



# CAREW

Creek v4a3I ★

## Location

South Shore of Lake Brunner, near Greymouth.

## Character

Short, steep granite canyon with interlinked waterfalls and plunge pools. Semi-open, medium volume.

## Map

BU20 Moana



## Approach by Car

From Hokitika, follow SH6 north towards Arthur's Pass for 29km until you reach Kumara. At the south eastern end of the Kumara township, turn left onto the Kumara-Inchbonnie Rd. Continue another 21km until you cross the Carew Creek bridge. Park by a large DOC sign for "Carew Falls", which is about 100m after the bridge.

## Approach on Foot

Follow the DOC track for about 20 minutes to the falls, where you can evaluate the flow. Cross the creek and club the steep TL side of the waterfall, keeping fairly close to the stream.

Side into the creek just above the top of R4 (which is the main waterfall that you could see from the approach track). Cross the creek and climb up onto the TR bank of the stream.

Continue up the TR until the terrain flattens out, and you can easily scramble into the creek.

## Rock

Black and white speckled Granite.

## Water

Low to medium volume.

## Catchment

3.1 km<sup>2</sup>

## Anchors

Mostly double bolt anchors

## Gear

Although the maximum drop is around 40m, you need more rope than that....A pair of 60m ropes is strongly recommended, so you can do rope retrieval from dry land.

## Route Description

As soon as the canyon begins, you'll have great views out over Lake Brunner.

R1 is straightforward in normal water levels, but at higher levels as you'll need to cross the flow during the descent which can be intimidating. The v4 grading is only for the fact there are rappels greater than 30m.

At the time of writing, parts of the R3 pool are just deep enough for jumping and sliding. Make your own assessment though – the waters can be dark and there are underwater ledges lurking in places! If in doubt, just rappel.

The last pitch is about 40m to a hanging pool. The first person down will need to rap a total of 45m from the anchor to reach the final pool.

After checking the final pool, it's easy to scramble to repeat the last jump/slide as often as you like.

## Time

Car park to Carew Falls	20min
Falls to top of canyon	25min
Canyon descent	1h15m
Return to car	20min
<b>Total</b>	<b>2h20m</b>

## Flash Flood Danger

Low. Very short canyon, several escape points.

## Escapes

As noted on the topo.

## Notes

Once run by 'Sweet As Adventures' as a commercial trip.

*Topo by Daniel Clearwater – updated 1 Dec 2025*  
[www.KiwiCanyons.org](http://www.KiwiCanyons.org)

