



# IMP

## Grotto v4a3II ★★★

### Location

True left of the Haast River valley, directly off SH6.

### Character

Short, but narrow, deep and spectacular. Incredibly sculpted narrows for the last two drops.

### Map

BY12 Haast.

### Approach by Car

Imp Grotto is located off SH6, about 23km from Haast Township, or 36km from Haast Pass itself. There is a very small place to park west of the bridge, north of the road.

### Approach on Foot

There is a faint social trail that weaves through bluffs to access the canyon. Find the start of the trail through the undergrowth between the road markers as shown on the diagram. Climb up 10m or so, then side back towards the canyon for 20m. Angle up and then right to pass through a 'mini-canyon' break in the cliff bands. Cross a small gully then continue up and right to reach the sheer canyon rim. Follow the rim until you can see the obvious escape point where a gully enters the canyon.

Continue up and left around that gully, until you reach another low cliff band. Easily climb the cliff band at the far right end.

Continue up and left for about 40m, past a 2m high tree stump covered in Kidney Fern. Cross over a small shoulder, before angling down and right into the canyon.

### Rock

Solid Schist.

### Water

Low to moderate flows. Extremely narrow section, so even low flows can be difficult or dangerous.

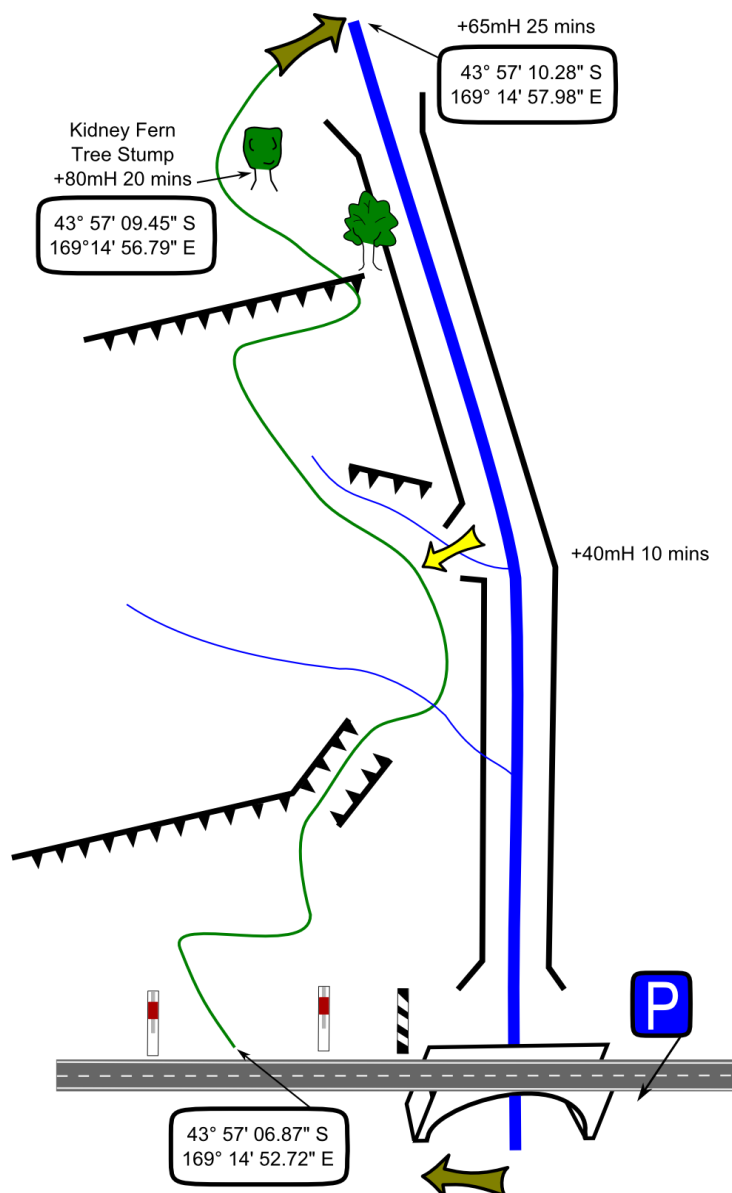
### Catchment

2.9 km<sup>2</sup>

### Anchors

Natural and bolted anchors.

**Gear** 2x 40m ropes as a minimum.



Topo by Daniel Clearwater  
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## Route Description

This canyon tends to be reasonably slippery. The handline for R2 is delicate to rig. The R2 Corkscrew waterfall looks intimidating from the top, but is no problem in normal flows and can be bypassed via a single bolt high on the TR.

R3 drops into the very deep, very narrow section that can be seen from the road bridge. In normal flows, there is a hydraulic that pushes you towards an undercut on the TR, however It is possible to descend completely away from the water on the far TL. There are 2 amazing huge potholes on the TL. R4 can be slid on the slab immediately to the TL of the waterfall itself. Swim under the bridge and exit easily up and right onto the road. You can get bonus jumps from the bridge into the pool below.

## Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	25min
Canyon descent	2h
Return to Vehicle	1min
<b>Total</b>	<b>2h30min</b>

## Flash Flood Danger

Extreme. The final section is very deep and very narrow. Avoid this little gem if any rain is forecast.

## Escapes

There is any easy escape as marked on the topo. Otherwise very deep and inescapable.

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## Notes

Milo Gilmour explored Imp Grotto down to the start of this committing section, finding nothing of interest. Dan Clearwater and Toine Houtenbos, accessed the TL rim from Depot creek and descended R3 and R4 on 12 Jan 2012. Dave Vass, Anna Crafar, Milly Bottomley Ros Goulding and Jared Schmate completed the first full descent on 20 Jan 2013.



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