

Hihi Canyon - (Brunton Stream) V3a2IV

Note For all Canyoners. Currently climbers have secured access to cross private land by day only. Anyone crossing this private land after will dark need permission. Further updated information may be gained via <https://climbnz.org.nz/nz/ni/waikato/coromandel/tairua-crag> You do not need to request permission to cross the farm during the day, but please fill in the register book at the bridge car park with your details, and make sure to sign out when you leave. Do not cross this private land at night - continue down stream and walk around. This is a crucial process to ensure ongoing access, so please, don't be a muppet!

Location

Coromandel Mt Hihi

Character

A good adventure canyon with a big walk up a good track followed by a 600m+ decent. An 'interesting' entry after arriving at the Hihi Trig leads into thick supplejack. This very steep bush entry point takes you to a more favourable open stream with 13+ pitches. The stream has local history with a dam site leftover from the logging days. There are a couple of slides. Although not great there are also a couple of possible jumps. One very neat pitch also has a multi ton rock perched above your head whilst abseiling.

Map

Park at the red dot.



Drive

You will most likely want to car shuttle leaving a car at - 373 Puketui Valley Road. Google will help you.

Manual directions:

Head to SH25A that runs between Kopu and Hikuai. Along this road there is a turn off opposite the Waitomo gas and service station onto Morrison Rd, with a sign reading "Community Hall." Follow this for 1km, at the end of Morrison Rd is a bridge over the river, at which you turn onto Puketui Valley Rd. Follow this for 3.8km. You will have arrived at the farm when you see a cinderblock cattle station on your right.

Parking:

Canyoners may park on the farm down by the river. Just right of the first bridge, park next to the NZAC sign where you sign the book. Do not drive over the bridges or across the farm. Please make sure your vehicle is not blocking the farm road.

Walk

Park your second 'shuttle' car at Broken Hills Campsite and walk up the Paton Stream Dam track with two options.

We like the lower track (on map) option because it takes you through an old mine tunnel, that is actually very impressive in length - Take a head torch or your phone will work but you should have a head torch with you right! ;-)

Rock

Mixed Volcanic, some very soft, not suitable for bolts.

Water

Low flow in normal conditions.

Anchors

Trees or the occasional boulder

No permanent anchors are in place! Be prepared to place all of your own anchors, or learn some new techniques.

Gear

2 x 60m worked well for us. The biggest pitch is only 23m, but having an extra rope is surely logical.

Route description

Once you have reached the summit of Hihi you meet a Trig. Literally drop straight into the bush from this trig station, which is extremely steep - we recommend gearing up with harnesses etc before doing so.

The supplejack makes for an interesting decent for the first hour until you find the stream itself! Use your GPS for guidance! It would be easy to go the wrong side of a spur (you don't want to do this)

Times with a group of 4

Walk 3 hrs up, Canyon 6 hrs, Walk out 1 hr.

Flood danger

Lots of escapes possible from the stream but following the direct line will be the fastest way down by far.

You will be committed from the first rope pull down.

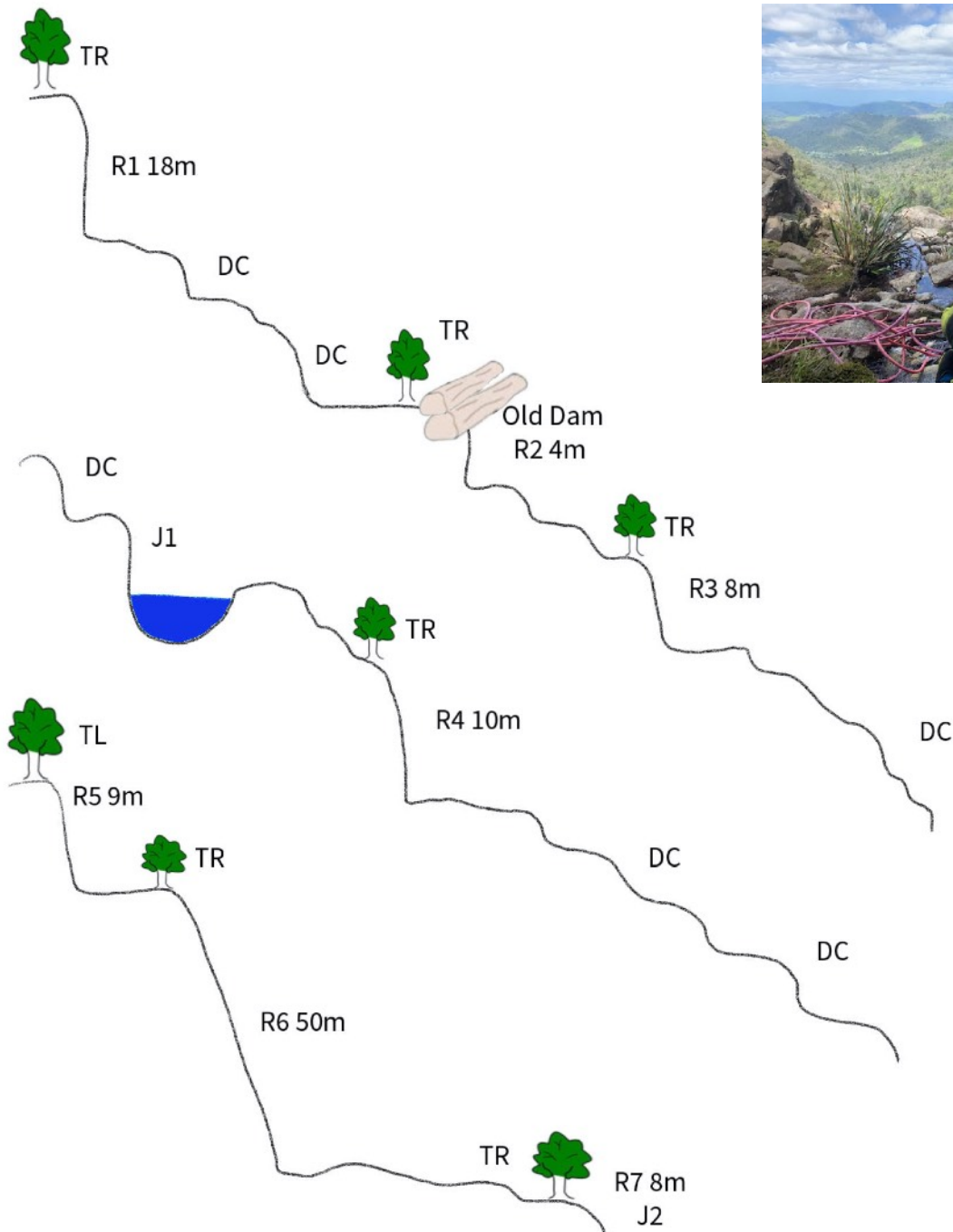
***Notes***

Walking out is across private farm land (see track starts here below). Or alternatively if you are here after dark, continue down stream and walk around to the road back to your car.

PATON STREAM

V3a2IV

All details for access are the same as Hihi Canyon -(Brunton Stream)
Please respect private land access and parking.



PATON STREAM - Follow up the same track as Hihi canyon Full description on top.
The highlight being the old Dam site and the 50m waterfall with a great view. Other than that
its really not worth the big walk up the hill unless you like walking up big hills!

First Descent Brendan Wallace, Lauren Smith, James Mclean, Pete Smith 21/11/2020
Drawn by Brendan Wallace from a sketch Pete Smith

