



TIROPAHI

canyon v4a6III☆☆

Coca-Cola, making it virtually impossible to visually scout jumping pools for obstacles.

Catchment

38 km² Note, the headwaters are in limestone country, so water disappears and reappears days after rain. Catchment size does not necessarily reflect volume.

Anchors

Easily reached tree anchor for the main drop.

Gear

Minimum of 60m of rope. Take a small selection of Nuts and sling for temporary anchors in the main slot. Extra floatation for the main pool swim.

Route Description

From the bridge, the gorge walls slowly grow as you negotiate rapids and dark black pools. Then, as a tributary arrives from the TR, you immediately enter the main slot, 2-4 meters wide, 10-30 meters deep. There is plenty of strainers/log debris, both above and below the waterline. It is vital to be aware of possible entrapments.

At the two small drops in the main slot, you will need to either down climb, or create a temporary anchor to go and check the pools for jumping. The first drop has a small nut placement, forward on the TR. The second drop has a human sized pot hole, where you can be a human anchor.

After the second drop, the canyon walls relent, but you are still boulder hopping, swimming and down climbing in and among strong water flows.

The main drop in the canyon is normally descended on the TL, to a small ledge. The huge (20-30m wide) pool is quite deep and the water flow pushes you slowly towards an undercut bank. Study the flow in the pool first before beginning.

Below the pool, the open stream has boulder hopping, down climbing and swimming.

Return on Foot

There is a pink tape marked track on the TR which returns you toward the state highway. Abeam the last bluff on the TL, about 100m before the ocean, search for a pink ribbon tied to scrub.

Carefully follow the intermittently marked trail, steeply out of the canyon. Arriving at a flat-ish area that has been used as a campsite, the markers disappear. Continue on the same bearing, across the small plateau until you reach a short line of bluffs. Follow these to the left, back into the scrub, where you should find a faintly marked trail, which leads through bush, open low scrubland, a bit of gorse, 4WD tracks and back to the State Highway.

Location

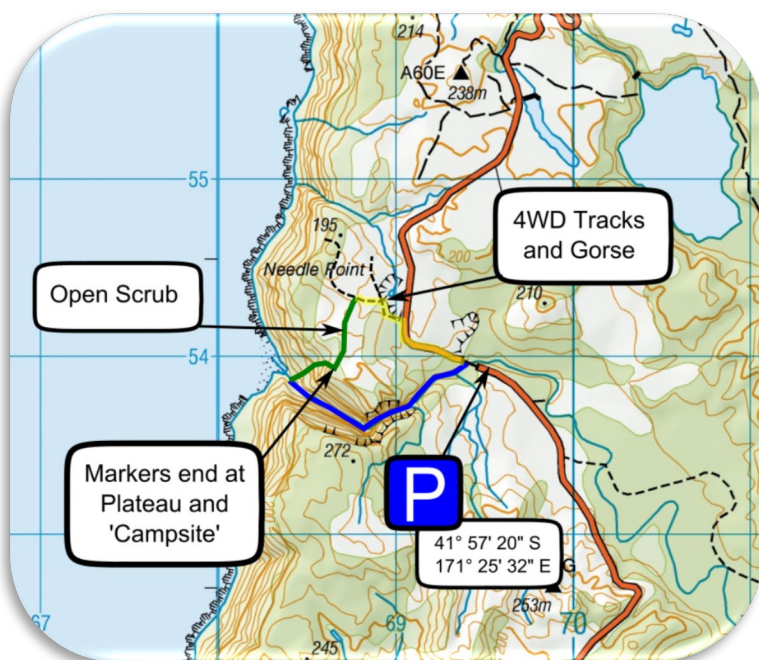
South of Charleston and just north of the Paparoa National Park,

Character

A horizontal high volume slot canyon with one abseil beside a huge powerful waterfall.

Map

BS20 Charleston



Approach by Car

From Charleston, drive approximately 7.4km south on SH 6 to the road bridge over Four Mile / Tiropahi River.

Approach on Foot

Scramble down the TR of the bridge to the canyon.

Rock

Solid Gneiss.

