



WHATAROFA FALLS

canyon v4a3I ★

Location

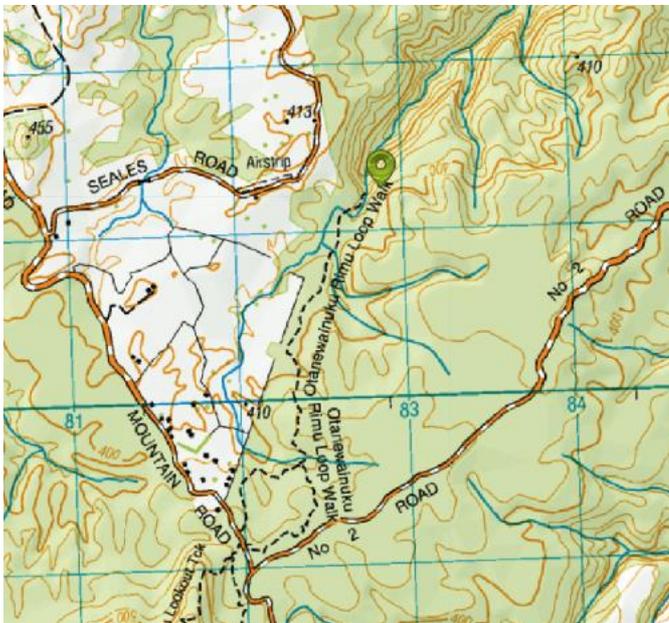
Bay of Plenty

Character

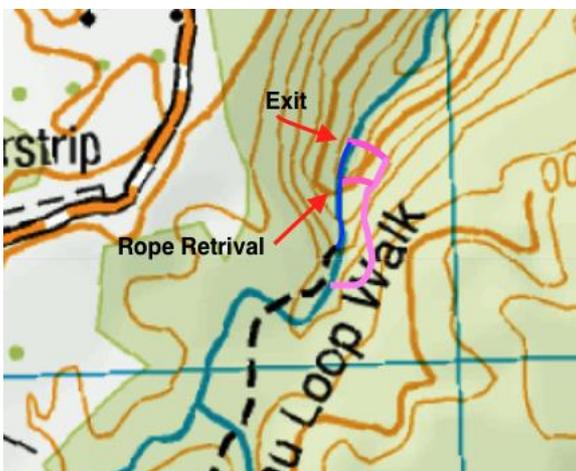
A short and sweet canyoning trip 40 minutes from Tauranga. Low commitment trip great for less experienced canyoneers with good off-track navigation skills.

Map

Topo50 BD37 Tauranga



Return from bottom of canyon.



Approach by car

Approach by car can be from two different directions either; Te Puke or up Oropi Road From Tauranga. If approaching from Te Puke take No 2 Road for 24km until you reach Mountain Road where you make a right turn and park at the Otanewainuku Mountain carpark. Or if approaching from Tauranga direction take Oropi road for 14km to Mountain Road, turn left onto mountain road and proceed to Otanewainuku carpark.

Approach on foot

Walk down Whataroa falls track for about 45 mins until you arrive the base of Whataroa Falls. This is the start of the trip.

Rock

Rock is soft and easily broken

Water

Low flow in normal conditions.

Anchors

Natural anchors, trees and boulders. Sufficient webbing should be brought to replace all anchors

Gear

Minimum of 2x 50m Ropes

Route Description

The official track arrives at the bottom of Whataroa falls. This is a good time to check the landing pool, as you'll be jumping Whataroa Falls at the end of the trip! R1 is a short distance downstream

The first drop has no anchor in place; it is recommended to down-climb so there is no anchor for walkers to see.

R4 can be difficult to retrieve. It is worth bringing an extra rope so you can complete the canyon if the rope sticks. Its relatively easy to access the R4 anchor on the return to retrieve a stuck rope.

The 4m jump after R4 requires an accurate landing; there is a sloping rock fin just under the water.

Final obstacle is a jump into a darker slot style pool 6m jump.

Remember that all pools should be checked before you jump or slide.

20m downstream of the final jump, the exit track begins on the TR. At the time of writing it is marked

with orange-pink tape labeled "Kiwicanyons". Follow this tape up the steep track until you reach pink triangle markers. The pink triangles mark DOC trapping tracks. There are many of these tracks in the area; it is very easy to head off on the wrong direction so it is essential that the party has good navigational awareness.

Follow the pink triangles for another 10 minutes until you reach the marked rope retrieval point for R4. From here you can make a short side trip, following the pink tape to retrieve a stuck rope.

Continue following the pink triangle markers parallel to the river until you reach a red triangle marker. Follow the red triangles back to the river.

Once you hit the river, make your way down stream, you'll be glad you checked the pool at Whataroa Falls, because now you get to do a great 7m jump. From there, you can simply walk out the exit track.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	40min
Canyon descent	3hrs
Return to vehicle	1hr 15min
Total	5hrs

