



# SLEEPING

## canyon v4a3III ★★

### Location

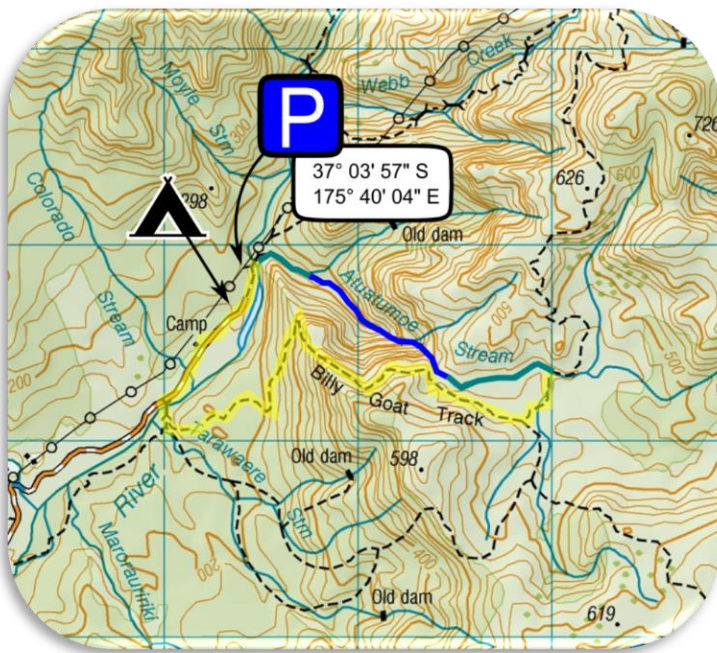
Atuatumoe Stream, Kauaeranga Valley, Thames.

### Character

Very steep stream, with multiple rappels and jumps. Incredible columnar rock formations and big views.

### Map

BB35 Hikuai



### Approach by Car

Heading north into Thames on the main road (SH25) cross the Kauaeranga River, then turn right at obvious signs for Kauaeranga Valley. Follow the sealed, then gravel road for 22km to a car park at the very end of the road.

### Approach on Foot

From the car park, walk back along the road where the Billy Goat Track starts with a footbridge. The track climbs steeply, with some views into the Canyon. Where the track crosses the stream, scramble downstream to near the top of the first drop.

### Rock

Solid Andesite.

### Water

Normally medium to low flows. Plenty of pools, full wetsuits required.

### Catchment

3.8 km<sup>2</sup>

### Anchors

Bolted anchors for commercial canyoning trips. Use at your own risk, inspect all anchors before use.

### Gear

2x 50m ropes absolute minimum.

3x 50m ropes recommended as a practical minimum for managing the multi-pitch R2/3 sequence.

### Route Description

The rock in this canyon is very sharp, so rappel anchors are often exposed out on the waterfall face to allow for a clean abseil with the least possible amount of rope abrasion. Bolts are often installed so that you can use your rope to set an access hand line. It is important to know the correct way to install and retrieve hand lines.

A rappel guide is useful on R1 to prevent rope wear on a sharp ledge partway down.

The R2/R3 70m waterfall is split by a reasonably spacious re-belay ledge, but you should not plan to have your entire group waiting on this ledge for ropes to become available.

There are a number of high jumps further down canyon. All pools should be scouted for obstacles, which is difficult with the dark tannin stained water.

R7 'The Funnel' is a much narrower section of canyon where all the water from the stream is directed right on top of the canyoner. This can transform from just intimidating through to difficult and dangerous depending on the flows. Correct rigging and abseiling techniques are essential when there is any flow through the funnel. (The rope **must** be rigged as a release-able system at the anchor and a 'self belay' or autoblock **must not** be used for the abseiler.)

After the last rappel, boulder hop downstream to the confluence with the Kauaeranga River, and head upstream a very short distance to find the bridge and track to the car park.

### Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	40min
Canyon descent	4-5h
Return to Vehicle	30min
<b>Total</b>	<b>5-6h</b>

*Topo by Daniel Clearwater*  
[www.KiwiCanyons.org](http://www.KiwiCanyons.org)

## Flash Flood Danger

Moderate. Reasonable catchment, but lots of places to get out of the watercourse.

## Escapes

Plenty of places to sit out a flood,

Below R6, it is possible to escape on the TL and bush bash with determination, down to the main Kauaeranga valley.

