



FORD

Creek v2a3I ★★

Location

Blackball, Paparoa Range.

Character

Non technical but extremely beautiful sandstone slot canyon.

Map

BT20 Ahaura



Approach by Car

Drive through Blackball, leaving town to the NW on Roa Rd. Park on the left in a laybay, just beyond an old quarry.

Approach on Foot

Find a way down to the stream below your car, through some scrub (and a little gorse/blackberry!)

Rock

Island Sandstone.

Water

Low to moderate flow. Some chest deep wades. Wetsuits recommended.

Catchment

8.7 km²

Gear

If you are into photography, consider a tripod!

Route Description

Downstream, the canyon starts quite abruptly. There are long stretches of calf deep wading, punctuated by some interesting down climbing and short swims. Some obstacles may be difficult for beginners to reverse. Also, in higher flows, upstream swims/wades become quite tricky. So consider whether you can reverse that obstacle before you keep descending... You should be right with a little canyon experience and confident scrambling ability.

There are a few gold mining relics (and even a car) in the canyon, so watch out for bits of metal sticking out through the stream way.

Keep going downstream until the canyon walls widen, then return upstream. (Below the canyon is private farmland.) It is easy to be distracted by the incredible formations and spend a couple of hours exploring.

Time

Car park to start of canyon	5 mins
Out and back Canyon exploration	1-2hrs
Total	2h

Flash Flood Danger

Extreme. Moderate drainage, but narrow, continuous slot canyon with no escapes.

Escapes

Once the slot starts, there are no escapes.



Topo by Daniel Clearwater
www.KiwiCanyons.org