



TŪHUA

Canyon v4a2III ★

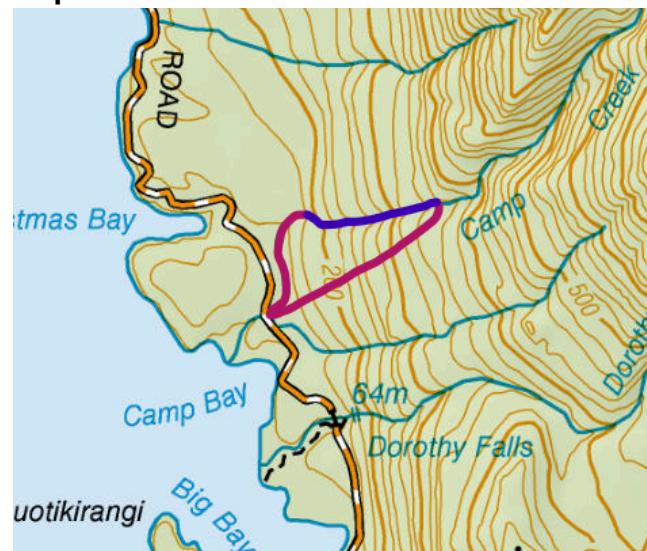
Location

Lake Kaniere, near Hokitika.

Character

Open in the top half, with a big 40m pitch. Similar feeling to some of the Canterbury canyons. Lower down much more enclosed with lots of small drops. Surprisingly different to Dorothy Falls.

Map



This canyon is in Camp Creek, North of Dorothy Falls. Approach and return in purple, canyon in dark blue.

Parking

Drive towards Dorothy Falls. Park at a bay on the West side of the road, 50m before (North of) Camp creek. This is less than 1 km away from Dorothy Falls.

Approach on Foot

Cross the road bridge to reach the TL of Camp Creek.

This approach is an ideal introduction to off-track West Coast travel. It isn't steep or overly difficult, but there's enough bush bashing and supple jack wrestling to make you feel like you've earned your trip! With GPS/Map/Compass in hand, route-find the path of least resistance, whilst aiming for a fairly direct line from the bridge to the put-in spot.

You'll probably cross a steep-sided creek about halfway up. This is quite canyon-like, so you may have to go up or down a little to find a suitable spot to where you can cross it.

At the 350m contour, start sidling in, and look for a large, rocky slip on the TL, which provides a very easy way to reach the water. This is a nice spot to gear up.

Rock

Granite

Water

Low flow.

Catchment

1 km²

Anchors

Mostly double bolts. Two SBA and one tree.

Gear

At least 2 x 50m ropes.

The R4 anchor is placed low to avoid loose rock. It would be sensible to take anchor materials after any large floods in case bolts are damaged.

Route Description

Lots of small abseils and mostly shallow pools.

R3 is an excellent feature, a long pitch through the flow with views out over the lake from the top. There is some friction on the R3 pull down so be careful to not get the rope stuck. There are also some minor sharp edges and loose rock near the anchor, which are easily managed. Other than here and R4 the rock quality is very good.

R5, 6, and 7 are very close together, and all have some debris from a slip that has filled in the pools. Hopefully this will clear out over time. The DC before R8 is best climbed down a log, and when the log eventually moves this could be a small jump. R5 - R10 is the more enclosed section of the canyon, with steep, mossy walls.

After R11 follow the creek back to the road (~10 minutes).

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	1h30min
Canyon descent	3hr
Return to vehicle	10min
Total	4h40min

Flash Flood Danger

Low/medium - flow may rise quickly but the canyon is not very aquatic.

Escapes

Some likely escapes noted on the topo diagram. There may be more possible in the upper half.

Notes

First descent: Amy Burney, Christian Miller, Ben Fletcher, Josh Fletcher, Conor Handley. January 2026.

