



CROSS

Creek v3a2II☆☆☆

Location

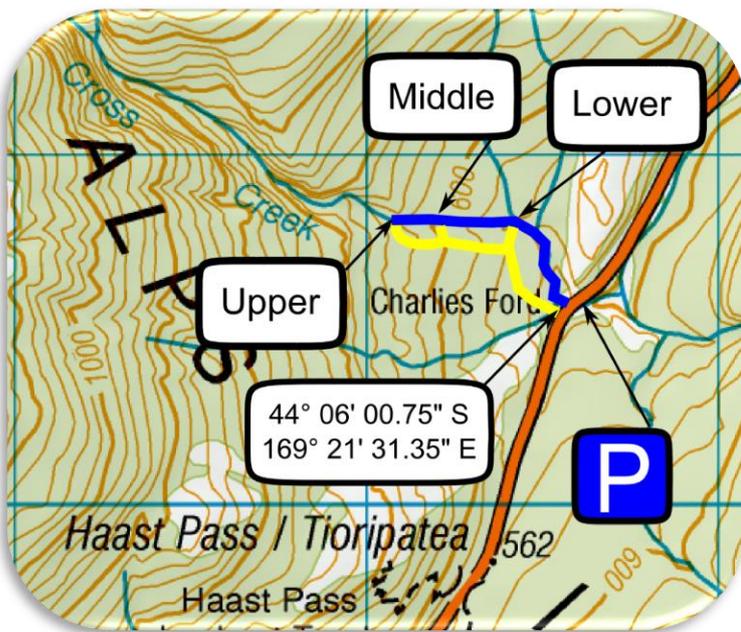
First creek on the Westland Side of Haast Pass, SH6.

Character

Shallow walled super fun canyon with many jumps, slides and a few short rappels.

Map

BZ13 Haast Pass



Approach by Car

Park in the layby just on the Westland side of the Cross creek bridge.

Approach on Foot

Cross Creek is one of the most popular canyons in NZ but the access is through fragile mossy forest. To prevent damage to the environment, **it is essential to remain on the track at all times.**

From the bridge, walk back up the road towards Haast Pass for about 10m and look the start of the well travelled track.

Cross Creek has 3 sections, which can be done individually or in combination.

Access to the lower section is 10 minutes from the road, where you can easily see the stream from the track. You should arrive near the Gangers creek confluence.

20 minutes from the road a junction allows you to head down and right to the start of the middle section.

To access the top section, continue up the track to reach the start about 30 mins from the road.

Rock

Solid Schist

Water

Numerous jumps, swims and slides require a minimum 4mm full wetsuit, even on a hot day

Catchment

3 km²

Anchors

Fully bolted for commercial use.

Gear

2 x 30m ropes are the best combination.

Route Description

Cross Creek is very beautiful and extremely fun canyon, with sections containing back to back jumps and slides into crystal clear pools.

It can be very easy to get carried away with all the jumping and be complacent with the clear pools. However, not all pools that look clear and deep enough are actually safe jumps/slides. Some drops that look like jumps or slides may in fact land you on underwater ledges or rocks. Anchors are available at each drop, so you should **always** scout all pools. Some jumps and slides need specific trajectories to be safe. **Please do not** climb out of the canyon, to walk around and do jumps again. This will destroy the fragile moss and could lead to the canyon being closed.

The jump from under the bridge requires a run up, as there are ledges and boulders for some distance out. Send someone down to stand on the edge of the drop off and make certain you can jump past them.. Its quite a long way...

Exit the stream by climbing steep stacked boulders on the TL to reach the road..

Time

Car park to canyons start	10-30mins
Upper Canyon	30min
Middle Canyon	2hrs
Lower Canyon	1hr
Total	1-4hrs

Flash Flood Danger

Moderate. Low drainage, but some sections with distance between escapes.

Escapes

The main escapes are marked on the Topo. The Upper section is inescapable, but the lower you are in the canyon, the more escapes there are. In the lower half of the canyon you can often find spots to escape with a boost from a partner if you really had to. **Please do not** climb out of the canyon, to walk around and do jumps again. This will destroy the fragile moss and lead to the canyon being closed.

