



HOPE

River v4a2II ★★

Location

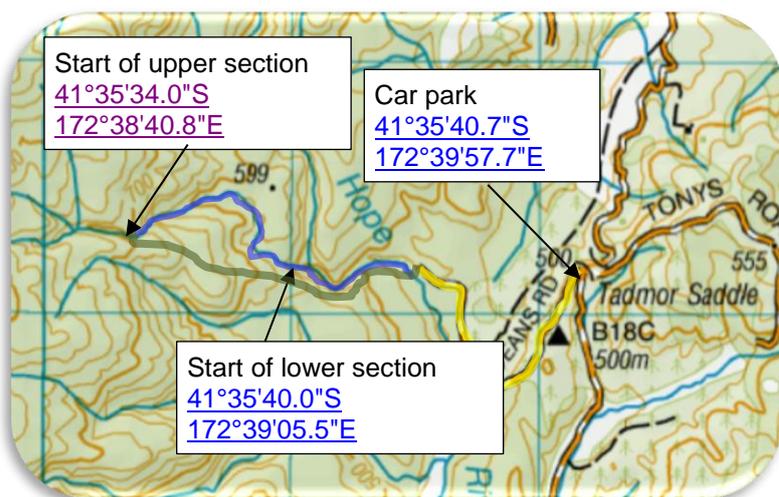
30km south of Tapawera on Tadmor Glenhope Rd.

Character

A great beginners/intermediate trip with easy access and reasonably short time in the canyon. Low flow, predominantly vertical in nature.

Map

[BR24 Kawitiri](#).



Approach by Car

Drive to Tadmor Saddle (if coming from Nelson go via Hope Saddle and backtrack slightly). Turn off down Deans Road. If you have a high-clearance 4WD, you can drive to the end of Deans Road. Otherwise you will need to park near the start and walk the 1km instead.

Approach on Foot

At the end of Deans Road, cross the river at the weir, climb up the bank and follow the vague track through the recently burned forest for ~300m, sticking reasonably close to the true right of the river. Once you hit the bush, a hunters/trampers track (well worn & regularly marked with venetian blinds) becomes well defined and follows the natural line up the gentle spur on the true right of the river. When you can hear the water and the track levels of a little (@700m), leave the track and bush bash down into the canyon. You can access the top of the lower section by leaving the track earlier (@570m).

Rock

Separation Point Granite (same as Abel Tasman).

Water

Low volume in normal flows.

Catchment

2.4 km²

Anchors

Mostly double bolted stations, some natural anchors.

Gear

Minimum of 1x40m rope and 1x30m rope.

Route Description

The upper canyon starts abruptly from the get in and continues for 90m vertical. It is a series of nice cascading waterfalls that are all straightforward. The 34m flat slab (R4) is nice to slide down while on rappel. The creek then flattens out and there's 800m of walking, which is tedious but pretty.

The lower section is essentially just one big 60m cascading waterfall (visible in the distance from the turn off to Deans Road). This is the crux of the canyon. The first drop (R5) is a perfect 12m jump with a view. The next drop (R6) can be rappelled from the TR to half way and then slid into a small hanging pothole (stay close to the flow, the deep part of the pool is narrow). For the final rappels (R7 & R8), there are anchors on both the TR and TL, some placed on small ledges that only fit a few people. The lower section is great for training.

After the final rappel there is 400m of travel down the main Hope River back to the weir/road end. This section has significantly more flow and can get difficult in high flows but can easily be escaped. It includes swims, the odd jump up to 5m, and a few tricky down climbs.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	1h
Canyon descent	3h
Return to vehicle	0m
Total	4h

