

# Falls Creek Canyon V5A5 IV\*\*\*

**Approach by Car:** SH94 to Milford, passing the divide, and park at Falls Creek on the obvious [gravel clearing](#) on the side of the road. Allow room for buses to stop here!

**Approach by foot:** From your parked car, cross the Falls creek bridge and check water level at the bridge. Continue up the DOC Falls creek track on the TR side of Falls creek until [-44.82601733 168.07800368](#), you will be 50m from the creek, so head on down and enter the creek.

Continue downstream for approx 250m until a small section of downclimbs just before the main 80m waterfall. To avoid the potentially dangerous access across the pour over, scramble up TR into the bush and then down climb to the top of the 80m waterfall. You can gear up here as well, as there is no need to wear wetsuits for the 250m walk downstream from the track.

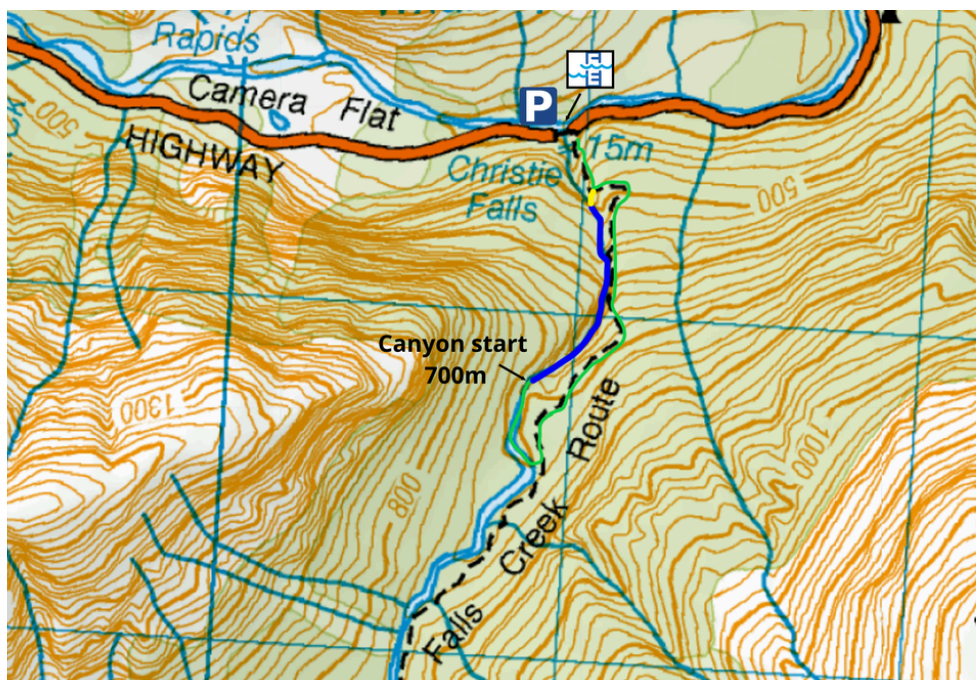
**Canyon entry:** R1 is a 80m multi pitch abseil into the cauldron. As you look down, take a few gulps as you calm your nerves!

**Canyon descent:** The canyon has steep walls with very few escapes. It briefly opens a couple of times, but is generally very enclosed. Water hazards exist even in low flows, and at normal or higher flows it demands even more respect. Some pools can have significant swell in them (up to half meter waves in normal flows even) and not all are deep so check before jumping. The pool before R9 (last abseil) has almost no room to stand around in and is exposed to access the last pitch.

This canyon topo only documents the canyon to the last major waterfall (R9). It does continue for another hundred meters or so in an open, cascading waterfall style fashion. The author decided against this section as the best had been done, and it would only be wasting anchor material on a sub par section that adds no value in his opinion. The FD team has done the whole section to the road.

**Exit:** After the last waterfall (R9), follow the obvious ledge system (which is extremely slippery- don't slip off, the pool is hard to escape especially in higher flows) to the TR and meet up with the Falls creek track. Finish with beers you stored under the bridge and bask in the glory of tourists admiring your bravery!

**Escapes:** No escapes have been verified, and the 2 marked ones may potentially end in bluffs as the terrain is very steep! Treat the canyon as inescapable!

