



# Kaiate Falls

*Canyon v4a3I* ★

## Location

Kaiate Stream, Bay of Plenty

## Character

This is a short sharp canyon that gives you a lot of bang for your buck! With only 3 rappels (2 of them are jumps up to 20m) there is potential to do multiple laps for those that are keen. In normal flows the canyon is an ideal beginners trip and could be a great venue for training new canyoneers. Care must be taken in above normal flows as the canyon becomes much more technically challenging and it can be difficult to keep oneself safe. The area could get quite busy in summer due to the scenic nature of the falls and the adjacent walking tracks.

## Map

Topo50 BD37 Tauranga

## Approach by Car

Take Welcome bay road off SH29 near Tauranga. After 6.4km turn Right onto Waitao Road. After 4.9km turn onto Left Kaiate Falls Road and the Turnoff to the Falls reserve will be 550m on the Left.

## Approach on Foot

Looking at the Track map in the Carpark, Take the Main Downhill track for approx. 3 Mins until you reach the top of the First Drop. Drop into the canyon on TR.

## Water

This is a Shallow stream in normal flows, but the water level can rise rapidly after rain. There is an online river level gauge that can be found on the BOP Regional Council website. [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.govt.nz)  
The catchment for Kaiate Stream runs though local farmland which may affect the water quality. At the base of R3 is a very popular and well utilised swimming hole so use your own judgment about the quality of the water.

## Catchment

7.84 km<sup>2</sup>

## Anchor

Ignimbrite. Mixed quality.

## Anchor

Stainless steel expansion bolts with Double bolted anchor stations & double bolt ring hangers for safety lines.

## Gear

Minimum 50m Rope. A 60m rope makes for an easier pulldown on the last rappel.

## Route Description

The canyon begins with bolted safety line anchors on TL to access the R1 Anchors. R1 can be jumped after scouting the pool although there is an undercut and a small cave on TL which could possibly catch out the unwary. There can be a reasonable current in the pool so care needs to be taken as it flows straight over the R2 drop. A safety line can be rigged from the log that is jammed upright at the edge of the pool or alternately a guided rappel is possible directly between the R1 & R2 anchors. R2 starts on TR but will quickly pull you directly into the flow before popping into the void behind the waterfall where there is a ledge to get off rope. About half way down R2 there is an unobvious vertical crack behind the water that has the potential to create a foot entrapment. A small jump and some downclimbs lead to the final rappel. The R3 anchors are reached by using bolts on TR. R3 has been done as a jump and the R3 pool has numerous jumps and swings to enjoy once you make it to the bottom.

## Time

Vehicle park to Top of Falls	5min
Canyon descent	30-90min
Return to Vehicle	25min
<b>Total</b>	<b>1-2hrs</b>

## Flash flood danger

A reasonably large catchment for this canyon means that it has the potential to come up extremely quickly.

## Escapes

The canyon is mostly open, and escape seems to be possible from almost all areas.



## Notes:

Bolted in 2018 By Oli Polson, Pete Smith & Shanan Fraser with support from the NZCA Canyon fund.

