



LIMESTONE

Creek v1a11★

Location

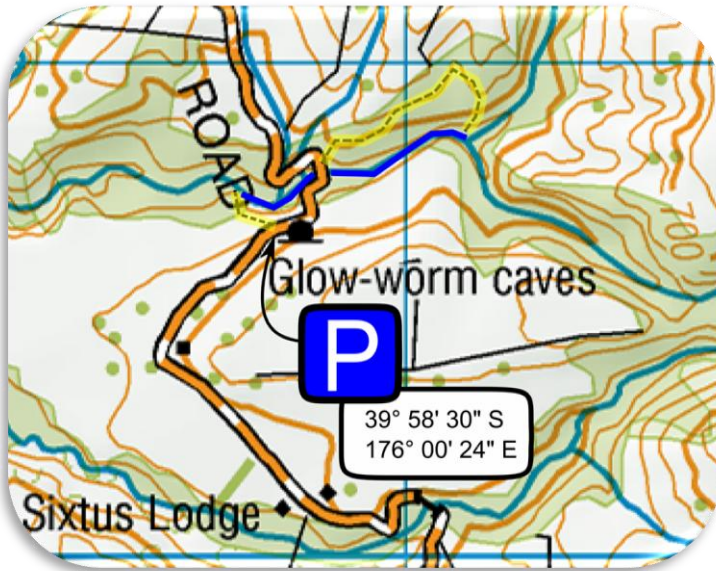
East of Apiti township, western Ruahine Ranges.

Character

Short, non-technical limestone canyon hike.

Map

BL36 Norsewood.



Approach by Car

From Apiti township, head north on Oroua Valley Rd for 4.1km then turn right into Table Flat Rd. Stay on Table Flat Rd for 9.1km. At a Y junction, turn right into Limestone Rd, following signs for 'Picnic Area and Glow Worm Caves'. After 2.3km you will cross Limestone Creek. Just south of the bridge, there is a place to park and several 'Glow worm caves' signs indicating the start of the track.

Approach on Foot

Follow the good track down to the creek, then turn right (upstream).

Rock

Limestone.

Water

Very low flows. Expect to get wet up to your knees.

Catchment

2.1 km²

Topo by Daniel Clearwater
www.KiwiCanyons.org

Gear

Shorts and thermals. A Raincoat is worth taking as there is a bit of water dripping in the upper part of the canyon. Consider a tripod for photography.

Route Description

Follow the creek upstream, to the 'Glow Worm Cave' which is a short but deep canyon with a roof. (The road bridge is directly above you). Torches are not required. Beyond the cave, scramble upstream, though beautiful canyon sections. The canyon then forks, which marks the end of the legal public access.

It is probably more scenic to return back down the stream. Alternatively, 10m downstream of the forks look up high on the true right for a blue sign and DOC orange triangle, which marks the return track.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	3min
Canyon ascent	25min
Return to Vehicle via track	20min
Total	50min

Flash Flood Danger

Moderate. Small catchment, inescapable but very short canyon.

Escapes

The canyon is so short, the best options to escape are via the access or return tracks.

Notes

This canyon as described here is on private land, but public access is possible via a 'QE 2 National Trust' open space covenant. Keep to the described route.

There appears to be more canyon in each of the upstream forks, but to explore further, you must gain permission of the landowner.

A short and beautiful introduction to canyon environments, for anyone with basic fitness and some agility.

Visit <http://www.iron gates.co.nz/limestone-creek--glow-worm-caves.html> for more information.