## Notes

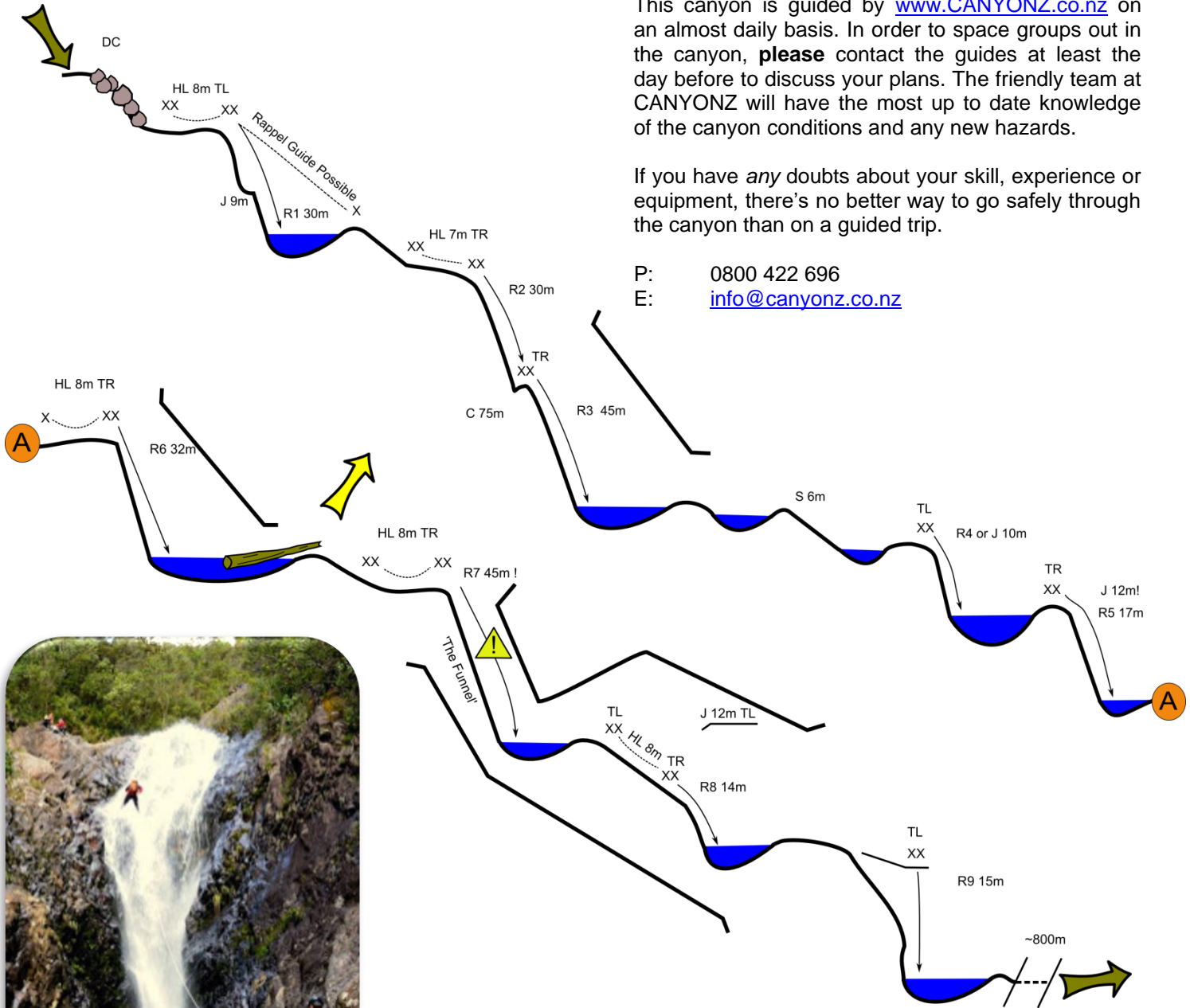
Sleeping God is one of the best canyons in close vicinity to Auckland. The ease of access, quality of the descent and presence of well bolted anchors means this canyon receives a very high number of descents.

Despite its popularity, it is not an 'easy' canyon. It should not be undertaken without proper canyoning equipment, skills and experience.

This canyon is guided by [www.CANYONZ.co.nz](http://www.CANYONZ.co.nz) on an almost daily basis. In order to space groups out in the canyon, **please** contact the guides at least the day before to discuss your plans. The friendly team at CANYONZ will have the most up to date knowledge of the canyon conditions and any new hazards.

If you have *any* doubts about your skill, experience or equipment, there's no better way to go safely through the canyon than on a guided trip.

P: 0800 422 696  
E: [info@canyonz.co.nz](mailto:info@canyonz.co.nz)



**The Funnel**  
Image by CANYONZ



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