



UPPER WAIHOHONU

canyon v2a5III ★

Location

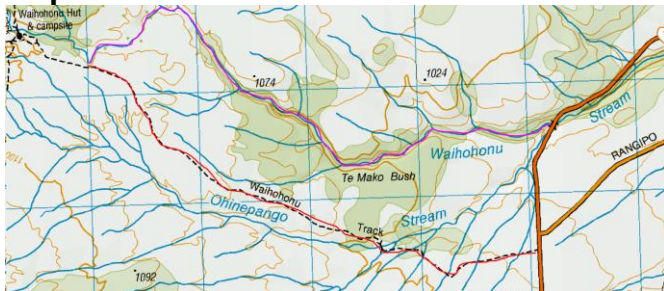
Turangi

Character

High water canyon with small abseils and committing gorges.

This canyon has only been done once. We recorded limited details but intend to go back. It is still very exploratory. Treat it as a first descent.

Map



Red – walk in

Pink – canyon

Start of canyon: -39.211673, 175.687222

Approach by Car

Drive south from Turangi along SH1. There's a small gravel road at the start of the Waihoihonu track which has a car park. We also left a car at the bridge over the Waihoihonu to make the walk a few kilometers shorter.

Approach on Foot

Follow the Waihoihonu track until it gets close to the river, then bash over to the river. The river is flat with no features for the first kilometer or so.

Rock

Limestone

Water

High water, people kayak this. Recommended to only do this at the tail end of summer when there's no snow melt so flows are lower.

Catchment

Massive

Anchors

A few natural anchors, we left almost no gear. It is recommended the next group takes some bolting equipment.

Gear

2 x 30m ropes

Route Description

This is a long canyon, in terms of distance, with a lot of flow. There are numerous short, committing gorges with different whitewater features to navigate and lots of recirculations to avoid.

Time

Full day

Dangers

Flash flood – only touch this in the driest times
Recirculations
Undercuts
Sieves/siphons

Escapes

Each gorge is short and you can walk around them if they're too much. Once you're in one of the gorges, you are committed to the end of that gorge though.

Notes

First descent: James Judd and Luke Carpenter April 2023

Video of the river being kayaked:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfJKqc1Ibbc>



Luke Carpenter at the end of one of the gorges

UPPER WAIHOHONU

Canyon v2a5III ★

*Topo by James Judd and
Luke Carpenter*

www.kiwicanyons.org

Page 2