

Approach - 1 hr to Toasoha river via DOC track. Cross river where DOC track meets the river. River requires swim across grade 2 whitewater - choose point carefully. Climb main spur on TR of Backstar, easy beech canopy. Climb to 410m, traverse at that height until you've passed the point where ~~the~~ Backstar makes a turn to the left (large cliffs are above the creek here). Either keep sidling until you reach the creek (untested, this may not be possible without an abseil) or follow a small but significant creek down into Backstar. The creek includes a 40m abseil (watch out for loose rock) ~~20m~~ and some downclimbing into Backstar. ~~Total~~ Time taken to cross river, climb hill and abseil in is approx 2 ~~hrs~~ hrs. Creek meets Backstar at 340m.

Canyon

V-shaped gorge with steep cliffs on either side and bedrock walls only a few metres high. ~~Rock~~ ^{Average} quality schist for the most part (just good enough for bolting), which is a shame because the canyon has nice character with continuous waterfalls and pools. Careful of broken ^{if lucky} rock throughout the canyon and one huge log jam below slip on the true right at the first waterfall. This jam (slip ~~is~~ looked fresh as of Feb 2016 and will likely collapse in a high rain event. ~~The~~ There are regular opportunities to get out of the floodzones, but escape would likely be very steep/difficult/impossible. Mostly single bolt anchors which likely ~~will~~ not survive serious flood (bolts used on first descent). Moderate flow, some ~~at~~ rappels are in the water but easy to avoid a pummeling. Swims are easy.

BACKSTAIR CREEK

V3A3 III * (JUST)

Topo
340m elevation
TL

Huge log jam

