



JUICY FALLS

Canyon v4a3IV ★

Location

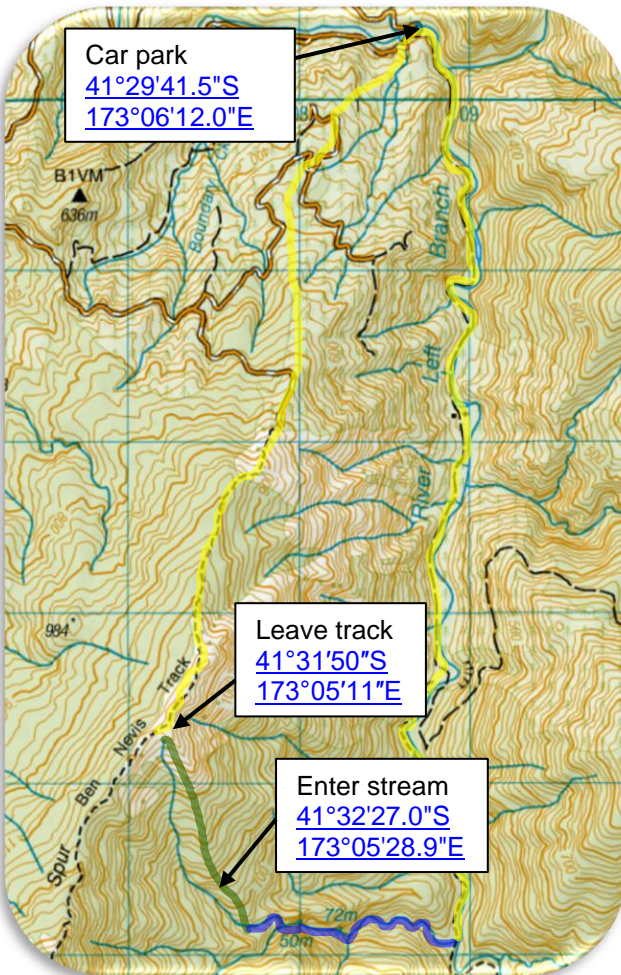
Wairoa Gorge, Richmond Ranges.

Character

Medium flow canyon with beautiful steep, clean abseils. Steep sidewalls in most places. Overall a good, challenging vertical canyon.

Map

BR25 – Tophouse. Note that the forestry roads and 4x4 tracks on the map are not accurate and complete.



Approach by Car

Drive up the Wairoa Gorge road to the gate with the DoC Ben Nevis track sign.

Approach on Foot

From the gate follow the Ben Nevis track on foot. This can also be done with a 4x4 but it's very rough. Follow the ridgeline south to 1190m where a spur runs along the first drainage into Juicy Falls. Stay on the true left of the stream. There is lots of loose rock everywhere. From

about 700m, the easiest way to travel is down the stream itself. After the canyon, follow the Wairoa Gorge tramping track for ~7km back to the car park.

Rock

Solid greywacke bedrock in the canyon, loose rock around the sides.

Water

Medium flow, the big waterfalls are pushy. Take care in higher levels.

Catchment

3 km²

Anchors

Natural anchors and bolts.

Gear

Minimum of 2 x 70m ropes.

Route Description

The canyon start with small and medium size vertical abseils and anchors that can be a bit tricky to reach. After the third abseil (15m) there is a confluence with the other tributaries which at least doubles the flow. The 50m pitch is a straight drop, the water picks up a lot of speed and escaping the flow is not an option. The 67m pitch falls in two stages, in both steps the flow has to be crossed which can be tough. All other drops are very manageable.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	3h30m
Canyon descent	4h
Return to vehicle	2h
Total	9h30m

Flash Flood Danger

Average.

