

RHYOLITE CANYON V4A1I

WRITTEN BY PETE SMITH.

Location

Coromandel

Character

Super easy access, the first 48m abseil leads to an 'ok' canyon with a great feature wall.

Map Park at the red dot on the Kopu Hikui road.



Drive

From Auckland to over to the Kopu Hikui road stopping at the red dot on the map 1hr 20mins. Hamilton takes around 1hr 10 mins.

Parking:

Park in the lay-by for great canyon access.

If you are wise, park another car down the road at the access. Walking up a main road in the heat of the day really sucks, unless you enjoy looking at what humans throw out of their car windows!

Walk

For 5 mins towards old dam site the first is anchor placed at the head of a very impressive wide 48m high volcanic wall of Rhyolite! The dam is still intact partly.

Rock

Mixed Volcanic.

Water

Very low in normal conditions.

Anchors

Trees all the way down the canyon, no bolts so take spare gear to build new anchors! Webbing degrades in a few months in full sun, be very cautious of every anchor!

Gear

2 x 60m worked well for us with the biggest pitch around 50m

Route description.

Head to the waterfall marked on the map above. Abseil the first pitch with a very impressive wall of Rhyolite rock.

Once at the bottom of the canyon the walk out is relatively easy. We followed the ridge up beside Andesite stream on the TR (See Blue dot) for 15mins then walked back up the road to the car in around 45 mins. The walk on a hot day is well worth avoiding, it is a very busy road!

Times with a group of 4

Walk in 5min. Canyon 2hrs 55mins. Walk out 1hr. Total 4Hrs

Flood danger

Very low in general, but hey, it is a watercourse so beware of incoming weather fronts.

Escapes

Lots of escapes possible from this stream.

Notes

Good camping is available at the Broken hills campsite. Tiarua is 10mins by car has a host of takeaways and cafes that will cater for your daily burger/ fish and chip intake and has a bottle store for your alcohol needs :-)

First Descent/ James Judd, Pete Smith 9/1/21

Drawing James Judd



The rather impressive wall of Rhyolite

