



PURPLE

Creek v3a3IV★

Location

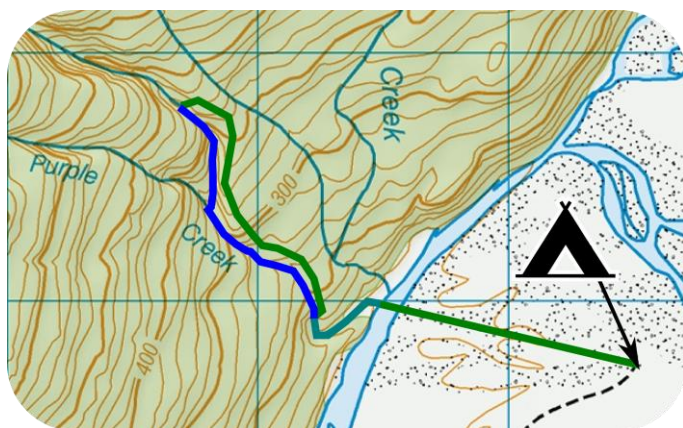
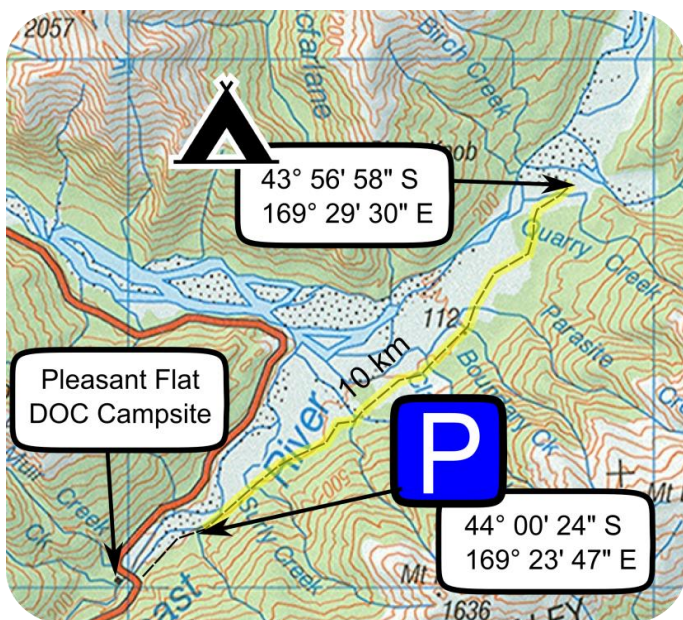
Lower Landsborough Valley

Character

Nature of the Canyon; Steep waterfall stream, slot canyon, Gorge float trip, tricky bush bash, particularly dangerous etc etc

Map

BY13 Lake Paringa



Approach by 2WD Car

From Haast Pass, travel north on SH6 for 14km towards the Pleasant Flat DOC Campsite. Immediately east of the Pleasant flat highway bridge, take the vehicle track. 2WD cars can safely go about 1km to Patsy Creek, where the 'P' symbol is drawn.

Approach by 4WD Car or Mountain Bike

From the 2WD park, follow the rough vehicle track up the valley for about 10km. The track is muddy in places. As the track crosses side streams, the route can be easily lost amongst the gravel. There is definitely a track all the way to the suggested campsite. The campsite is reasonably flat, but would be threatened if the Landsborough began to flood.

Approach on Foot

From the campsite, cross river flats directly towards the canyon. Cross the Landsborough River, which is only possible with very low water levels.

The first descent party followed the river up to the final waterfall, then climbed the TR rim. However, this involved a very steep loose scramble to cross the TR tributary. It is recommended that future parties climb the TL.

Rock

Solid Schist

Water

Moderate volume, a few deep pools.

Catchment

4.8 km²

Anchors

Some natural and some bolted anchors.

Gear

Minimum of 2x 30m ropes.

Route Description

In the TL branch of Purple Creek there are a couple of rappels and some downclimbing. After the TR branch joins the stream, there are some reasonably continuous canyon section. R3 is a beautiful drop, which can also be jumped with care.

Between R3 and R7, the canyon is essentially down climbing boulders and small waterfalls in a beautiful gorge. The number of rappels made will depend on your downclimbing ability.

R8 is a beautiful drop, where the water divides in two chutes. Use natural anchors to descend between the chutes, or a bolted anchor on the TL to descend more in the flow.

Time

2WD park campsite (by Mountain Bike)	1hr
Campsite to Landsborough	30min
Ascent to Canyon entry	2hr30min
Canyon descent	3hr
Return to Campsite	40min
Campsite to SH6 (by Mountain Bike)	1hr
Total	9hr

Flash Flood Danger

Moderate-High. Reasonable drainage with some reasonably long in-escapable sections.

Escapes

The canyon can be exited where there are no drawn canyon walls. Though not deep, elsewhere escape would be quite difficult.

