



RANGIHAU GORGE

Via Moss Campsite v4a4IV ★★

Character

Coroglen, Kaimai Ranges, Coromandel

Character

Long open river bouldery river with multiple waterfall canyon sections separated by long river walking sections

This is a big day out, both current single day descents have exited in the dark

Map



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Approach by Car

With one car:

[Rangihau Road end](#), 9km south of Coroglen. This makes for a long day out, only for fit and keen canyoners.

With a shuttle:

Position a car at the end of Rangihau Road, then drive 99km/2hrs to the end Kauaeranga Valley Road to begin. [Google Maps directions](#)

Worth trying to team up with canyon friends who are willing to drive a car around to the Rangihau road end. There are awesome canyon options starting at the Rangihau road end, include including the bottom section of this.

Approach on Foot

With one car:

Take the Rangihau Track, then either bushbash (difficult) or follow the tracks (long) to the Moss Creek Campsite.

You'd pass Bulls Run, which is a good canyon with its own topo. Bulls Run is a good entry route to the lower Rangihau gorge. The next (unnamed) tributary to the south and Starvation Creek have both been descended, but neither were really worth doing.

With a shuttle:

Follow the Moss Creek Track past the old dam to the moss creek campsite. There is a large open area and a long drop to get into wetsuits. Enter at the Dam ([Entry pin on topomap.co.nz](#))

Water

Some swimming, more towards the end of the trip, This canyon will flood: there are clear signs that A LOT of water goes through.

Catchment

15 km² approx.

Anchors

Mix quality tree anchors with rings, single bolts first decent anchors and tree anchors for smaller abseils/handlines

Topo by Brad Schiamanski &
Dan Clearwater
www.kiwicanyons.org

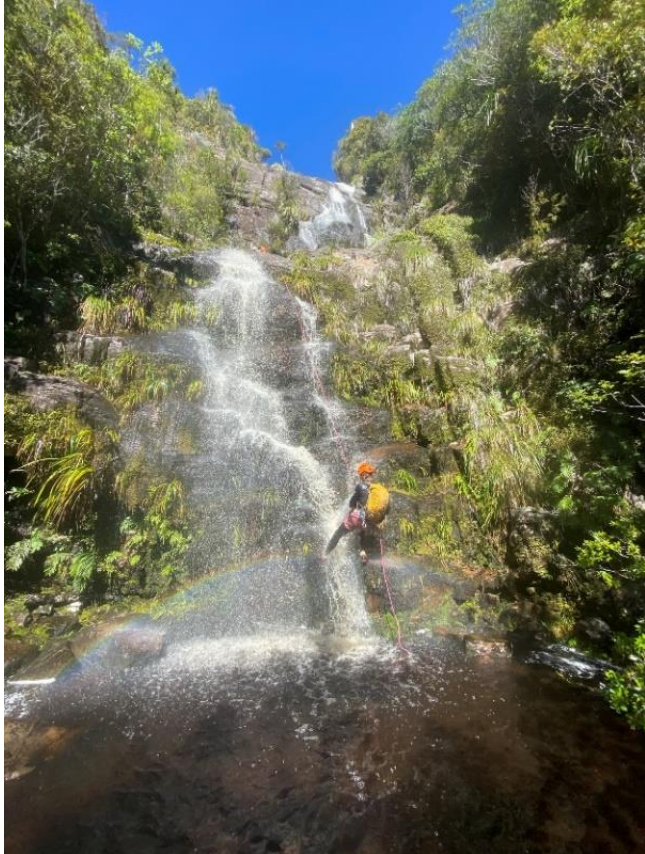
Gear

2x 60m was sufficient.

Route Descriptio

3 significant abseil sections before entering the Lower Rangihau Gorge.

First abseil is approximately 70m broken into 2x pitches with a single bolt on a boulder RR on the obvious ledge about 2/3rds of the way down



R1. two nitch 70m waterfall

Many small abseils with tree anchors follow. Most of these can be bypassed if desired. Watch out for debris sieves below the abseil beside the large slip.

'The double jump' is two jumps about 7 meters each or one big jump of 13m. Pools can be checked from tree anchors, (the bottom pool has large submerged boulder obstacles)

Immediately after is a high flow waterfall of about 17 meters. There is some current at the bottom of this pool so caution is advised, as an easily avoided pour over follows. As of writing, the next series of waterfalls has not been descended in the flow but looks 'fun'. There is a single bolt anchor river center to move past this section, this next pool is NOT a jump.

The chute: A 70m waterfall blasted during the logging days to create what now looks like a large water slide. Anchors are accessible by scrambling part way down, making it a 50ish meter abseil.

From here if you hustle it's about half an hour till you get to the Lower Rangihau gorge (See Canyon topo for this section on KiwiCanyons.org)

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	1hr
Canyon descent	6-12h
Return to vehicle	5min
Total	7-13h

Flash Flood Danger

Subjective opinion on the danger: high

Escapes

Many escapes throughout. Short sections at 'the double jump' and the lower Rangihau which are inescapable.

Notes

First full descent: probably some hardcore loggers back in the day and a few hikers have done this as a two day hiking trip bypassing the abseils.

Full canyon style decent: Brad Schimanski, James McClean, Tim Bailey, Erin Allison Maxwell, Beth St John, Karl Mathews, Tim Donnan, Anthony Garea, Jake Simpson, Michael Eiche.

It's a big day out but well worth the effort!



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