



FLOP N DROP (UPPER)

v3a3II ★★

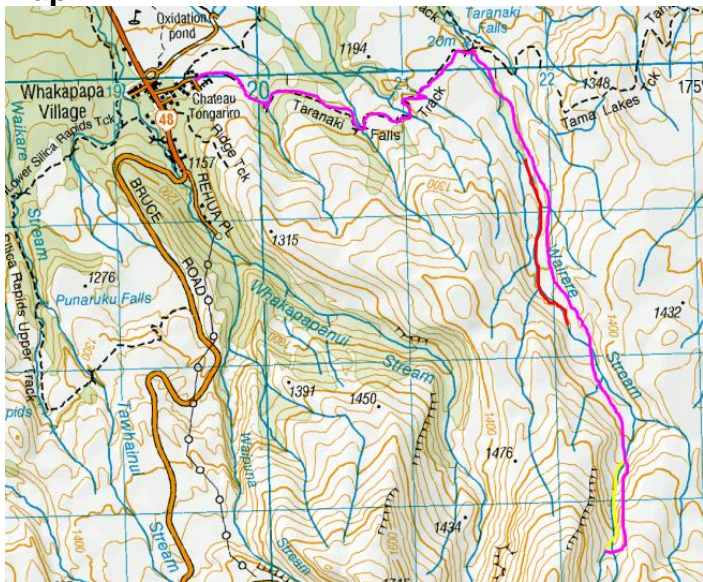
Location

Whakapapa

Character

An ideal beginner canyon to have fun down and learn ropework. None of the drops are too committing, you can scout everything on the way up and there are a ton of slides!

Map



Pink = Walk in, Yellow = Upper canyon, Red = Lower canyon

Start of upper: -39.228497, 175.575771

End of upper: -39.224474, 175.576501

Start of lower: -39.214965, 175.57251

End of lower: -39.205189, 175.569248

Approach by Car

Drive to Whakapapa

Approach on Foot

Follow the upper Taranaki Falls track. When you get to the falls, cross the bridge and immediately follow a route off the track that goes upstream on TR. Follow this to slightly higher than the top of the lower section, cross over and cut a bee-line on TL for the bottom of the upper section. When you get to the bottom of the upper section, cross to TR again and walk up the side of the river to the top of the canyon. This gives you an opportunity to scout everything. You will need to cross a small tributary at the top to get to the start. You will know you're at the start if there's a bolt with handcuffs.

Water

The water is cold! Not to mention the high alpine element creating nasty wind at times.

At medium to high flows, be aware of hydraulics after slides. These don't seem to be an issue at low flows.

3km² catchment.

Anchors

Single bolts

Gear

40m rope

Route Description

R1 is recognised by the handcuffs clipped to the bolt.

There are various opportunities for slides and playing down this section, they might not all be marked on the topo, so make sure you look for them! Most of them you can walk back up and do again, including "The Climax".

If you follow the river down to the lower section, there are two more bolted rap, one at the start of the lower section, and one at the end ("Francois' Struggle"), which can also be walked around. At medium flows, Francois' Struggle becomes very sticky, but if you set an abslide with a short rope length, you tend to flush through.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	2hrs
Upper Canyon descent	2hrs
Lower Canyon descent	2hrs
Return to Vehicle	1hr
Total	7hrs

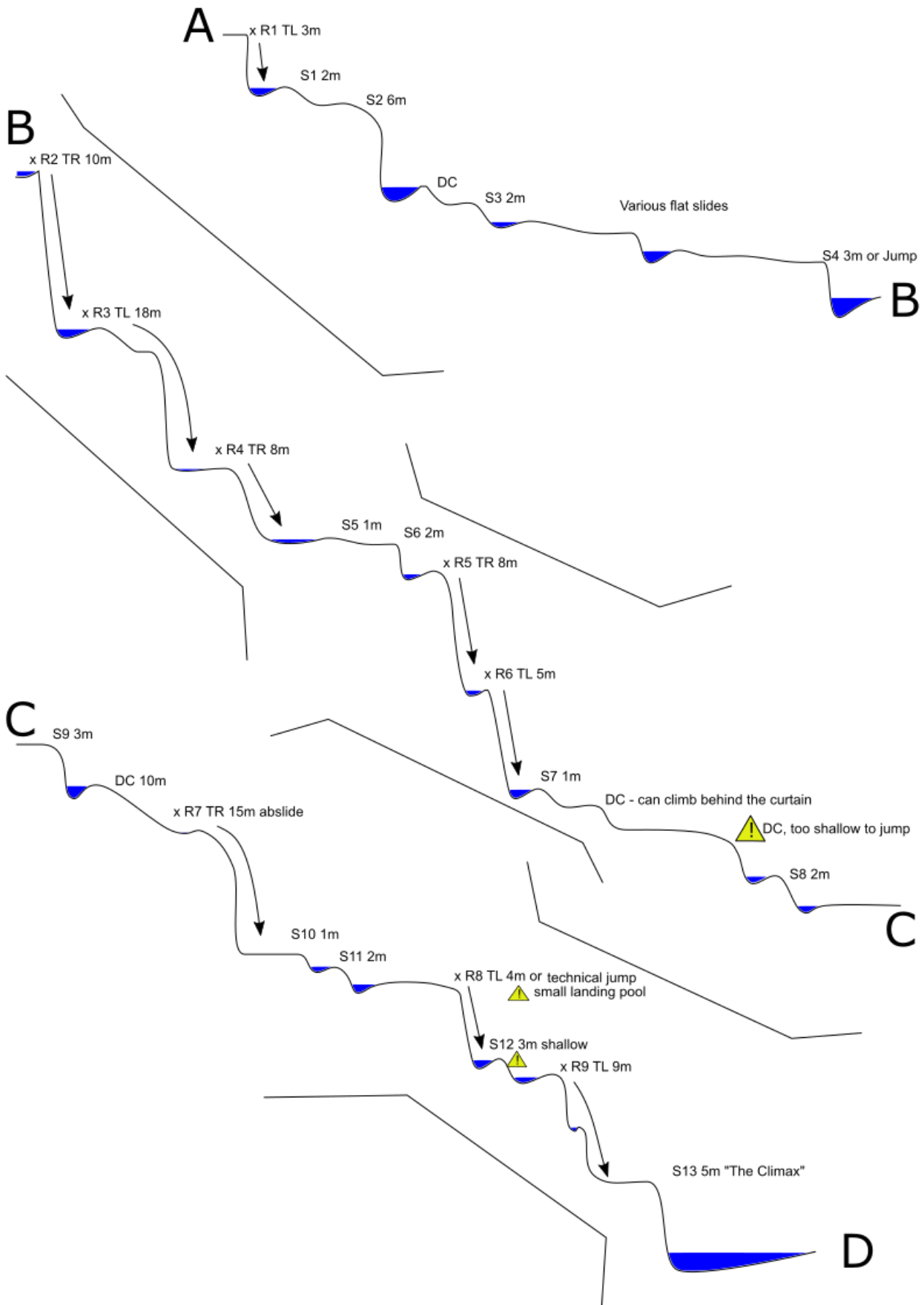
Hazards/Escapes

Hydraulics as flows increase.

Many escapes that you will be able to scout on the walk up. There are only a few points that are inescapable.

Notes

First canyoning descent: Jacob Mole, James Judd, Luke Carpenter and Sacha Knight 2023



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Just above the 6m slide at the start of the canyon



Looking up at R3



S13, "The Climax"

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