



MURIEL

Creek

v4a4IV★ ★

Location	Hokitika Gorge, West Coast.
Character	Long and physical. A big approach followed by an adventurous canyon with a mix of down climbing, abseils, and jumps.
Time	4 hours for the approach and 6 to descend the canyon.
Map & Coordinates	Car Park. - 42.953156, 171.023183 Point where you leave the spur track and descend to canyon - 42.976427, 171.070132
Highest Waterfall	20m
Suggested Gear	1 x 60m rope, 1 throw bag
Canyon Distance	3km horizontal, 450m vertical
Rock	Schist
Flow	Reasonably high volume.



Anchors	Slung trees and double bolt ring / hanger combination
Flood & Escapes	Very narrow, but not that deep. There are quite a few easy escapes from the water course, but then will involve a brutal bush bash up to Gerhardt Spur.
Approach by Car & Boat	From Hokitika, drive towards the Hokitika Gorge. Less than 1 km from the gorge car park, just after 'Precision Helicopters' base is Diedrichs Creek. Park here.
Approach on Foot	Walk up Diedrichs Creek for 2.5 km. You will go past the Muriel Creek confluence. Look for the Cairn that marks the Gerhardt Spur track. Ascend this track past spot height 867, then continue along the ridge for 1.5 km until the track starts to climb steeply. At this point, bush bash (no track) straight downhill to the north dropping 240 meters elevation. The last 60 meters is the steepest and you may need to travel up or down stream to find an access point. Or abseil in.
Canyon Route Description	10 bolted belays and 4 slings on trees. Plenty of scrambling and down climbing. Feels very physical. Numerous horizon lines that look like they must be abseils, but upon closer inspection reveal an unlikely weakness that let the canyoner through. The canyon is not particularly deep enabling occasional moves into the bush to find easy abseil anchors. All these moves are on the left. If no bolts are obvious, head into the bush.
First Descent	Keith Riley Justin Venable, Phil Palzer, Richard Bramley, January 2020
Topo Author	Keith Riley April 2021. Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqAUAsX0Pg0&t=7s

