



Oteao Falls

Canyon v3a3III ★★

Location

Coroglen, Kaimai Ranges, Coromandel

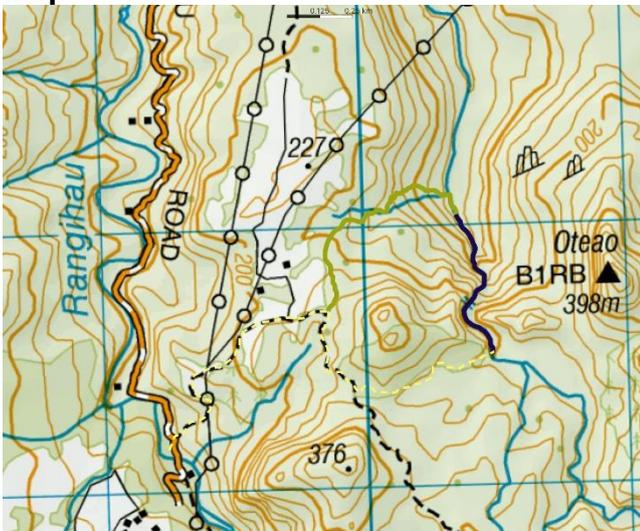
Character

Combining terraced waterfalls, jumps, slides, a sump dive, a giant floating log and a diving board this is a true canyon playground.

Accommodation/food:

There is a pub at Coroglen road that does great food if you get out of the canyon in time and there is a campground with varying levels of accommodation 10mins from there with hot water and a river swimming hole if you haven't had enough water. Make a weekend of it and do a couple canyons in the valley.

Map



Approach by Car

Drive to ford at the end of the Rangihau road and park up in the clearing just before it, if you try to drive further you may find it a bit tricky to turn around at the doc gate.

Just over 2 hours from Auckland. Google will likely recommend the Hikuai road but the Tapu Coroglen gravel road is a good option if you need to go through Thames or want to check into the campground on the way.

Note: no cell reception at the end of the road however there is cell reception at the high point on the hike in/out for checking in/out.

Approach on Foot

IMPORTANT: this track crosses private land – we currently have a good relationship with the land owners, lets keep it that way, be respectful and stick to the track, do not drive up the private road way, foot traffic only.

On trail approach About 100m before the ford crossing there is a steep driveway on the left that has a private property sign, this is your way up, follow this road up, past the locked gate and follow the track through the paddock, when the paddock track turns left turn right through the (normally open) gate and you will see the bush track continuing up the hill,



this section above been shown as its easy to miss the turn off into the paddock

at the intersection turn right, follow this track up the hill till the beehives.

Descent to the canyon - About 20m before the Beehives on your left there is clearing, enter the bush here and follow well marked track to the river, take some time to notice the historical nature of this path with blasted clearings, dams and bridges, it used to be used to pull Giant Kauri logs up the hill from the Oteao river into the rangiahau valley as the Oteao canyon was too steep for the logs to travel down. you will reach a small tributary river - its slippery! follow this for about 5 mins till you reach the much larger river Oteao river and obvious place to cool down after the hike and get geared up.

Exit: When you reach the bottom of the canyon walk down the river a few hundred meters till you see flagging tape on a tree river left, follow that track along the river bank then to the top of the hill, when you see the farm paddock ahead turn left and follow the track in the bush to the left till you reach the vehicle track you walked in on. reminder: Don't be tempted by farm shortcuts we want everyone to be able to keep visiting this canyon.

Water

You will get wet, jumps and short swims, you can see by the rock formations this place gets some water and lots of tree debris, caution to be taken in the jumping pools, in the first 6 months of this canyon being run we have seen a lot of debris movement.

Catchment

2.8km² the closest rain gage is the pinnacles and the closest river level Gauge waiwawa river

Anchors

double bolt belay stations and tree slings
Bring spare webbing to replace tree slings if required

Gear

2x 30m minimum but recommended 1x 30 abseils plus 1 x 50 for pull downs from the other side of the first pool

Route Description

From the point of entering the stream there is a series of jumps/down climbs to get to the first pitch there is a sling on a tree river left to access the anchors. At the bottom of the first abseil in the wood debris on the river right there is an old milled Plank which makes a great human counterweight diving board into the next pool, dont forget to return the plank to high ground for the next trip to use.

The Log pool: There is a sump dive between where the water enters this area and the log pool, caution to be taken doing this dive as it is mostly blocked by debris and moves significantly during high flow so watch for loose rocks and sticks to catch on your harness etc. (within two weeks we noticed it moved a meter to the left then back again during two rainfalls) there are bolts on the rim of the pool for a safety line with larger groups as people tend to spend some time here.

At the bottom of R4 there are bolts on the RR for a safety line to R5

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	45 min
Canyon descent	4 hours
Return to Vehicle	1 hour
Total	5h 45 mins