Flash Flood Danger

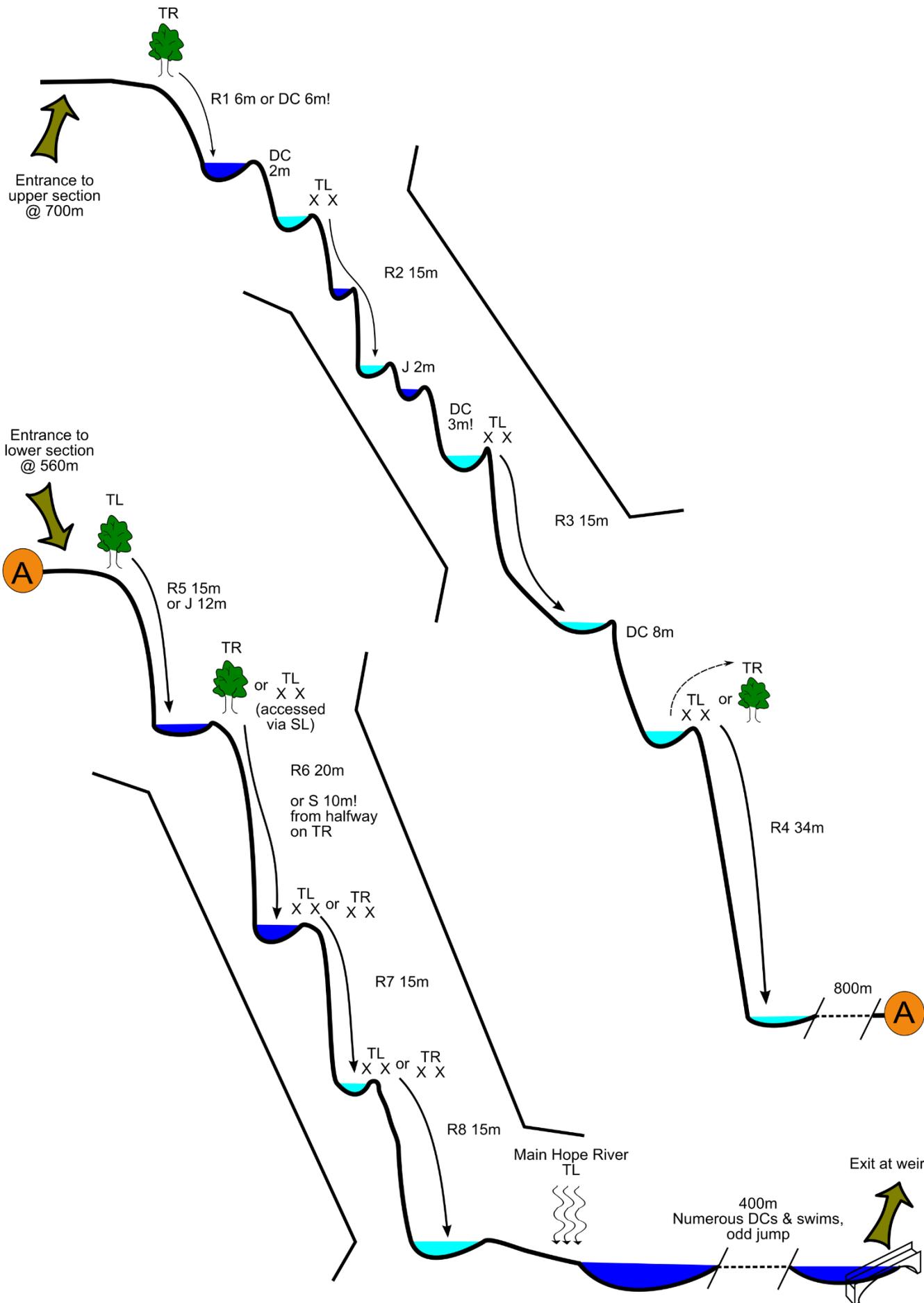
Low, although it rises quickly due to small drainage.

Escapes

There are only a few sections where you could not easily escape the canyon back to the track (most notably the back-to-back rappels in the lower section).