Notes

First descent:

8 January 2012. Jethro Robinson, Alain Rohr, Annette Phillips, Dan Clearwater, Pip Furness, Toine Houtenbos, Zac and Stu Matheson.

This canyon is best enjoyed as a multi-day trip. From your base camp a number of canyons in this valley can be done.

Crossing the Landsborough River

Access is heavily dependent on the level of the Landsborough River, which is a major west coast river. It has 530 km² of catchment above the crossing point. Considerable experience, excellent judgment, route selection, strength and technique are required for a safe crossing. **Do not** underestimate the difficulty in crossing this river. It is fed by several glaciers far up the valley, so expect that river flows will increase from mid morning to dusk due to glacier melt.

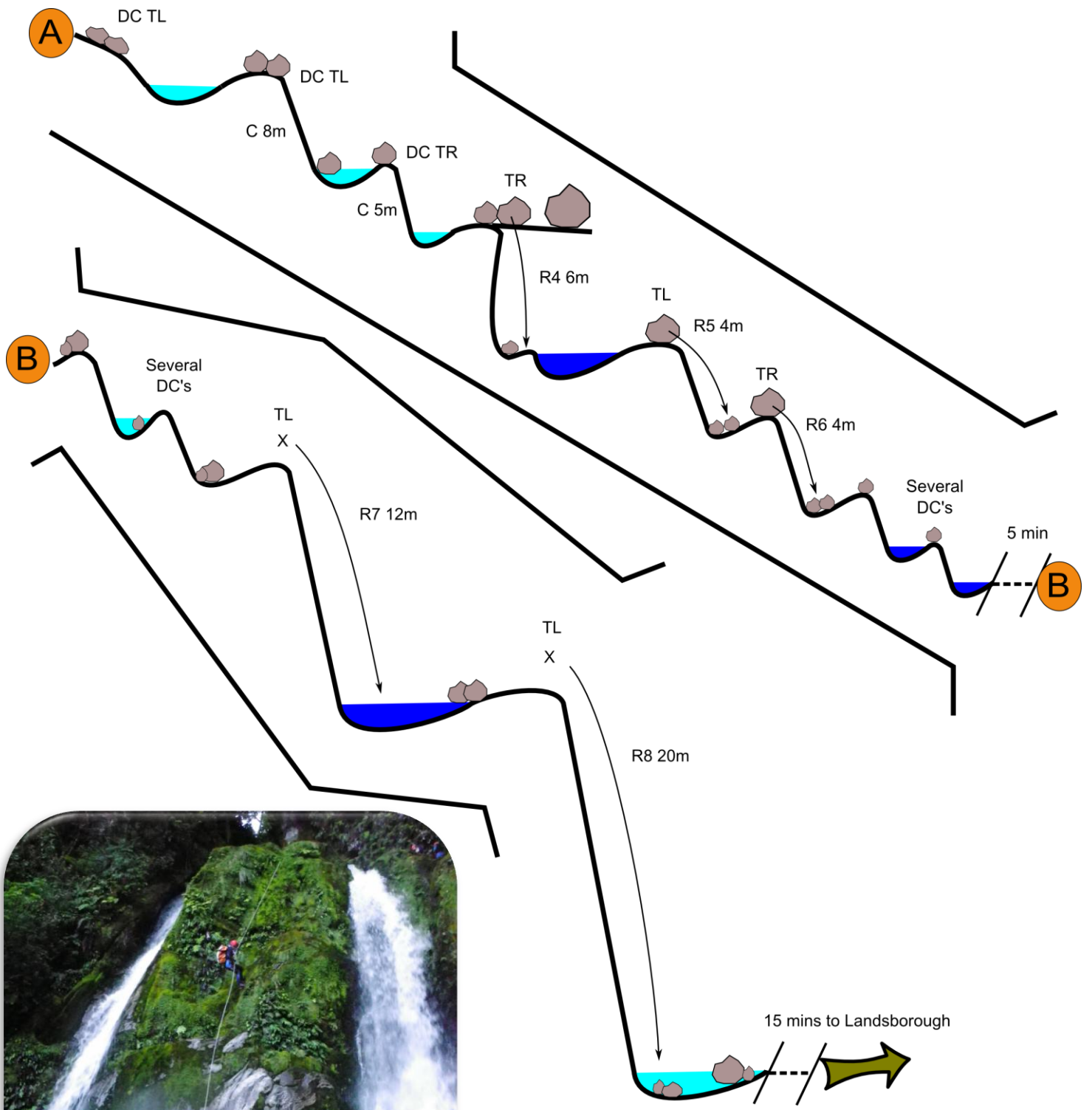
If you have *any* doubt about the Landsborough, turn your attention to one of the selection of good canyons on your side of the river.



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Topo by Daniel Clearwater
www.KiwiCanyons.org



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