

Falls Creek Canyon V5A5 IV***

THIS CANYON SHOULD ONLY BE ATTEMPTED AFTER LONG PERIODS OF NO RAIN AND BY EXPERIENCED AND SKILLED TEAMS! SNOW MELT CAN MAKE LEVELS RISE IN EARLY SUMMER AND THE CATCHMENT AREA IS HUGE.

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. Continue up Falls creek track on TR side of Falls creek until -44.82601733 168.07800368, which should be obvious as you come close to Falls creek again.

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

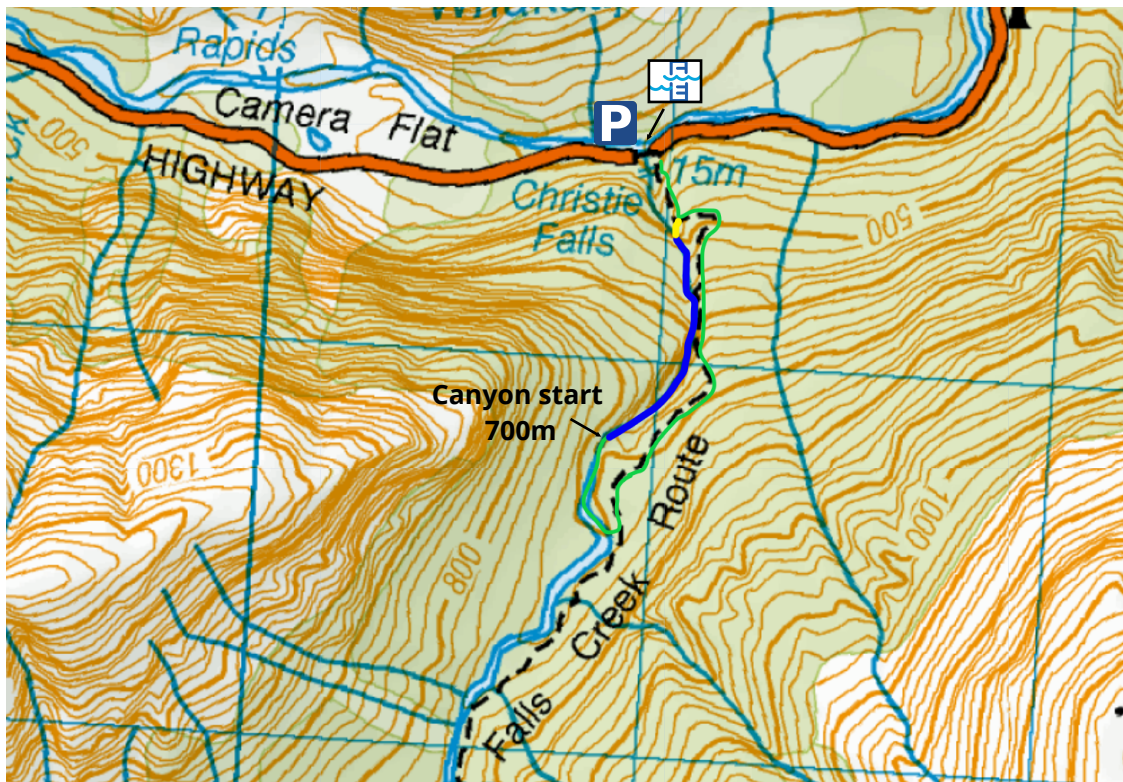
Canyon entry: R1 is a 80m multi pitch abseil into the cauldron. There are various boulders here to sling.

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. 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 will have a dangerous pour over in normal to higher flows.

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.

Exit: After the last waterfall (R9), follow the obvious ledge system to the TR and meet up with the Falls creek track. You will have seen this waterfall on your way up.

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!



Disclaimer: No responsibility or liability is taken for any harm, death or loss of property resulting from this documents use. Topo features, descriptions and notes may not be accurate and could be misleading. You must carry your own building materials, be experienced, and use your own judgment when canyoning, especially in this canyon. Flooding events can strip anchors and change the layout, features and conditions. Insufficient experience may result in death!

