



PEMBROKE CREEK

v4a4IV ★★ ★

Location

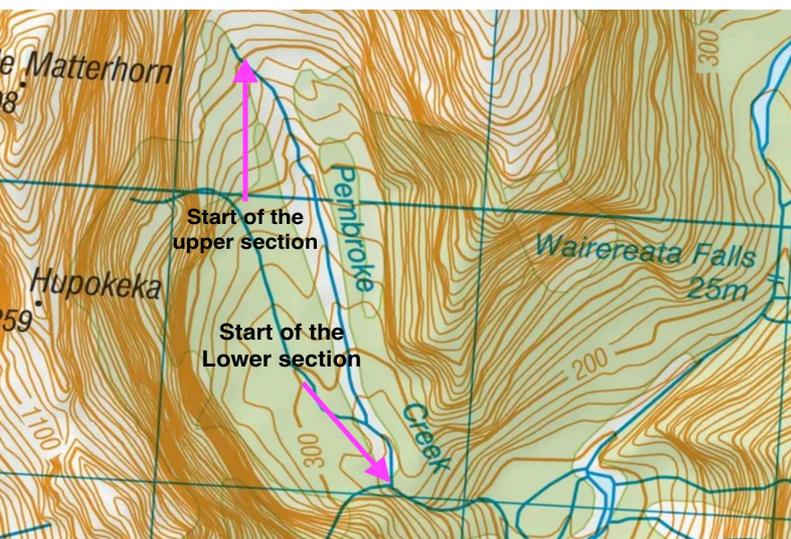
Milford

Character

Pembroke Creek has two distinctive sections separated by roughly a kilometer of walking in the riverbed. The upper section is smooth bedrock above bush line. Heaps of slides with only a few rappels. This section is super fun, easy canyoning.

The lower section is a deep and beautiful slot canyon with no easy exits. There is a mixture of jumps, slides and rappels.

Map



Approach by boat or kayak

Getting from Milford to Harrison Cove requires kayaking or boating 7km each way. Milford sound is a very busy bit of water which is also very exposed to wind. The valley walls funnel and accelerate any forecast winds from the Tasman Sea, making for very hazardous conditions for small vessels. On fine days, expect afternoon sea breezes, which can also get very strong. There are also tidal currents to consider.... In short, you need to know what you're doing on the water to access this canyon.

Park at Deepwater basin, away from the cruise ships and launch your vessel at the boat ramp. Leave boat at Harrison cove. There are places to anchor/tie off a boat.

Rosco's Kayak company in Milford **do not** rent kayaks.

Approach on Foot

Walk up the Harrison River for 1 - 1.5hrs then 5 mins up Pembroke creek to the bottom of the canyon. From the bottom of the canyon walk up the true left but after 30m elevation gain try to cut back to the edge of the canyon where travel is easier.

When gradient eases, walk in the riverbed. Access the upper section on the TL, via bedrock slabs.

Rock

Solid Granite

Water

Low to medium flow. Glacially fed, so expect rising flows as the ice melts during the day.

Catchment

4.8 km² – glacier in the headwaters.

Anchors

Upper canyon - single bolt anchors in upper canyon. Lower canyon – V-threads with 10mm holes.

Gear

Biggest Drop is 38m
V-thread tool and 5mm Dyneema cord, webbing for natural anchors, plus a drill & bolts until the canyon sees a few repeat descents

Route Description

The Upper section starts under a big waterfall (100m roughly) Some of the top drops are a bit closed in and probably no natural anchors. Followed by a 25m drop which probably slides... but has a single ring anchor. From here down you can climb in and out of most drops. In total there is about 20 slides and 4-5 raps.