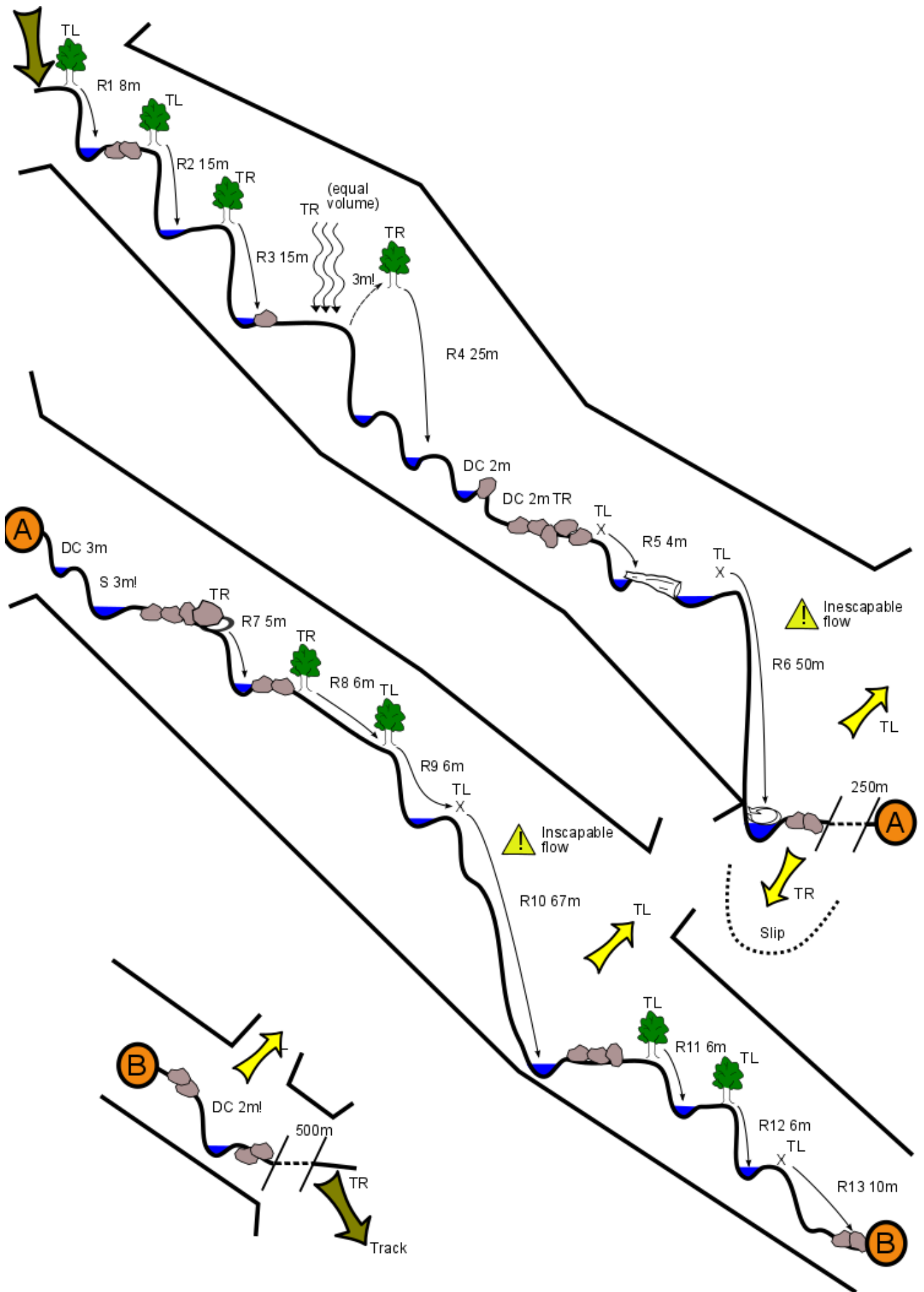
Escapes

Not many and the surrounding terrain is steep with many bluffs.

Notes

First descent: Toine Houtenbos, Riki Brown in high flow. 6/5/2014. Note that the flow in the photos below is probably twice normal levels.

Fun to effort ratio: $(4+2)/5.5=1.1$



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Topo by Toine Houtenbos
and Richard Bramley
www.kiwicanyons.org



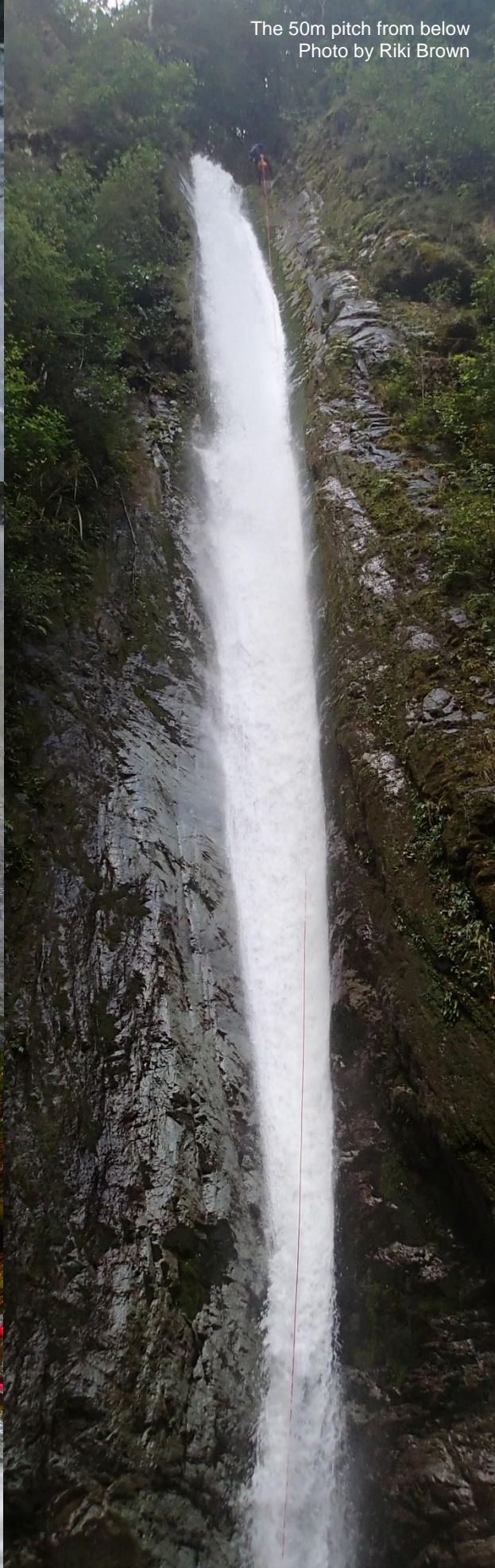
Toine Houtenbos on the 76m pitch
Photo by Riki Brown



Riki Brown on the 50m pitch
Photo by Toine Houtenbos



Riki Brown at the lead in abseil to the 67m
Photo by Toine Houtenbos



The 50m pitch from below
Photo by Riki Brown

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