



# RUAMAHANGA

## Lower Gorge v1a4III★

### Location

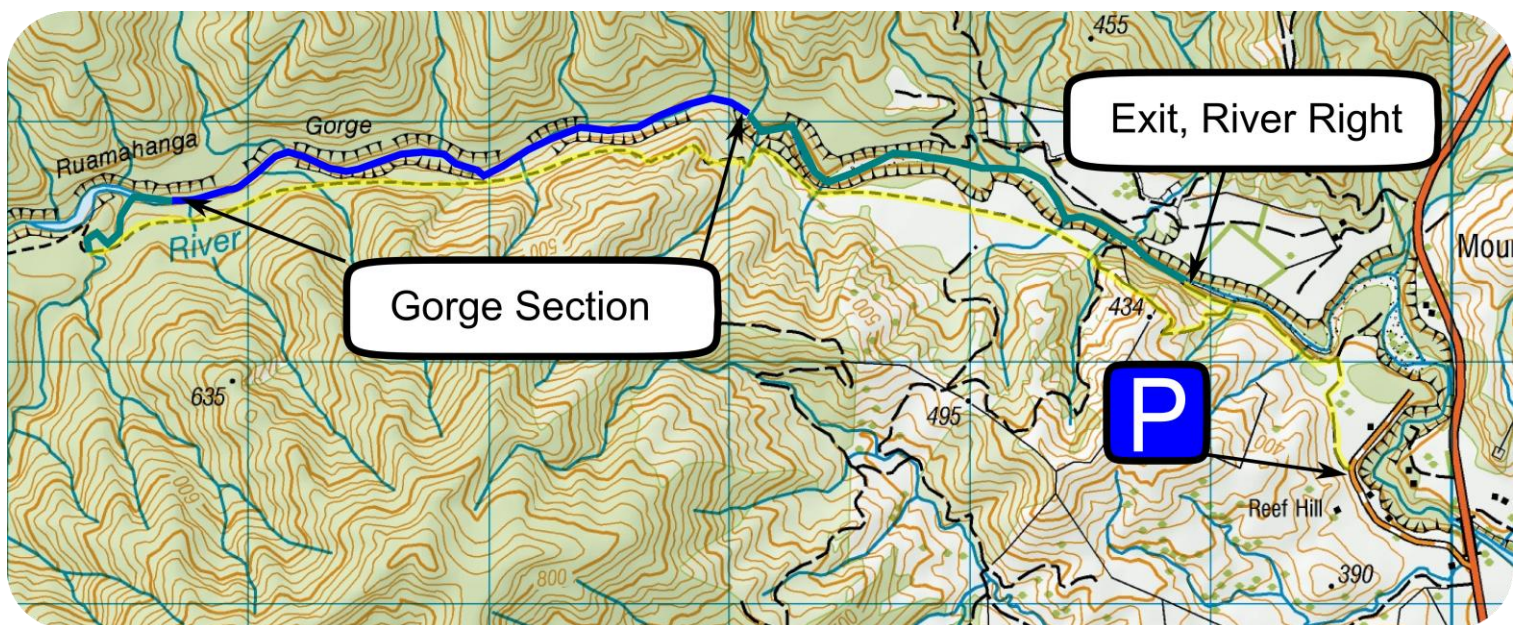
Eastern Tararua Ranges

### Character

Medium volume float trip through a beautiful gorge.

### Map

BN34 Shannon



### Approach by Car

Follow SH 2 to the bridge over the Ruamahanga River, 15 km south of Eketahuna, or 24 km north of Masterton. Immediately south of the bridge there is a small road towards the ranges, with a Fish and Game Access sign. Follow this for about 500m until you reach the carpark.

### Approach on Foot

Follow the faint vehicle track (with occasional orange triangles) over the private land, leaving any gates as you find them. After 10 minutes, the track heads sharp left and uphill. Keep following the track and triangles through farmland until you reach the bush, by a small private cottage. Continue on the track (with some short overgrown sections) until you cross the main southern tributary.