Water

High volume. There are two stage gauges, about 50m downstream of the bridge. When the second gauge read 0.7m, we calculated the flow to be 2.5 cumecs, which created plenty of strong rapids and powerful hydraulics within the canyon. Of particular note, the water is so stained with tannin, that it resembles

Time

Canyon descent

Return to Vehicle

Total

3-4hr

40min

4-5hr

Escapes

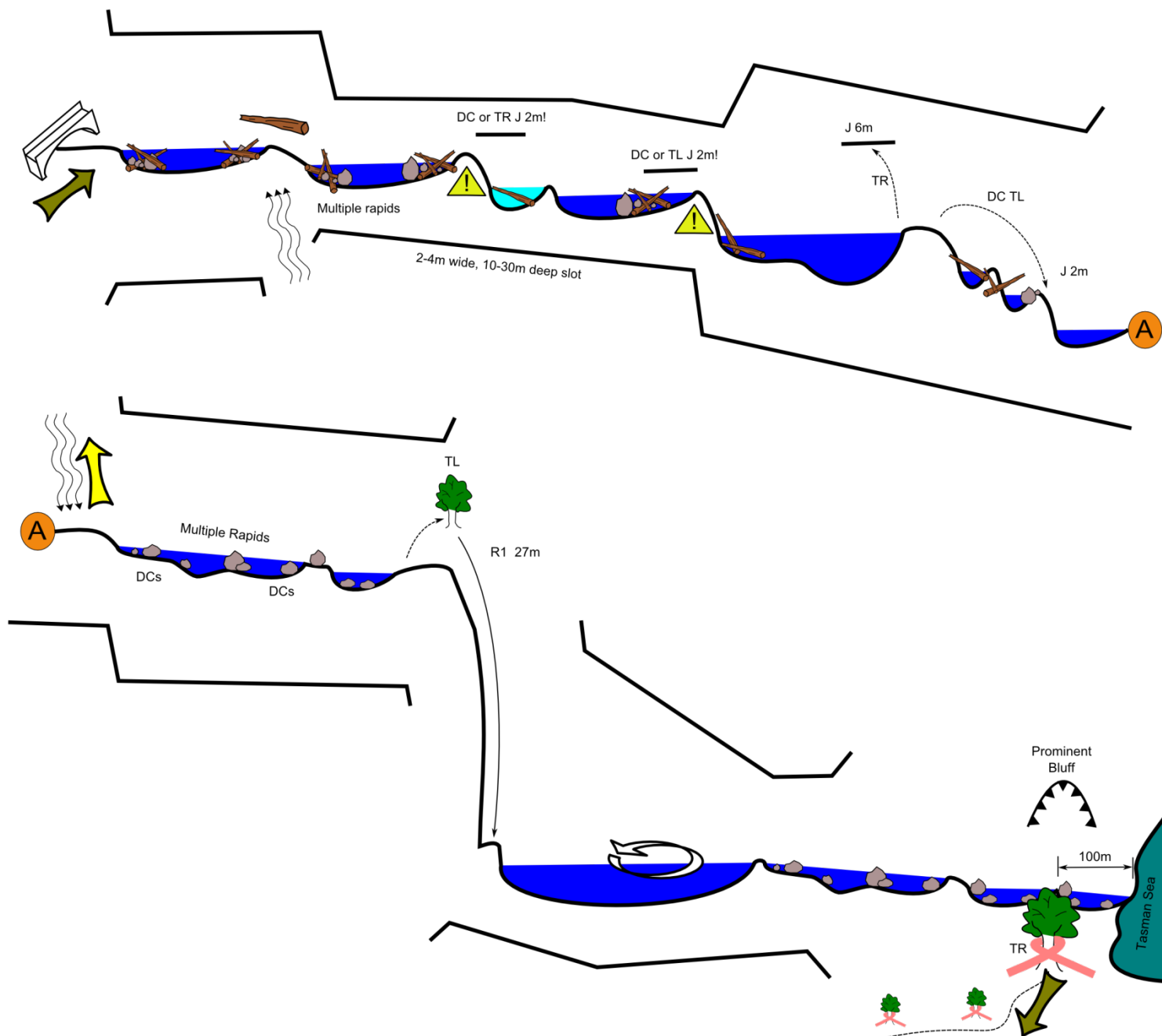
Once beyond the first drop, this canyon is quite committing. Only one easy escape from the canyon. Any escapes back to the car would require lengthy bush bashing.

Flash Flood Danger

High. Very narrow canyon, with few places to sit out a flood. Very large catchment.

Notes

First descended by Cavers, as an alternate activity to Caving in the nearby Paparoa National Park.



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Topo by Daniel Clearwater July 2013
www.KiwiCanyons.org