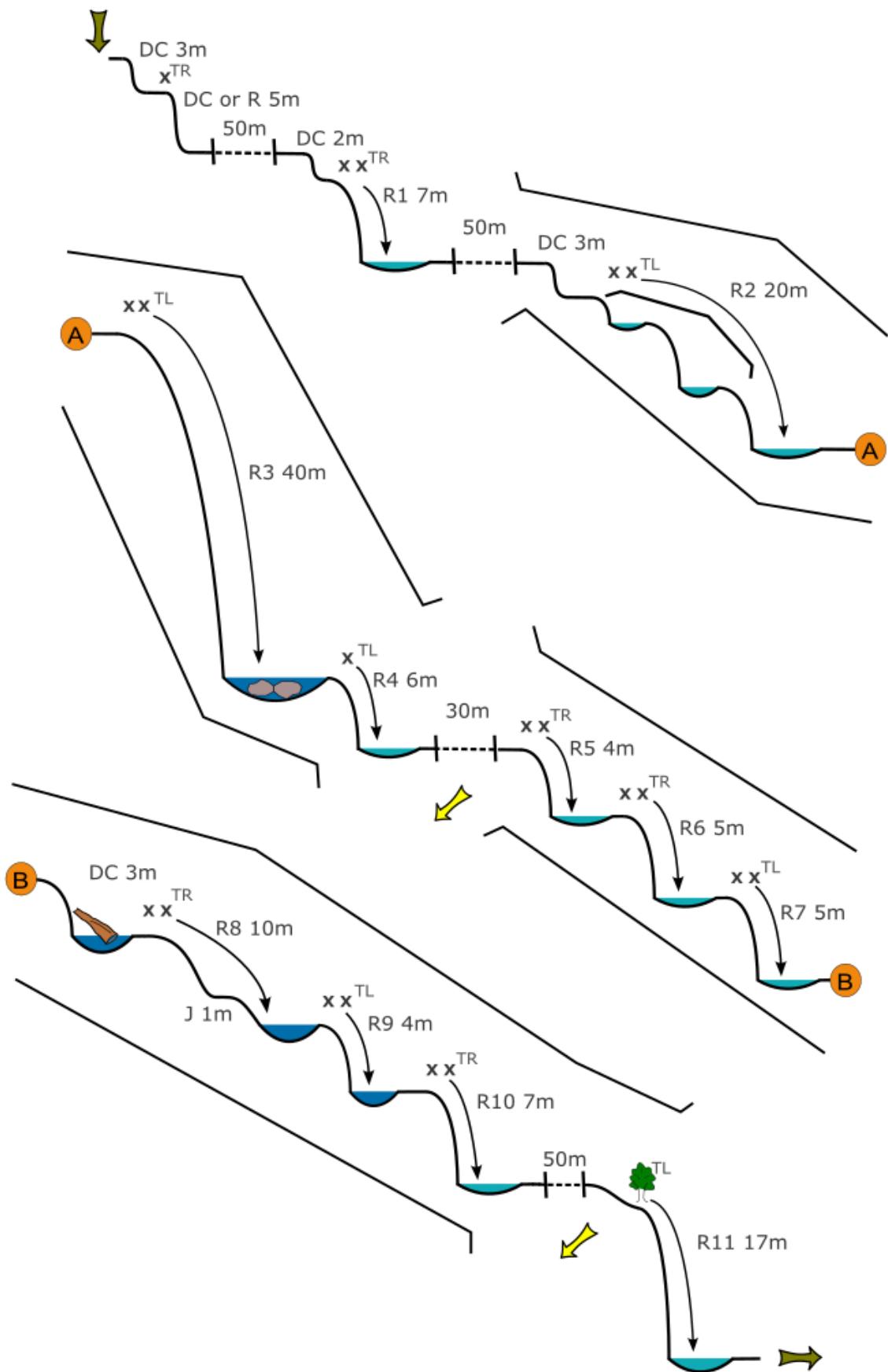
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*Topo by Amy, Ben, Christian,
& Conor*

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