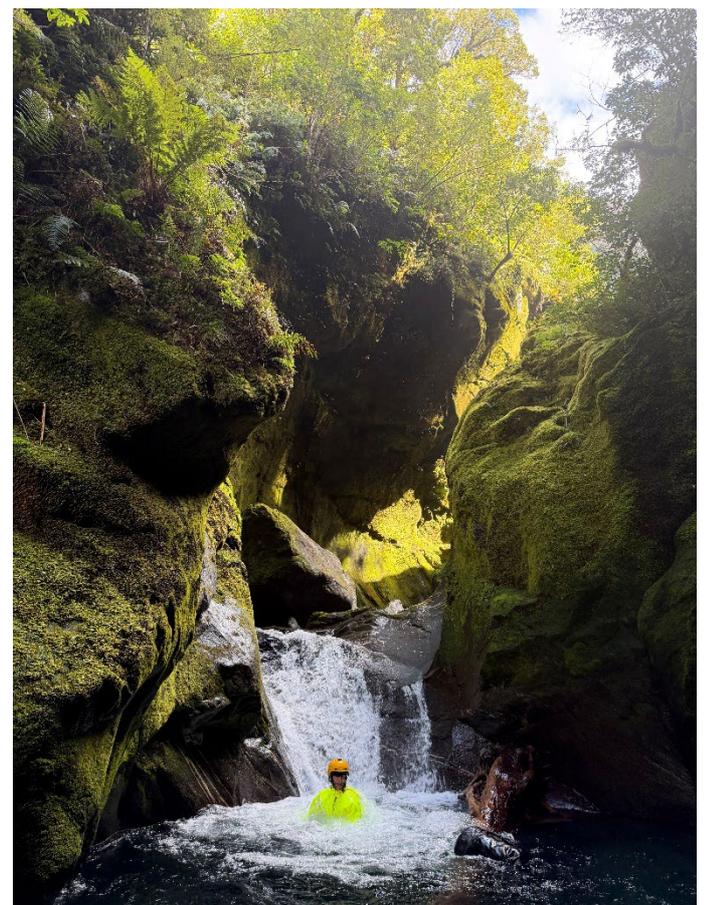
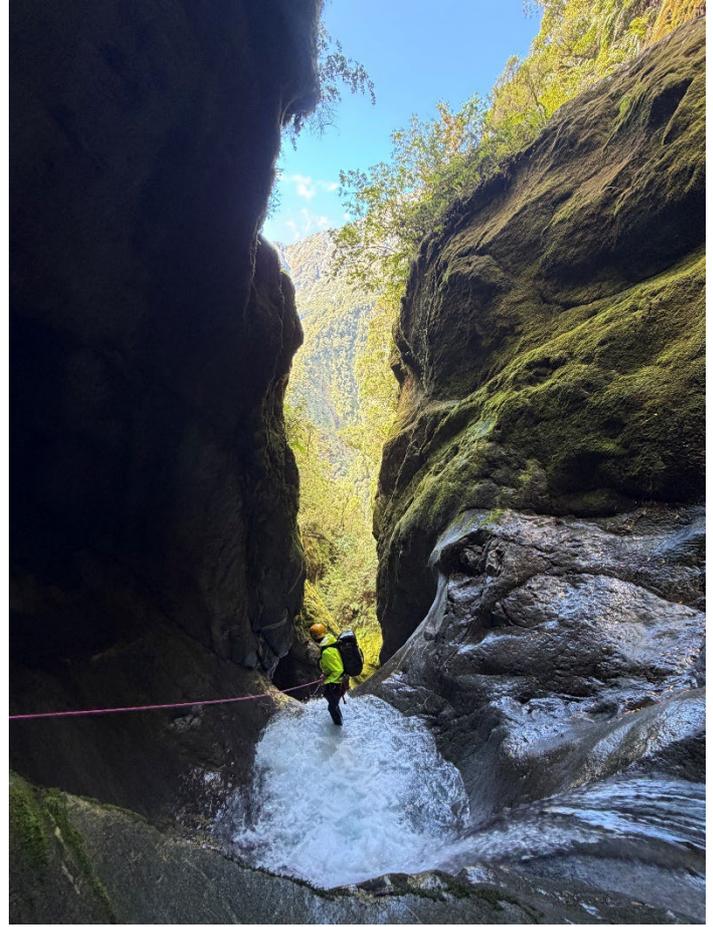
The Lower section has an obvious start dropping into the steep bush. There is a nice mix of raps and jumps/slides. All anchors are V threads. There are only anchors above some drops, the jump/slides don't have V threads but there are potential natural anchors.

