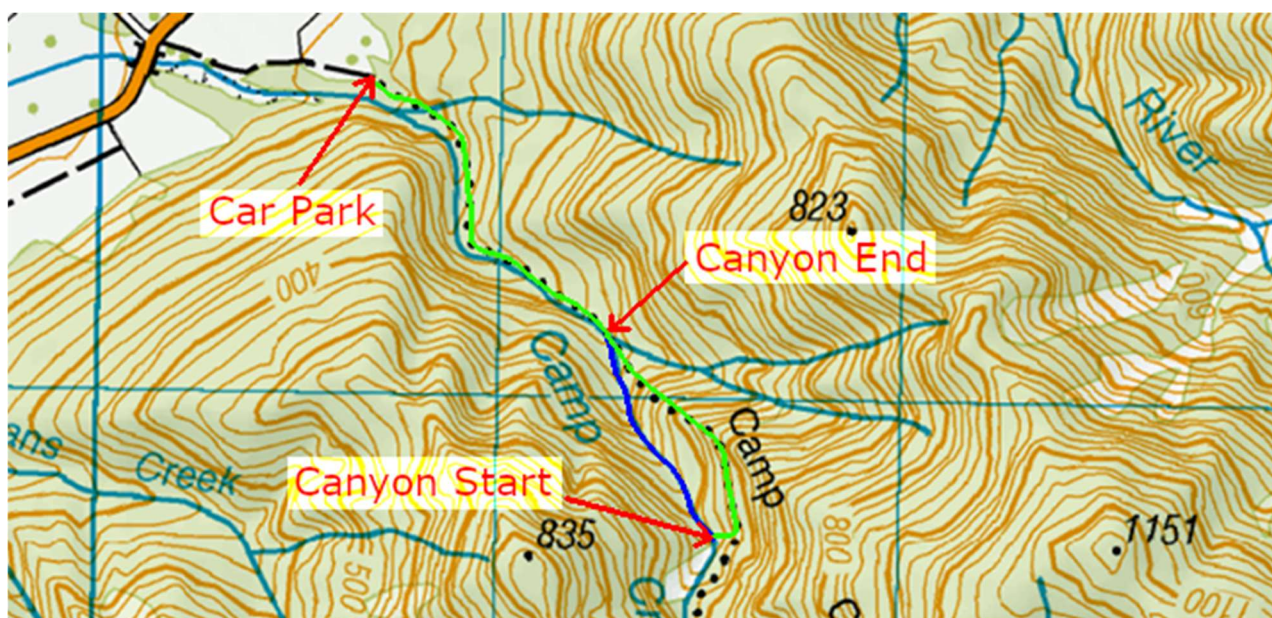


Camp Creek Canyon V4A3III*

Far below the Camp Creek track some waterfalls are visible... Although the creek is mostly open and boulder-filled there are some abseils and short narrows sections. The flow is high but there are surprisingly few deep pools. There are better canyons on the West Coast, but it still makes for an enjoyable trip.

Access

Park at the Camp Creek track, the turn off is an unsealed road behind a gate, immediately after crossing the creek when coming from the South. Follow the track for ~30 minutes to where the track leaves the creek to ascend a steep spur. This is where you will meet the track again afterwards. Continue up the track until the open creek above the canyon is visible below you, roughly near where a small stream crosses the track. Bush-bash down from here – It's steep and dense but should only take ~10 minutes. Total approach time is about 1 hour 30.



The canyon is on public land, access is by DOC walking track.

Route Description

There is a lot of water in the canyon (higher flow than the A3 grading would suggest) so high potential for strainers and whitewater hazards. Boulders will move between floods so features and anchors will change. This description is an indication only of what to expect.

- There are 7 pitches up to ~15 m.
- Only natural anchors were used – trees and boulders. Bring lots of webbing and maillons to replace them. Many will be flood or UV damaged.
- The first 2 pitches are in the open upper section, both may be downclimbable, particularly at lower flows.