Notes

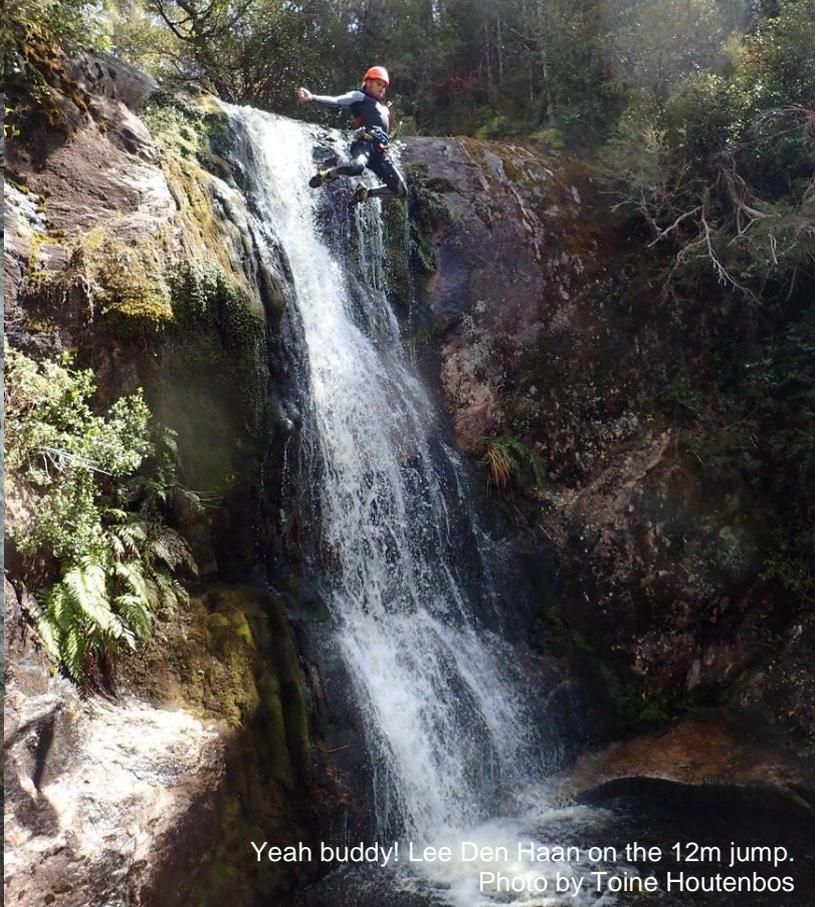
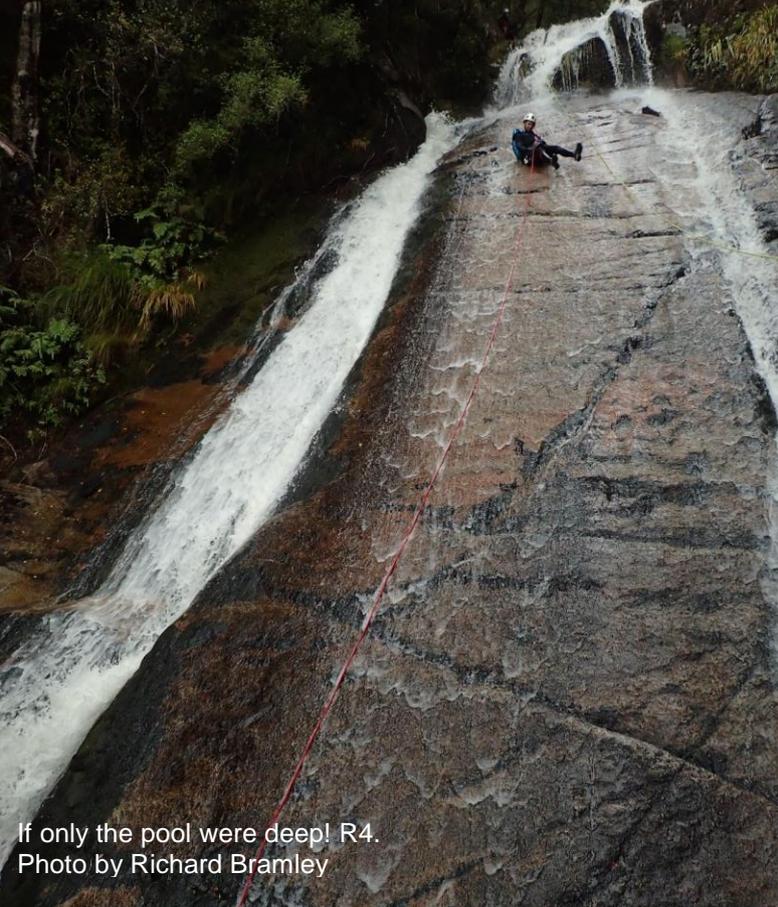
First descent: Benoit Gourgues, Anne Karschunke, Richard Bramley. 1 October 2016
Fun to Effort Ratio: (3 + 2) / 1 = 5



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Topo by Richard Bramley
www.kiwicanyons.org



If only the pool were deep! R4.
Photo by Richard Bramley

Yeah buddy! Lee Den Haan on the 12m jump.
Photo by Toine Houtenbos



The final rappels.
Photo by Toine Houtenbos.

The lower section from below.
Photo by Richard Bramley

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