Notes

First descent:

Jethro Robinson, Rich Raynes and Rory Camm, 2006

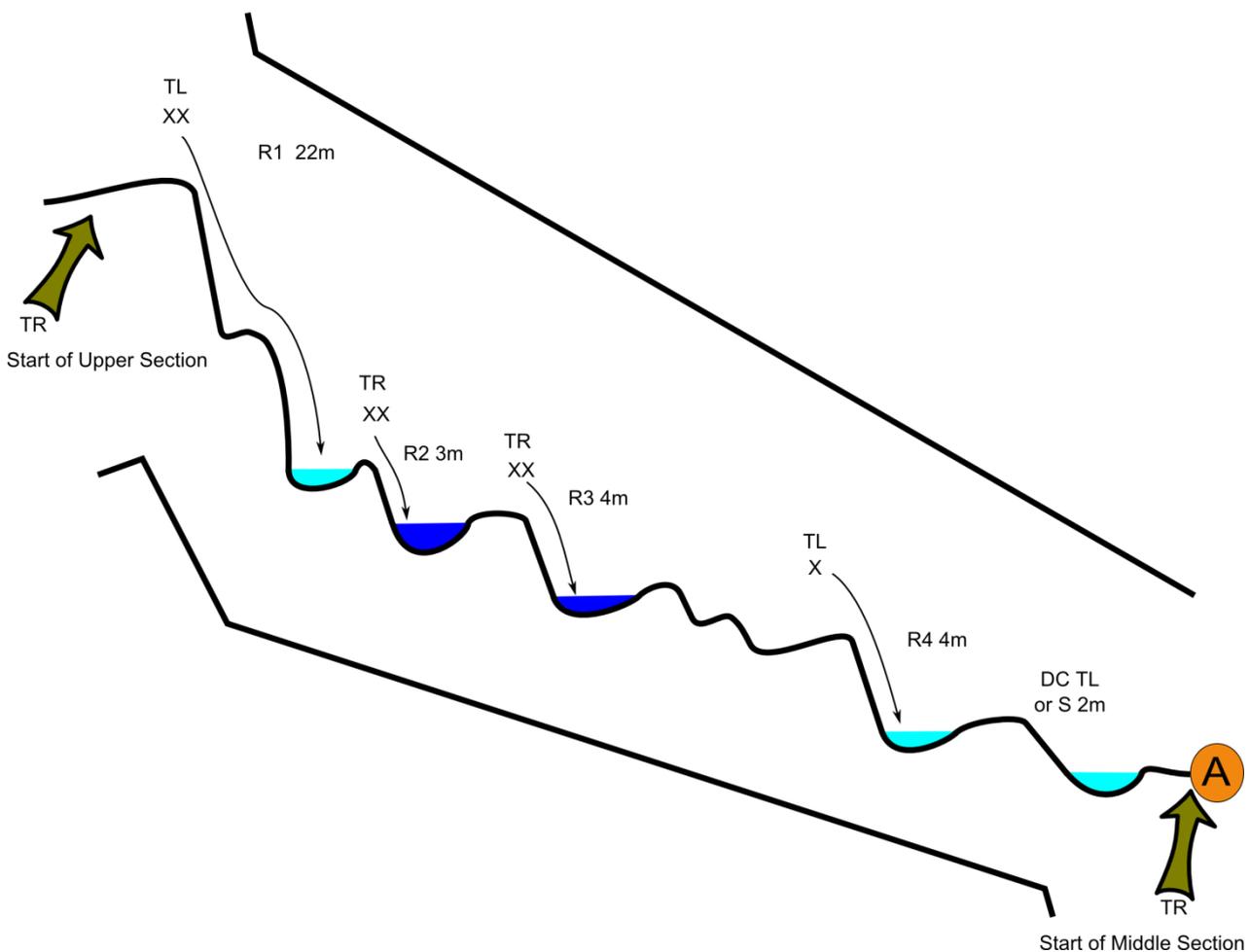
Didymo

Sadly, even though it may be difficult to spot after floods, this beautiful canyon is infected with Didymo. **All Canyoners must CHECK, CLEAN and DRY** after every canyoning trip and before going to any other bodies of water.

Some of the nearby canyons were not infected by Didymo at the time of writing, so it is essential that you CHECK, CLEAN and/or DRY if you intend to combine two canyons in one day.