Flash Flood Danger

Subjective opinion on the danger: still unknown for this river but estimated low

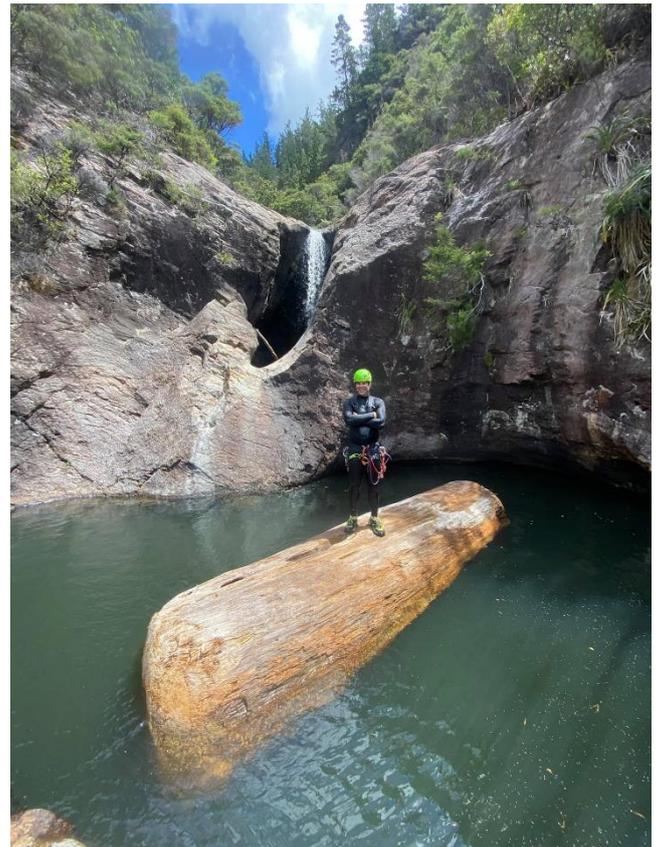
Escapes

You can escape from most areas of this canyon if needed but it would not be easy going.

Please do not remove historical items or timber from the river/trails.

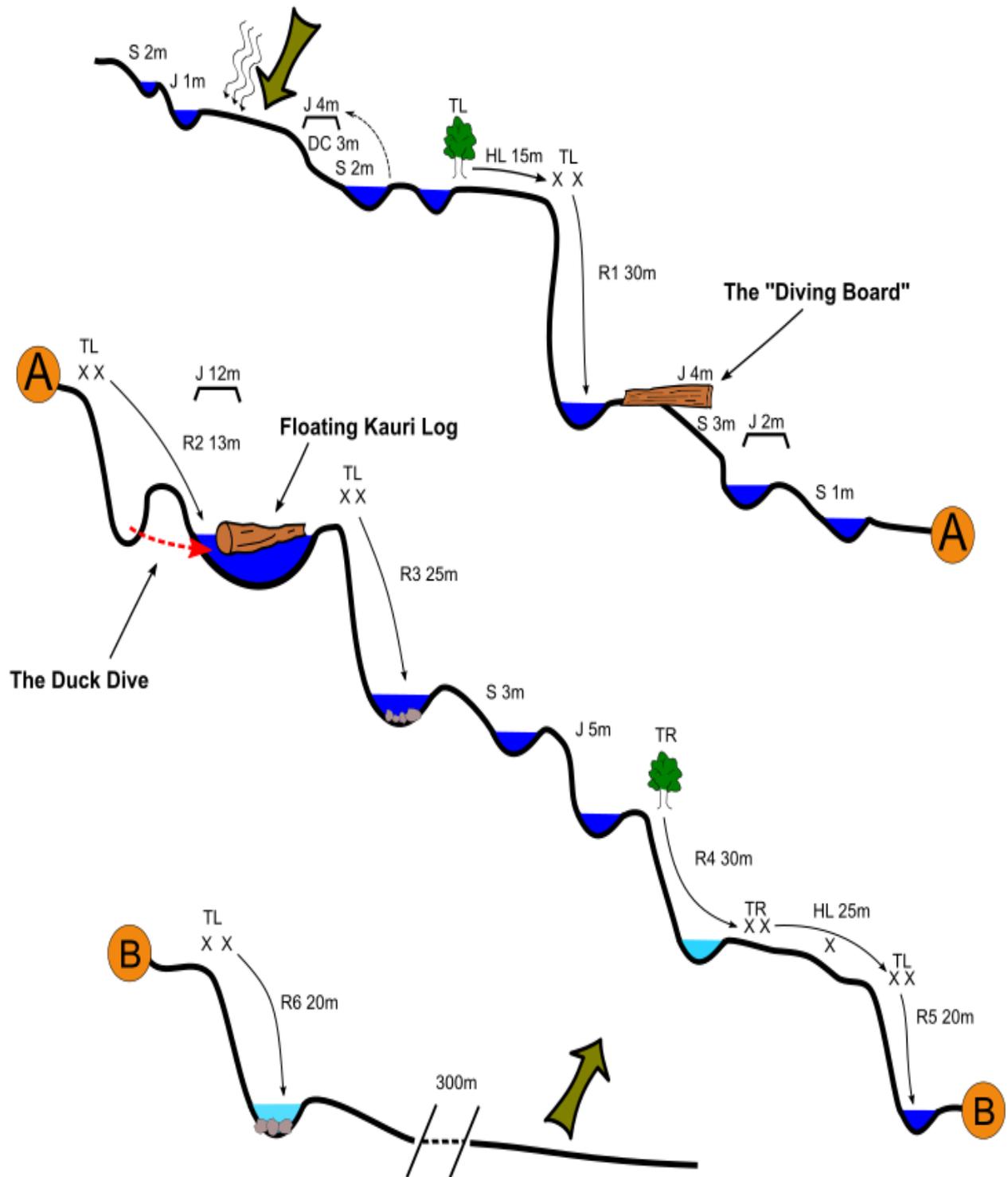
First descent: Brad Schimanski, Tim Bailey, Nick Lynch, Saki Ito Jan 2019

Huge thanks to the many people who have helped bolt and cut tracks.



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Topo Drawing By Shanan Fraser