### Rock

Solid Greywacke



## Water

There is an electronic flow gauge near the SH2 bridge on the Ruamahanga. The reading can be found on the Greater Wellington Website.

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/our-environment/>

Mean flow is about 10 cumecs, which is a comfortable level. Flows around 5 cumecs start to get quite bumpy through the rapids.

## Catchment

70 km<sup>2</sup>

## Gear

As well as standard Canyoning equipment, extra floatation should be carried. 20" Truck Tyre tubes are recommended, however a large drybag filled with air in your pack is sufficient.

## Route Description

Walk easily down to the sidestream to the Ruamahanga. Immediately downstream, the first gorge starts. The gorge alternates between deep slow flowing green pools, up to 100m long and short boulder garden rapids. If necessary, all of the rapids can be avoided in normal flows, but many are quite fun to run.

There is a 500m or so open section of river, before the second gorge starts, which is very similar to the first.

After the 2<sup>nd</sup> gorge ends, travel alternates between the water and gravel banks. After observing the surrounding hills shrink from view and signs of farmland appear in the distance, keep a good eye out for the hill which you climbed over on the walk in. At the base of this hill, on river right is a track, marked with a small blue triangle and white disc. The track isn't easy to spot, but takes you a few minutes uphill to the access track and then back to your car.

## Time

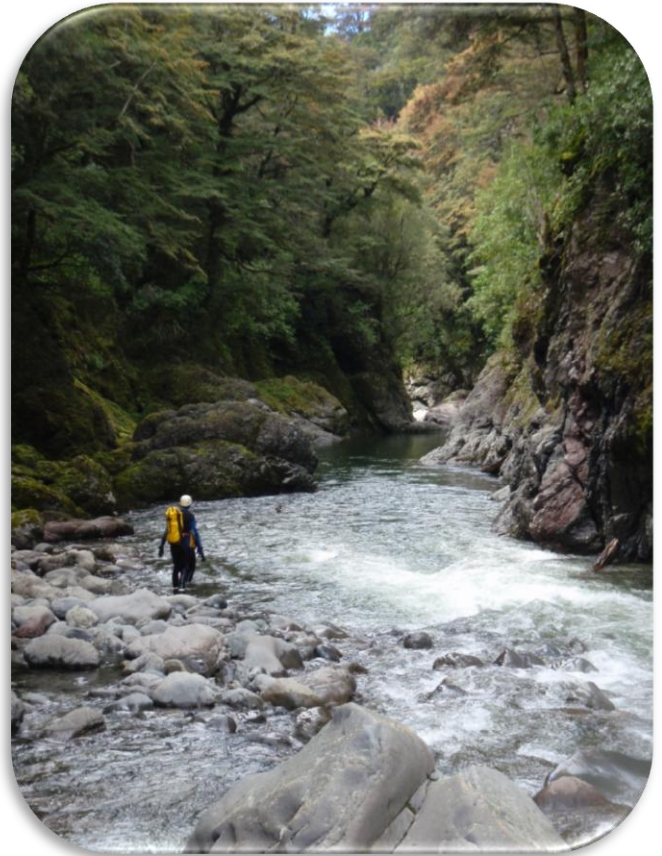
Carpark to sidestream	1h45m
Gorge section	1h30m
Open river section	1h30m
Return to carpark	10m
<b>Total</b>	<b>5h</b>

## Flash Flood Danger

Low. There are very few places where you could not scramble out of the gorge and into the bush.

## Escapes

Any escape would be south to the track, though it is often quite high above the river and would involve tedious bush bashing.



## Notes

The trip can be extended upstream by beginning at Cleft Creek, adding 2hrs to the trip and a short section of gorge just above the normal entrance.

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Topo by Daniel Clearwater  
[www.KiwiCanyons.org](http://www.KiwiCanyons.org)