Rio Fra i Giai

Fra Giai

Create: 2026-06-15 13:24:44	**Update:** 2026-07-22 15:10:20	**Print:** 2026-10-30 11:10:37
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Veneto **Subregion:** Belluno **Town:** Santo Stefano di Cadore		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v4 a1 V	**Total time:** 6h30
Approachtime: 2h	**Tourtime:** 4h	**Returntime:** 30min
Altitude entry: 1680m	**Altitude exit:** 1180m	**Delta Altitude:** 500m
Canyon length: m	**Highest rapell:** 60m	**Amount rapells:** 33
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 4 (3)	**Info:** ★ 3 (3)	**Belay:** ★ 1.7 (3)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x60m

Summary: (machine translated)
A long, deep, and narrow gorge with a 60-meter waterfall at the exit (La Ciodrata) that has been developed for tourism. There is hardly any walking terrain, and the rock is rich in fossils.
Small watershed; best explored after rainfall.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
From Santo Stefano di Cadore toward Belluno, about 500 meters past the bridge over the Piave, turn left onto an asphalt road at a wayside shrine. Since the road is unfortunately closed to motorized traffic, you'll need to park on the right here.

Approach: (machine translated)
Follow the paved road for about 15 minutes to a small saddle with a fenced-in spring; here, turn left onto a forest road and turn left again at the next junction (signposted "La Ciodrata"). The forest road soon becomes a path. Cross the Rio Grande and return to a forest road; follow it through many hairpin bends until, at about 1,580 m, CAI Path 330 branches off to the left. Climb another 100 hm along the old military path, then traverse into the valley of our canyon.

Tour: (machine translated)
The tour begins about 20hm below the hiking trail. The first 5 rappels are still open before the stream cuts into the first gorge. After about 11 rappels and downclimbs, the canyon opens up briefly—the only possible escape route in case of high water. Then it quickly becomes narrow and deep again. The further down you go, the more fossil-rich the rock becomes. The gorge ends with a 60-meter waterfall that's already visible from below. The subsequent 10-meter step is downclimbed on the left using a wire rope.
Currently, many rappels still lead over several pools, and there are several tricky downclimbs. The route could certainly use a few more anchors.

Return: (machine translated)
Take the hiking trail back to the car. You could ride your bike as far as the turnoff for the Troi dla Ciodrata to make the long return trip easier.

Coordinates:
Parking Entry and Exit 46.5514 12.5443
Canyon Start 46.5338 12.5668
Canyon End 46.5325 12.5579

Reports:

2026-10-25 | PeterAlbertini | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
Alpine setting, beautiful canyon! Highly recommended. You may need to bring additional gear... but what you have should be enough to descend. (machine translated)

2026-06-22 | Rick Paapy | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ Dry | 👍 Completed
A really nice, deep, steep-walled canyon! We loved it—it was awesome. We placed 4 bolts and think maybe 2 or 3 more could be placed. But for a rugged canyon like this, it would be nice not to add too much metal!!!! It took us 2.5 hours to hike up, and another 2.5 hours to hike through the canyon at a really relaxed pace. The water level was almost dry—it would probably be nice after rain or in the spring? (machine translated)

2026-06-13 | Horst Lambauer | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
First ascent—we underestimated how many rappelling points there are in the canyon, so we drilled some belay stations that span multiple steps. There are also a few technical downclimbs that could use some anchors. We really only bolted where we couldn’t get any further. That’s why the second ascenders should definitely bring along 15 anchors! The canyon absolutely deserves to be well-equipped. A top-notch alpine canyon. I’ve never seen so many fossils in a canyon before. (machine translated)

First descent: 14.06.2026 by Horst Lambauer, Georg Rudelstorfer, David Sefaj, Thomas Csencsitz, Grega & Erik Mafi, Georg Buol