



VICTORY

Canyon

v3a3II ★★

Location Maruia (Lewis Pass)

Character Short but high quality. Four slotted drops in quick succession. Easy access makes it a worthwhile stop on the way to your next canyoning destination. There's a strong smell of sulphur at the put in, so there must be a hot spring nearby!

Time Walk from car park to canyon start: 1hr
Canyon descent: 1.5hrs
Return to car park: 0.5hr
Total: 3hrs

Map & Coordinates Topo map:
[BT23 Lewis Pass](#)
Car park:
[-42.374466, 172.367909](#)
Canyon start:
[-42.362159, 172.367892](#)

Highest Waterfall 30m

Suggested Gear Minimum 2 x 30m rope

Canyon Distance 350m horizontal, 80m vertical

Rock Greywacke, hard

Flow Medium volume, cold. 4.8 km² catchment

Anchors All drops currently rigged with single bolts (8mm zinc screws and SS ring hangers). Needs upgrading to double bolt anchors (using 10mm SS expansion bolts, the existing screw holes can be reused). Limited natural anchor options, so take a bolting kit until the canyon is upgraded

Flood & Escapes Short but very enclosed. There is a climb out above the biggest drop

Approach by Car When heading south, drive 3.3km past Maruia Springs and find a safe place to park the car. When heading north, drive 3.2km past the Lewis Pass car park. Alternatively, you could park at the Maruia Springs car park and walk a few km up the riverbed (longer option).

Approach on Foot Bush bash down towards the Maruia river (it is easy, open beech forest). Cross the Maruia river (take your shoes off in case of Didymo) and follow the spur on the True Left of the canyon. Follow the 780m contour into the canyon.

Canyon Route Description Four rappels – 6m, 12m, 30m, 12m – with a few short downclimbs in between. The first rappel is also a jump, although the pool is not very deep. The anchor for the 30m is placed quite high on the True Right (the only place in decent rock out of the flood zone) and may require a short climb up to. You may want to rig a safety line to approach the drop.

First Descent Adrien Paris, Mark Caldwell, Mark Parfitt, Chris Whitehouse, Richard Bramley. 18 Jan 2022. [Video](#)

Topo Author Richard Bramley, 9 Feb 2022



