldown. A 20m rope makes things a lot easier as there are many short abseils.

Route description

An awkward scramble down fairly steep ground leads to a 55m abseil. The abseil should be descended in one drop as there are no anchor points in the middle. Lots of sliding at the bottom section as the rock is very slippery.

Time

Carpark to start of canyon	1 hr 30 mins
Descent of the canyon	4 hrs
Bottom of canyon to car	30 mins

Round trip	6hrs approx
------------	-------------

Flash flood danger

As always, a canyon or watercourse is a dangerous place to be at the wrong time. Even in a low flow canyon such as this, you can see the high water level and you don't want to be there in heavy rain.

Escapes

Once past the first abseil, you are fairly committed but can get out of the water in most places.

Notes

First done in summer with very low water, but possibly more fun with a little precipitation. There are only two swims, but it is very rewarding. A beautiful worthwhile trip.

First descent by Pete Smith, Neil Foxcroft, Peter Harrison. 10th January 09.

Surveyed by Pete Smith.

GPS Brendon Nevin.

Drawn by Peter Harrison.