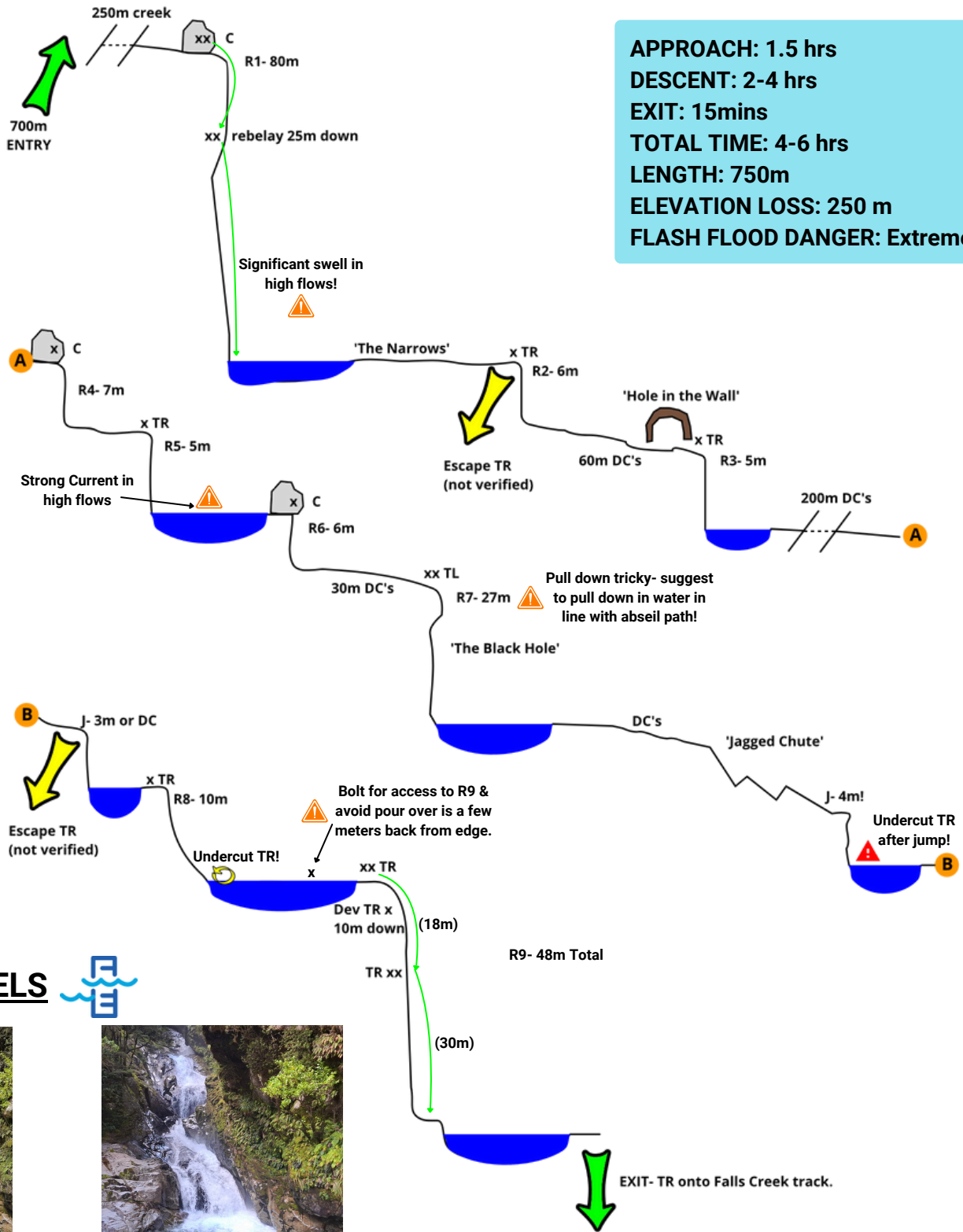


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**First descent:** Dave Vass, Tristan Barette & Alain Rohr 2007. Topo drawn by Patrick Timm (2021) for personal use.

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**APPROACH:** 1.5 hrs  
**DESCENT:** 2-4 hrs  
**EXIT:** 15mins  
**TOTAL TIME:** 4-6 hrs  
**LENGTH:** 750m  
**ELEVATION LOSS:** 250 m  
**FLASH FLOOD DANGER:** Extreme



## WATER LEVELS



Average Water Level

High Level



**A Note On Water Levels:** Small changes in the water level at the bridge greatly impact canyon hazards! At low levels, competent teams find it straightforward, but above-average levels introduce extra hazards and significantly increase difficulty, requiring teams with substantial A5 experience.

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