Commerical Trips

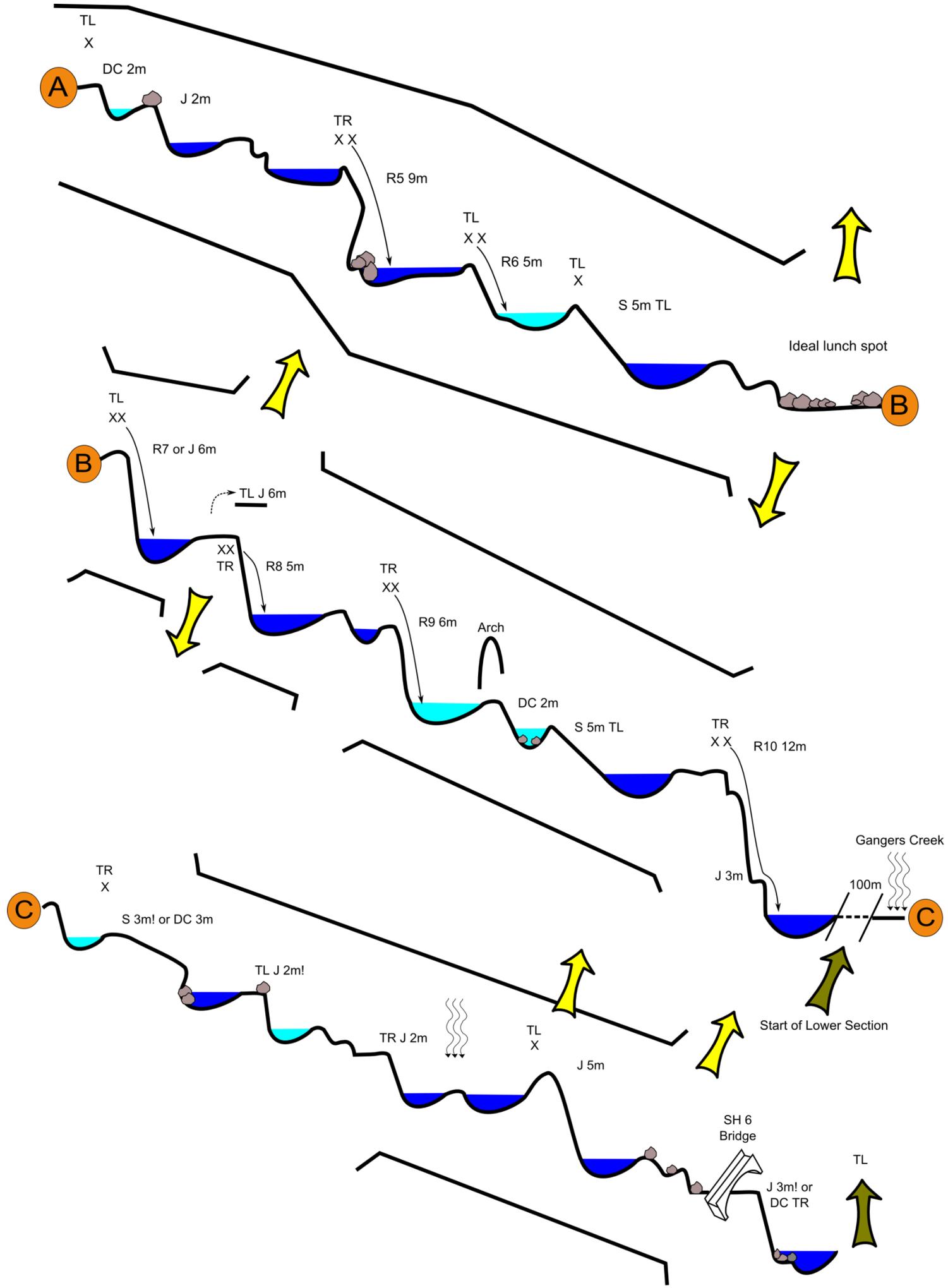
Wanaka companies 'Deep Canyon' (03 443 792). and 'South Canyons' (03 443 6145) run guided trips through Cross Creek. If you wish to avoid any commercial groups, it may be worth giving them a call.



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Topo by Daniel Clearwater
www.KiwiCanyons.org



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