



WHISKY

creek v5a2IV ★

Location

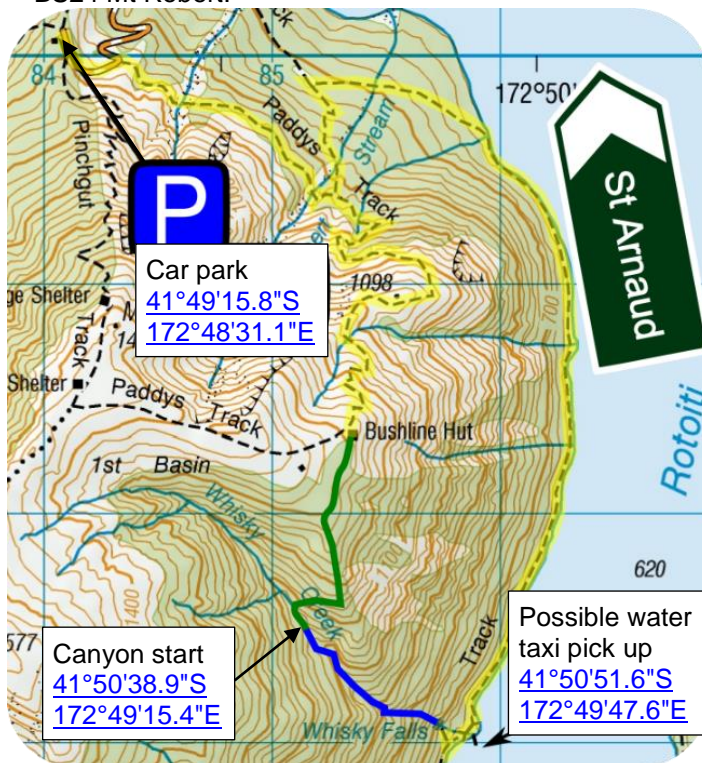
West of Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park.

Character

Steep, open alpine stream, with lots of rappelling and a spectacular finale over Whisky Falls.

Map

BS24 Mt Robert.



Approach by Car

Head west from Saint Arnaud on SH64 for about 2km. Turn left onto Mt Robert Rd and drive up the steep gravel road for about 5km to the road end.

Approach on Foot

Take Paddy's Track to Bushline Hut. Continue past the hut then side south to descend the spur which shoulders the true left of the canyon. Descend to about 1100 to an obvious clearing then side into canyon. The last descent is made of windfall and loose rock, take caution.

At the end of the canyon, follow Lakeside Track back towards St Arnaud. About 500m after the track climbs above the lake, there is another track on the left, (not marked on some maps) that links to Paddy's Track and the car park.

Rock

Greywacke, loose in places.

Water

There are no deep pools, but the falls have significant vertical flow, requiring respect and good technique.

Catchment

2km²

Anchors

Mix of tree anchors and double bolt anchors.

Gear

Minimum of 2x 60m ropes.

Route Description

The stream is relatively open with bolder scrambling between drops. Several rappels force you to descend through the waterfall. There is some debris in the canyon, so be wary of hidden tree stumps and logs in waterfalls. There is a delicate exposed side to reach the R6 anchor to avoid a log in the waterfall. R8 is a technical rappel through the flow. There are some large cracks behind the waterfall curtain and a log at the bottom that you can pass behind. (You may be able to avoid the flow by abseiling down the slab on the true right). Whisky Falls is about 70m high from the very top. It is descended by a short, steep rappel through the bush to a very large tree on the true right that overhangs Whisky Falls. Most of R11 is free hanging with spectacular views over the lake. There is a large active slip on the true left at Whiskey Falls; do not linger! Exit the stream 50m past the falls on the true right to reach Lakeside Track.

Time

Mt Robert car park to Bushline hut	1h30m
Hut to canyon	1h
Canyon descent	4h30m
Return to Vehicle	1h30m
Total	8h30m

Flash Flood Danger

Low. Small drainage, with plenty of escapes.