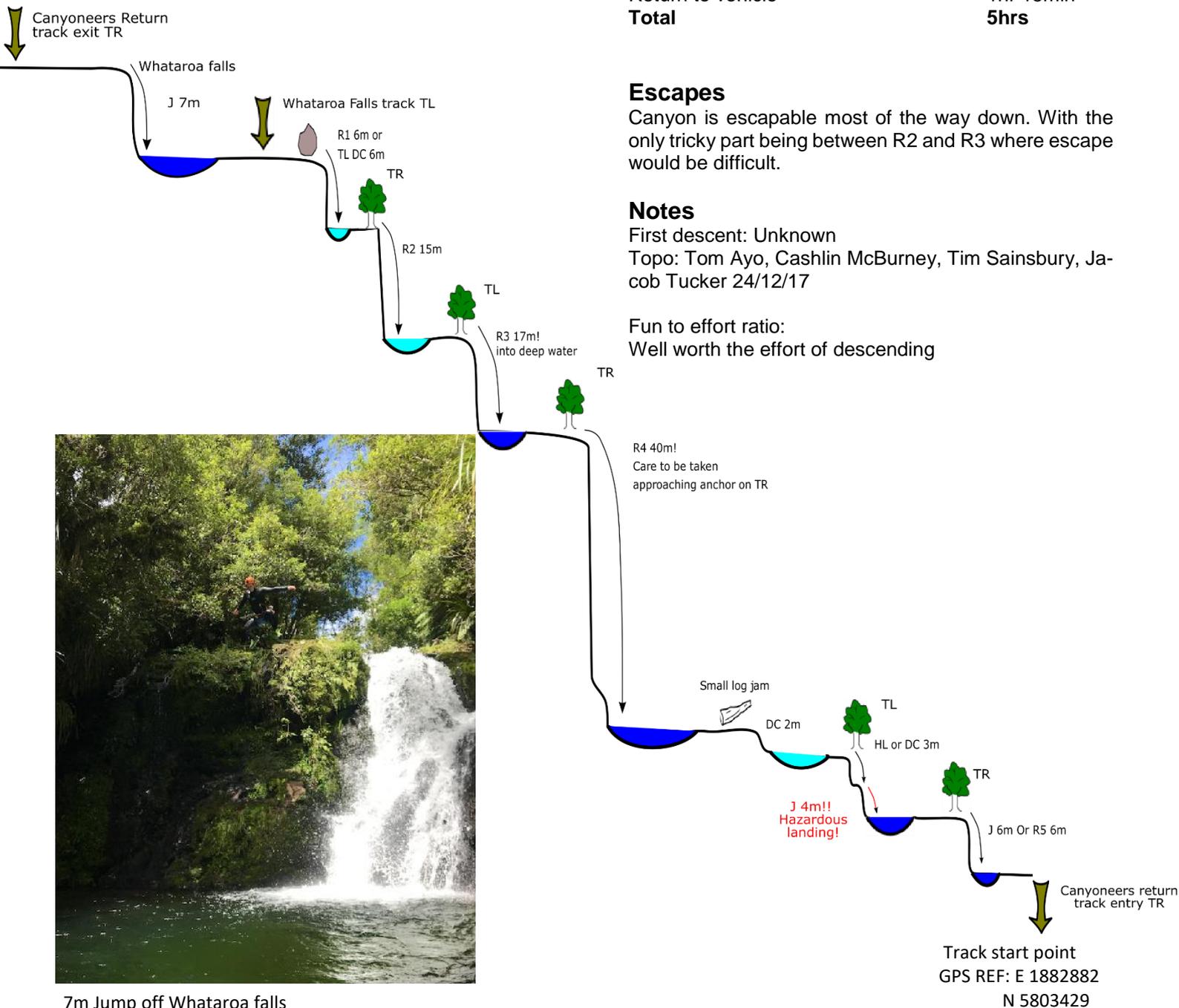
Escapes

Canyon is escapable most of the way down. With the only tricky part being between R2 and R3 where escape would be difficult.

Notes

First descent: Unknown
 Topo: Tom Ayo, Cashlin McBurney, Tim Sainsbury, Jacob Tucker 24/12/17

Fun to effort ratio:
 Well worth the effort of descending



7m Jump off Whataroa falls

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Topo by Jacob Tucker, Tom Ayo

www.kiwicanyons.org



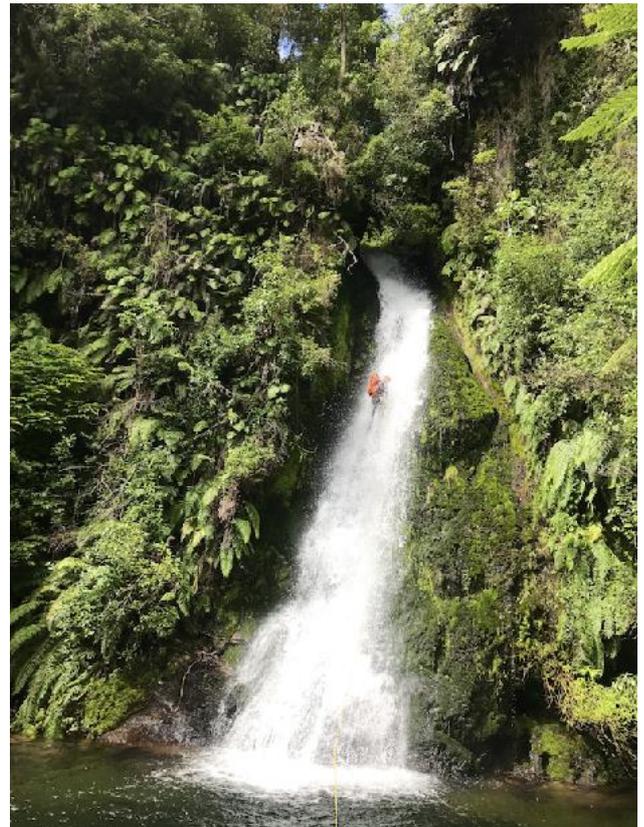
Tom Belaying Kayla on R1



Top view of R4



Swimming in the pool after R3



Jacob descending R4

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