



FLOP N DROP (LOWER)

v1a3II ★

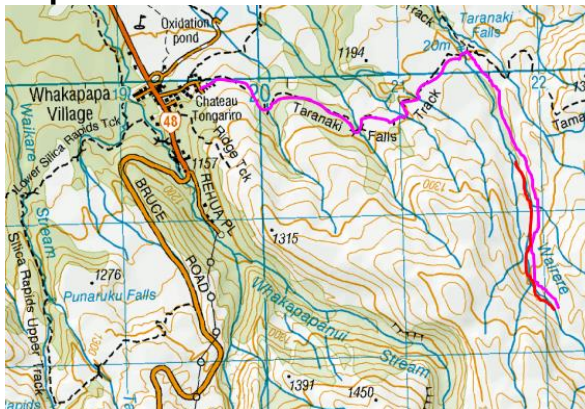
Location

Whakapapa

Character

No ropes required, pure fun! Lots of slides and a few jumps.

Map



Pink is the walk in
Red is the lower canyon

Bolts at start of lower: -39.214965, 175.57251
End of lower: -39.205189, 175.569248

Approach by Car

Drive to Whakapapa

Approach on Foot

Follow the upper Taranaki Falls track. When you get to the falls, cross the bridge and immediately follow a route off the track that goes upstream on TR. Follow this to the top of the lower canyon. There is a bolted drop at the coordinates, but you can get in just below without ropes and then it's a jump into the slot of the gorge!

Water

The water is cold!

At medium to high flows, be aware of hydraulics after slides. These don't seem to be an issue at low flows.

3km² catchment.

Anchors

Single bolts for two drops. One at the start, and one at "Francois' Struggle" at the end which can be walked

around. These are bolted more for if you're doing the upper and lower sections.

Gear

Ropes aren't essential, a 20m length is handy for ab-slides, pool checking or rappelling the star

Route Description

The coordinates are for a bolted rap. You can walk around to enter the gorge. When it slots up, there is a technical jump into the middle of the slot followed by numerous slides.

No topo is needed, it's all just slides, jumps and downclimbs. You can escape in lots of places.

It's worth checking the slides first, there's one low-angle 20m slide which ends in a nasty landing on a rock. If it's low flow you can stop in time, otherwise you'll want to either set up a stopping system or walk it.

The final feature in the canyon is "Francois' Struggle", a small, bolted drop that ends in a pool. At medium flows Francois' Struggle becomes very sticky, but if you set an abslide with a short rope length, you tend to flush through.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	1hr
Lower Canyon descent	2hrs
Return to Vehicle	1hr
Total	4hrs

Hazards/Escapes

Hydraulics as flows increase.

Notes

Check out the upper section as well for a great day out!

First descent: Probably some trampers.



Top left: The first jump into the slot of the gorge
Top right: The bottom of one of the many slides
Bottom: Jacob about to get smoked on the rock at the bottom of the 20m slide

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*Topo by Jacob Mole, James
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