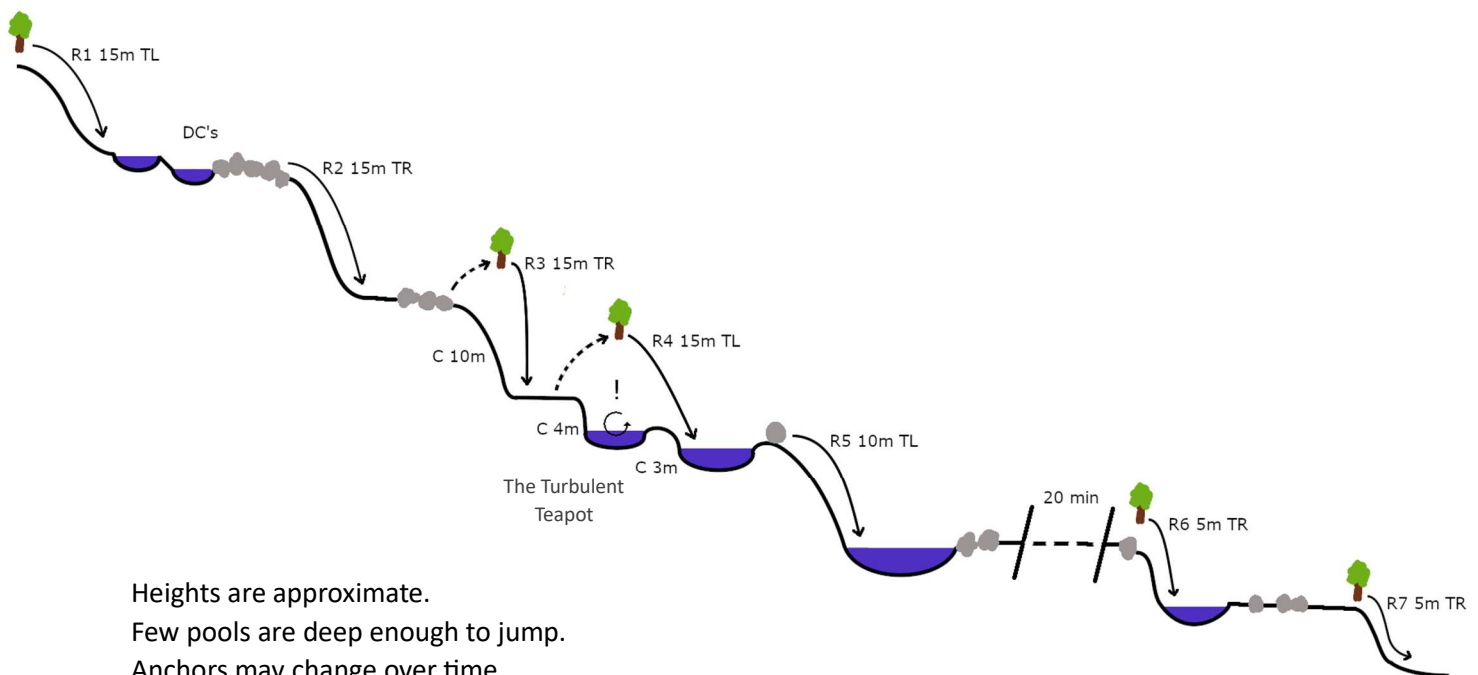
- R3-5 are close together and are the main enclosed section of the canyon, this is the hardest part (featuring the Turbulent Teapot).
- Below this is a wide boulder hopping section, with a few downclimbs.
- The final 2 drops follow this, close to where the track leaves the creek on the way up. The walls briefly close in again after R6 and you're rewarded with a final blue pool.

The Turbulent Teapot is a powerful recirculation in one of the only parts of the canyon where the water can't easily be avoided. You can climb a rock spur on the TL to get to some uninspiring looking trees above it to abseil from. Take care not to swing and pendulum into the Teapot, it might be worth using a rappel guide or other techniques to ensure this doesn't happen. The V4 grading is mostly for this pitch.

The rock is schist, but often quite crumbly. The layers of the schist run mostly perpendicular to the waterway, which may be why the walls are often not very deep or continuous. Hence the gorge is escapable in many places. Between R3 and R4 is inescapable, so leave the rope on R3 so you can ascend out if the Turbulent Teapot looks too difficult to avoid (don't try to cross it). Much of the walking section below R5 will also not be escapable. Once out of the gorge, escape back to the track once in the forest on the TR should be ok but difficult.

Bring at least one 60m rope (but always good to take more) and plenty of anchor rigging gear.

Approximate times: 1h 30m up, ~3h descent, 30m return to car. -> 5h total.



Heights are approximate.
 Few pools are deep enough to jump.
 Anchors may change over time.

Notes:

First descent: Ben Fletcher, Jeffrey Wise, Christian Miller. April 2023.

This canyon is the lower gorge in Camp Creek. Between this and the hut is another gorge section, with deeper walls and currently unexplored...



The Turbulent Teapot
lies between these
drops.



R6



R3



R5



R5 as viewed from the
track above.



Downclimbs near the end.