



LOWER TROVATORE

Canyon v3a1II ★

Location

Lewis Pass

Character

A short but sweet canyon with three small pitches and a narrow gorge in places. Despite the lack of deep pools you'll definitely get wet - some pitches require committing to the vertical flow.

This would be a convenient 2 hour break on a drive through the Lewis Pass, or an addition to the main Trovatore canyon, making it a 9 pitch trip. Otherwise this canyon is too short to be worth the long drive from Christchurch, Nelson, or the West Coast.

Map



Canyon in dark blue, walking sections in purple. The main Trovatore canyon is also shown for context.

Approach by Car

Park at the start of the St James Walkway at the Lewis Pass summit.

Approach on Foot

Follow the St James Walkway, towards Cannibal Gorge hut. After about 800 meters you will cross a footbridge over the Trovatore creek. Continue to follow the walkway until it crosses a mostly dry rocky riverbed 200m from the bridge. Follow this tributary down to the start of the canyon.

Rock

Greywacke.

Water

Low flow.

Catchment

2.6 km²

Anchors

One tree, two double bolt anchors.

Gear

1x 30m rope.

Route Description

A short gorge with 3 straightforward pitches and some downclimbs. R2 and R3 are in vertical flow. None of the pools are deep enough for swims or jumps.

After R3, continue to the river and head upstream for 5 minutes until you reach the bridge, then follow the track back to the car.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	20min
Canyon descent	45min
Return to vehicle	40min
Total	~2h

Flash Flood Danger

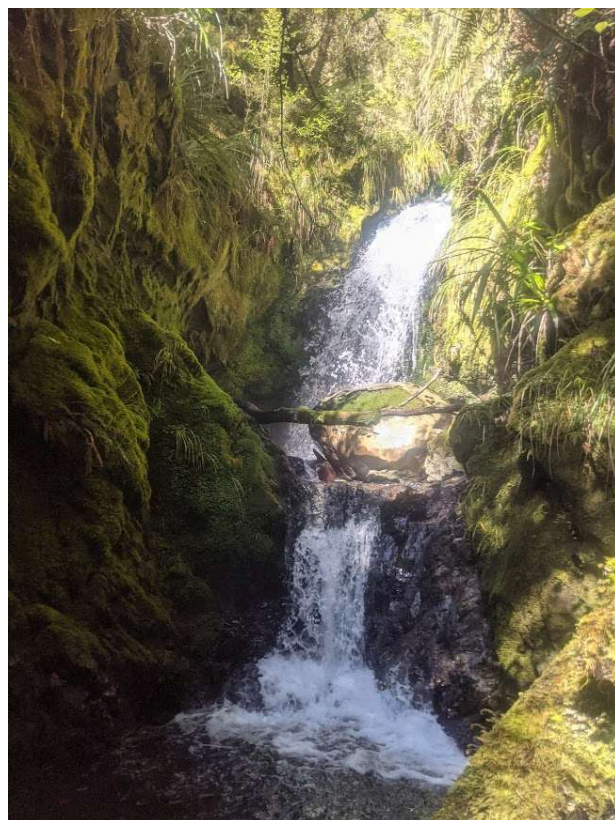
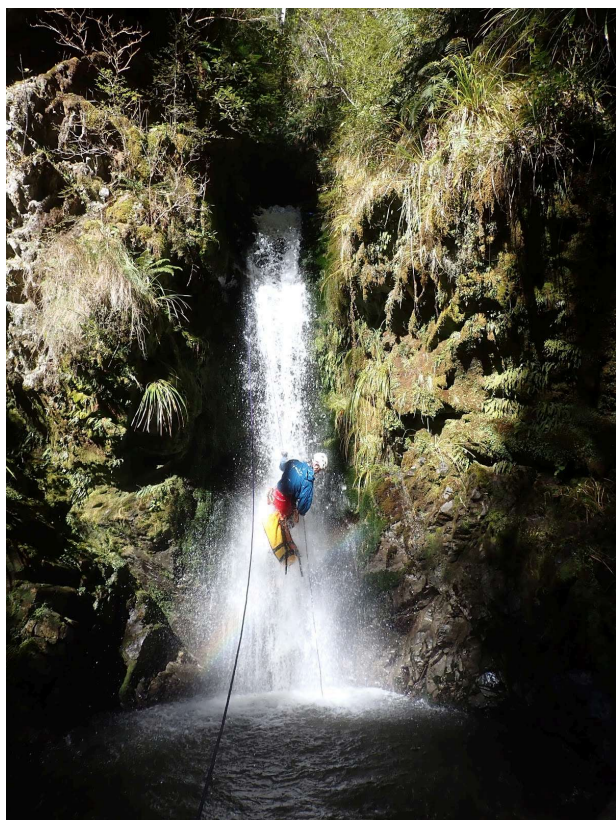
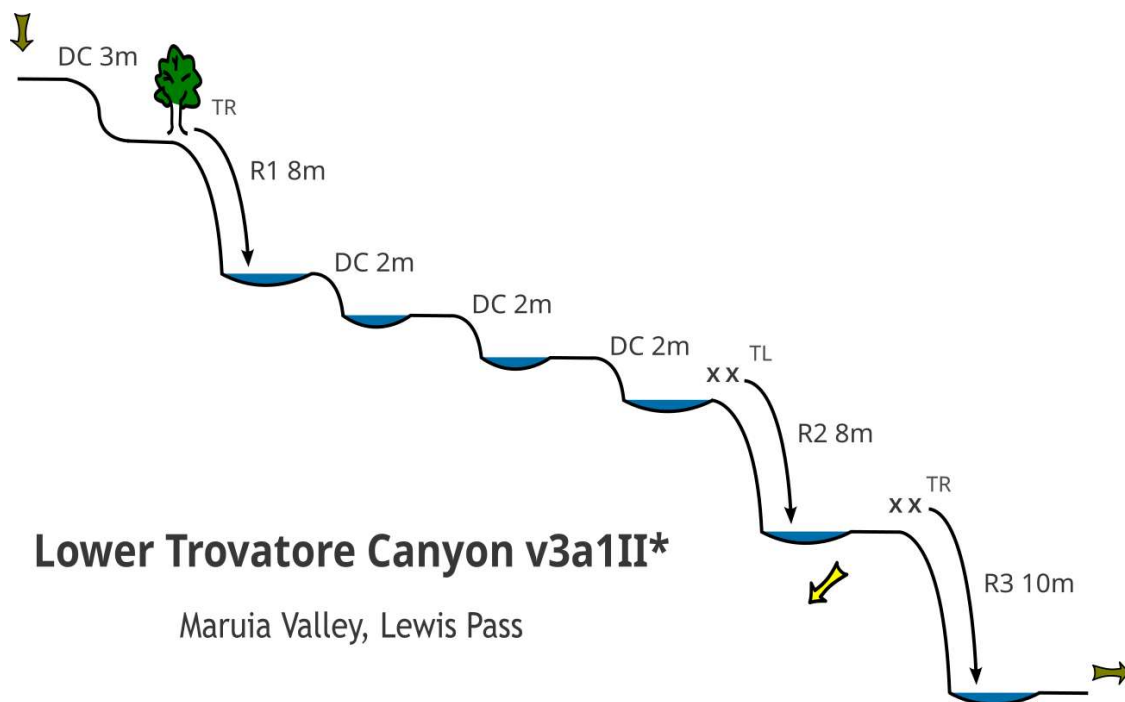
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Escapes

A possible steep escape after R2.

Notes

First descent: Christian Miller and Ben Fletcher, August 2025



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*Topo by Christian Miller and
Ben Fletcher*

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