



KAPAKAPANUI SUMMIT CREEK

v4a1III ★

Location

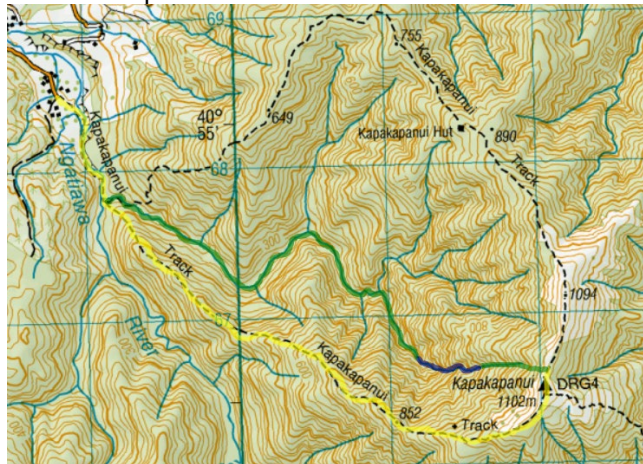
20 minutes inland from SH1 Waikanae on the Kapiti Coast, at the end of Ngatiawa Road.

Character

A low flow top to bottom waterfall tramping trip with a couple of lengthy rappels and scenic river walk.

Map

BP 32 Paraparaumu & BP 33 Featherston



Approach by Car

Drive to Waikanae on the Kapiti Coast then inland on the Reikorangi Road. Turn off at Ngatiawa Road and follow to the carpark at the start of the DOC walking track.

Approach on Foot

Gain the 1000m to the summit by following the marked DOC track. Don't follow the signs to the hut as this is the longer way to the top, anti-clockwise is the faster route. From the trig at the summit continue north on the track for a couple of minutes until you reach grid ref 1782029, 5466582. This allows for the easiest access into the goblin forest without having to fight through leatherwood. Once in the goblin forest carefully head down and slightly north, the ground is steep and loose in spots.

Rock

Greywacke, mostly average to poor condition.

Water

Low volume in normal flows.

Catchment

<1km²

Anchors

Natural anchors.

Gear

Minimum of 2x50m rope.

Route Description

The start of the creek is a steep and chossy gully but is easily scrambled down. After a few hundred meters descent you will come to the first couple of drops. The first team to descend walked around these drops in the bush on the true right. The next two drops have easy to access tree anchors. At the top of R3 there is a large tree at the edge of the drop on the TR that can be used as the obvious anchor, take care when moving around the tree its quite exposed on the rappel side and the ground is loose. The side of the waterfall has a lot of loose rock for both R3 and R4 there is a risk of dislodging large rocks when moving through this area, move away from the fall line once off rappel. Anchors for last few features are easy to locate if you move along the true right side. After the last rappel its about a 2hr walk back to the car park down the waterway. The creek remains a chossy river bed for another few hundred meters of decent before it becomes a nice stream walk. There are 3x 2-3m downclimbs along the way.

Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	3h30m
Canyon descent	2h30m
Return to Vehicle	2h
Total	8h

Flash Flood Danger

Low in the upper section, the lower stream is fed by the entire Kapakapanui basin.

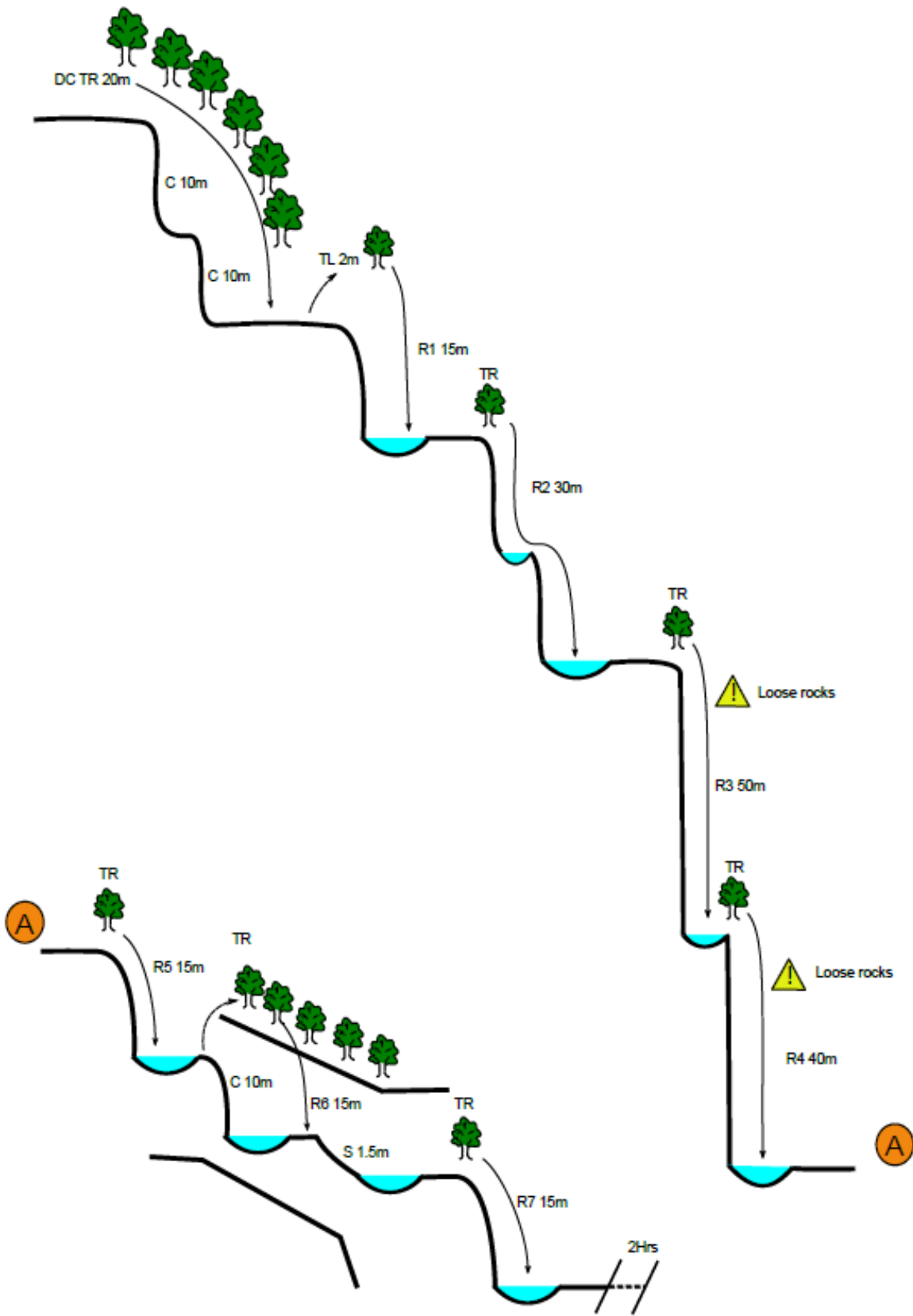
Escapes

The canyon is escapable throughout and most things can be bypassed however it would involve climbing back up to the track through some dense bush if traveling the river wasn't an option.

Notes

Using the natural anchors set the line slightly to the side of the flow in most cases, it also ment that a few drops were bypassed on the first decent. On a clear day you get great views over Kapiti from the summit, on a claggy day you get to descend the creek through the clouds making for some great scenes.

First decent 23rd October 2024. Alex Waterworth, Jay Campbell and Sam Barrett.



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Topo by Alex Waterworth

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Down climbing the start of the creek

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Looking down R2

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The top of R3 looking down through the cloud.

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