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

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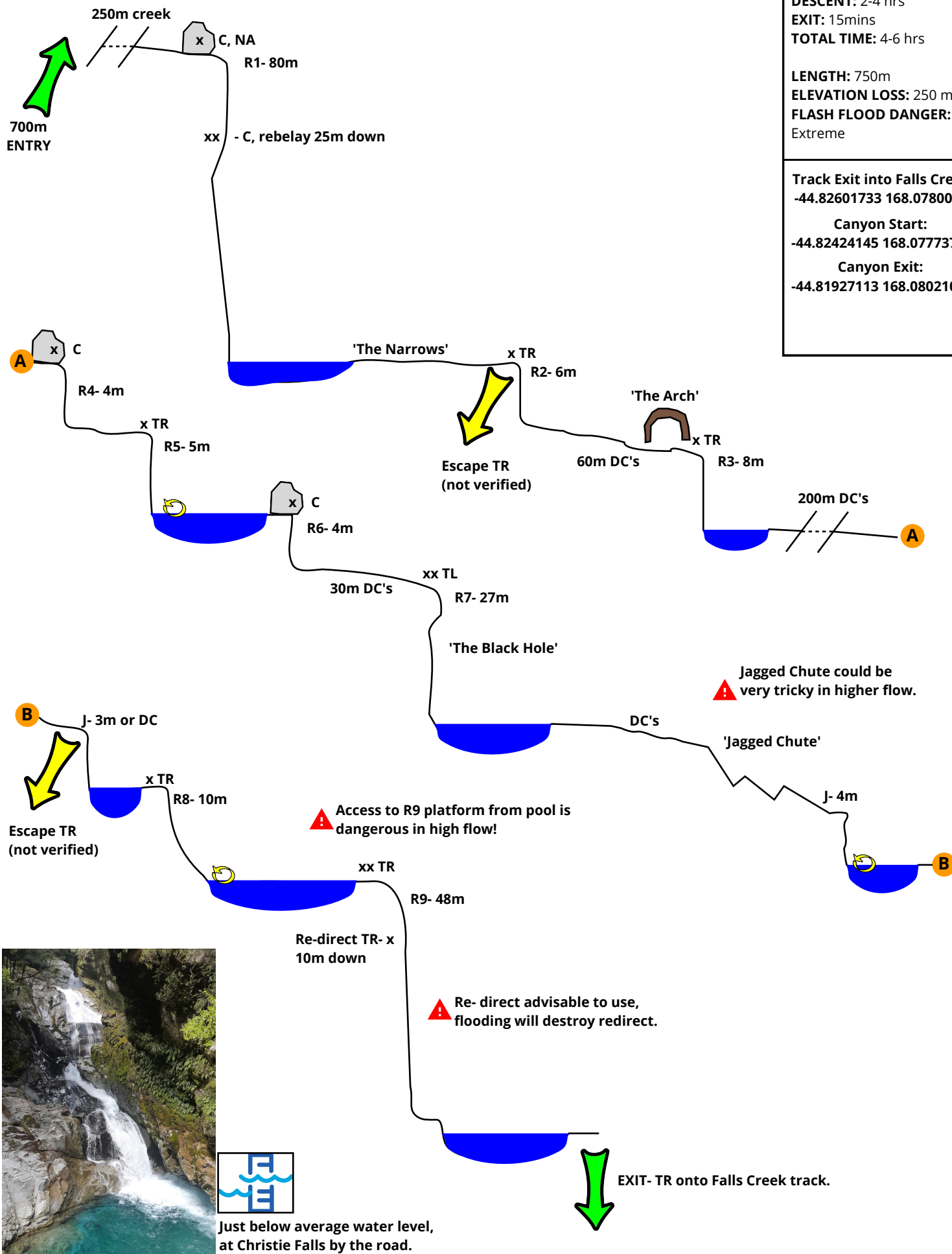
APPROACH: 1.5 hrs
DESCENT: 2-4 hrs
EXIT: 15mins
TOTAL TIME: 4-6 hrs

LENGTH: 750m
ELEVATION LOSS: 250 m
FLASH FLOOD DANGER:
 Extreme

Track Exit into Falls Creek:
 -44.82601733 168.07800368

Canyon Start:
 -44.82424145 168.07773776

Canyon Exit:
 -44.81927113 168.08021066



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