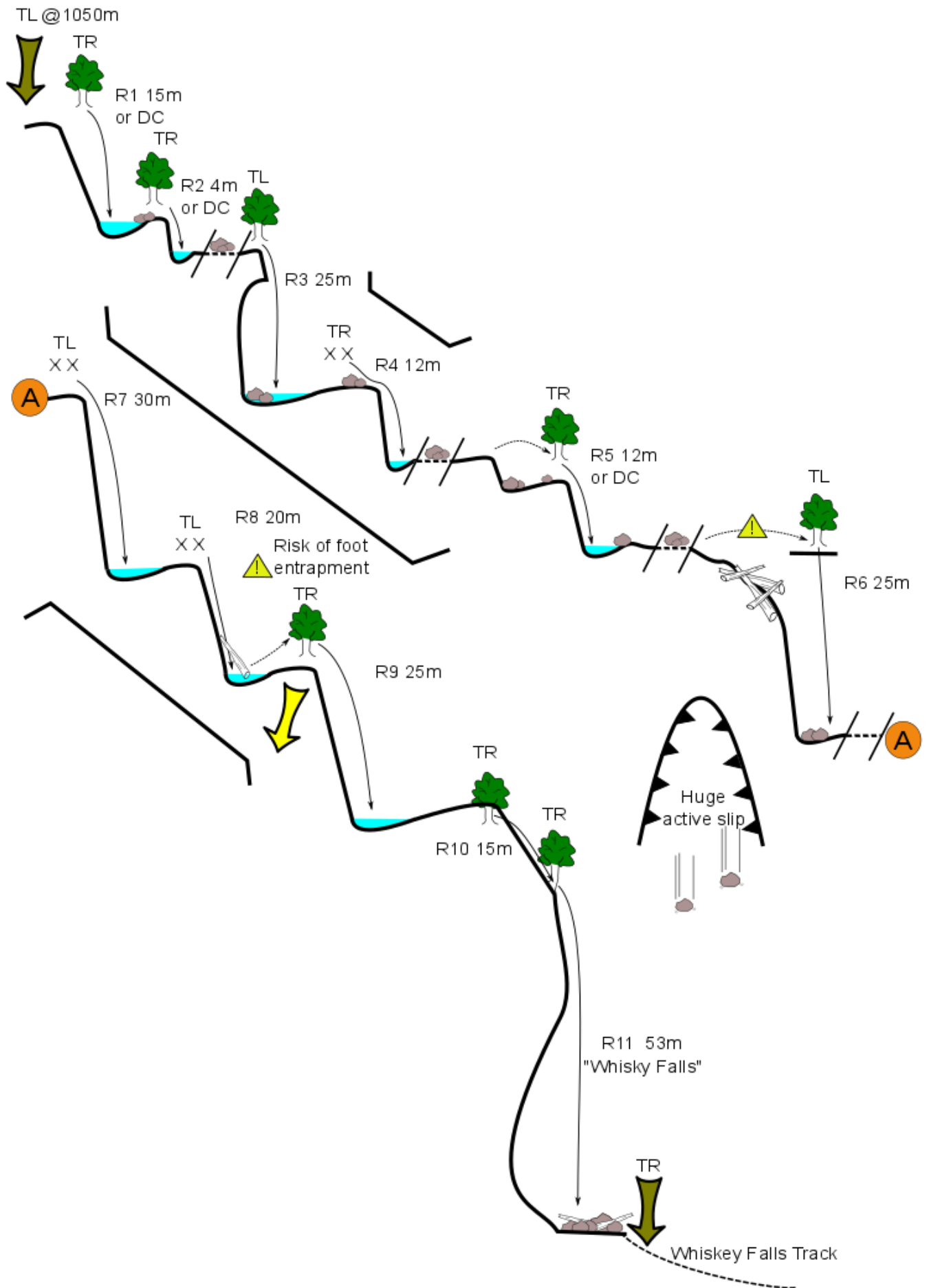
Escapes

You can exit the watercourse almost everywhere except from the top of R8. The surrounding terrain from R7 onwards is very steep, so reaching the track may require careful route finding and scrambling.

Notes

First descent on 11/11/11, Toine Houtenbos, Bernat Castells, Daniel Clearwater.

Fun to Effort Ratio: $(4.5 + 2) / 4 = 1.6$



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Topo by Daniel Clearwater
and Richard Bramley
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Page 3