Time

Harrison cove to start of canyon	3h 30min
Canyon descent	3h30min
Return to Harrison cove	1h 30min
Total	8h 30min

Notes

First descent upper: Jona, Nazomi, Will. Feb 2024
First descent lower: Jona, Mike, Will. March 2026



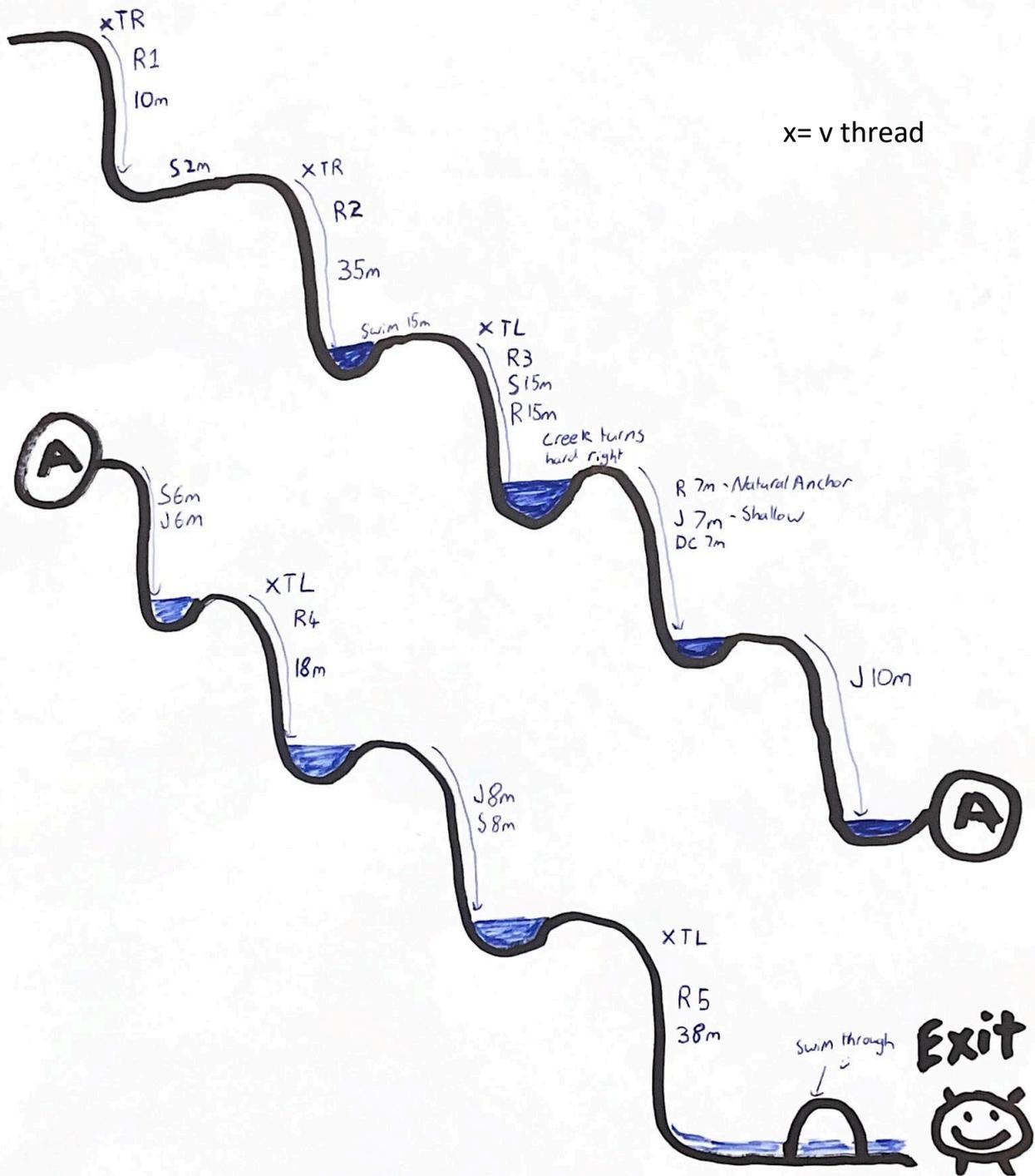
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