



# CUPOLA CREEK

## Canyon

v4a5IV ★★ ★

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Location</b>                   | Travers valley (Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes)   |
| <b>Character</b>                  | It is a big walk to get in there, but oh man it is worth it. The rock is bullet hard and clean washed. There are lots of interesting aquatic challenges, but nothing too scary. The canyon is slotted throughout, although often not deep, so sunlight pours in. And there are some crazy features, like the 'cave' where the canyon walls wrap around each other.  |
| <b>Time</b>                       | Boat from St Arnaud to Coldwater Hut: 15min<br>Walk from Coldwater Hut to canyon: 4hrs<br>Canyon descent: 4hrs<br>Return to Coldwater Hut: 4hrs<br>Boat from Coldwater Hut to St Arnaud: 15min<br>Total: 12.5hrs  |
| <b>Map &amp; Coordinates</b>      | Topo map: <a href="#">BS24 Mt Robert</a><br>Rotoiti car park: <a href="#">-41.806957, 172.846785</a><br>Start of canyon: <a href="#">-41.980102, 172.747564</a>   |
| <b>Highest Waterfall</b>          | 15m   |
| <b>Suggested Gear</b>             | 2 x 20m rope, 1 throw bag   |
| <b>Canyon Distance</b>            | 1km horizontal, 160m vertical   |
| <b>Rock</b>                       | Greywacke, very hard  |
| <b>Flow</b>                       | Reasonably high volume, very cold. 12.2 km <sup>2</sup> catchment   |
| <b>Anchors</b>                    | Slinged trees and SS rings (mostly single bolts)  |
| <b>Flood &amp; Escapes</b>        | Very narrow, but not that deep. There are quite a few easy escapes.   |
| <b>Approach by Car &amp; Boat</b> | Drive to St Arnaud/Lake Rotoiti (1hr from Nelson/Motueka). Take boat to Coldwater Hut at head of lake (8km, <a href="http://www.rotoitiwatertaxis.co.nz">www.rotoitiwatertaxis.co.nz</a> ). Alternatively, it is a 2hr walk from the Mt Robert car park to Coldwater Hut.   |
| <b>Approach on Foot</b>           | Hike to John Tait Hut (15km, 3.5hrs from Coldwater Hut), which sleeps 27 and is a good place to spend the night before doing the canyon. Hike from John Tait Hut to start of the canyon (2km, 30min). Enter the canyon a few hundred metres above the second bridge. Exit the canyon at the first bridge (which is a good jump).  |
| <b>Canyon Route Description</b>   | Approximately 15 rappels. Quite a lot of jumps, most around 5m. Lots of swimming – the canyon is very narrow, so you are often forced into the flow. Some hazardous aquatic features, including undercuts and sieves, so you need to be confident in whitewater. Some can be bypassed and most of the canyon is scout-able from the rim. Best done in summer flows. The last section before the bridge is mostly flat, but there are still a few good jumps in there. |
| <b>First Descent</b>              | James Scoltock, Lee Den Haan, Adrien Paris, Richard Bramley. 30 Jan 2018. <a href="#">Video</a>   |
| <b>Topo Author</b>                | Richard Bramley, 9 April 2021   |



