Torrent de Chichin

Cascades de Dormillouse

Create: 2023-08-29 09:23:43	**Update:** 2025-08-05 18:08:15	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:30
Country: France **Region:** Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur / Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur **Subregion:** Hautes-Alpes **Town:** Freissinières		
Difficulty: very difficult	**Grading:** v6 a6 IV	**Total time:** 7h5
Approachtime: 1h	**Tourtime:** 6h	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 1760m	**Altitude exit:** 1440m	**Delta Altitude:** 320m
Canyon length: 1330m	**Highest rapell:** 70m	**Amount rapells:** 22
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:** slate	**Drainage area:** 25.00km²
Season: August - November	**Orientation:** Southeast	**Best Time:** 10-17 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 5 (3)	**Info:** ★ 2.5 (2)	**Belay:** ★ 2.3 (4)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 70m

Summary: (machine translated)
A sensational ratio of access and canyoning pleasure.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
If you are coming from Gap via the R.N. 94, drive past Guillestre and turn left at the end of Saint-Crépin onto the D38, which leads up to Pallon (start of the Canyon de la Biaysse - Gouffre de Gourfouran). If you are coming from Briançon, turn right before La Roche-de-Rame.
Follow the departmental road 38B and then the D 238 through the Freissinières valley to the parking lot that marks the exit of the road.
Here you will find yourself in the majestic setting of Dormillouse.

Approach: (machine translated)
From the parking lot (which is often crowded in high summer), take the path that crosses the Oules de Freissinières and climb up the G.R. on the right bank of the Torrent de Chichin. At one point, leave the forest and "shoot due north" into the boulder field. Continue in this direction and do not return to the south, which leads to the Oules. You will then reach the village of Dormillouse.
At the small wooden bridge, head west again until you reach another small bridge, which is stone and Roman. The tranquillity and beauty of the surroundings should not stop you from getting out your equipment to gear up...

Tour: (machine translated)
From the Roman bridge, walk 20 m up the stream to the first sill. A first C3 (spits in R.G.) can be jumped over when you see the block hidden under the foam. If the level allows, you can overcome it with a slide. You then pass under a natural millennial arch and can make a jump from a height of 6 meters. After crossing the Roman bridge, you can use the R.G. to get out. This allows a team member to install a zip line from below if you wish.
The canyon then opens up to a more open area or between the sun with small abseils, slides and medium sized jumps (max. 10 m). Be careful with the numerous jumps, where you have to assess the "landing zone" well... Rappels too close from the water are guaranteed... too far is the knee in the chin...

At the wooden bridge you saw on the ascent, you can take a break and eat by going to the right.
Then you continue with a series of jumps and slides, including the famous "S" slide. Then you come to the most vertical part, where the abseiling sections
This is followed by a fairly long sequence of abseils: C15 + C4 + R7 + C30 + C10 + C40 + C20 + C45... OUF... We have (at the top of this position) 170 m of gas under our feet...
The gear is installed and the only special point of this part is the last 65m abseil, which has to be split. Then one member of the rope team descends to the relay (where there is no room for more than two members) to place the 45m rope for the final rappel.

Commitment
The equipment is very good, the depth of the pools varies from one year to the next.... The slips are before the wooden bridge, then two immediately after on the right. The last two are on the same bank at the top and bottom of the C30.... After that it is ... "atmospheric".

Period/water character
Some years the conditions for a descent will never be there ... This shows how watery this canyon is, which is only very rarely accessible before the exit of August and until the snow arrives.

The history
First ascent by Max Imbert and Henri Vincens.

This route, considered very difficult, offers you the opportunity to navigate canyons in a remarkable alpine scenic setting. At the exit of the FREISSINIERES valley, the Biaysse river flows from the confluence of two torrents that emerge from deep and wild canyons: the Torrent des OULES and the Torrent de CHICHIN. The site at the heart of the PARC NATIONAL des ECRINS is exceptional for its fauna, flora and human environment. Climbing the Torrent de CHICHIN is a serious undertaking reserved for experienced sportsmen. You must be able to assess the risks before embarking on the descent, especially in terms of the speed of the water, as several passages can become traps. If the water spreads across the entire width of the waterfall and forms an almost uninterrupted curtain, the water level is too high. When the cascade splits into clearly separated rivulets, the conditions are most favorable. These conditions are usually present at the exit of the season (end of August, September). Don't forget to stow the equipment in the car.
Once you have stowed the equipment in the car, you can try the excellent raspberry and blueberry tarts in the car at the exit of the parking lot.

DORMILLOUSE, a village inhabited all year round, takes its name from the old French "l'endormie" (the marmot). It is only supplied by helicopter twice a year by the General Council of the Hautes-Alpes. So remember to bring the newspaper or something similar to one of the accommodations ... They will appreciate your gesture...

Return: (machine translated)
At the foot of this very beautiful waterfall, you leave the path to RG on a well-marked path that leads past beautiful wild raspberries.... but "shhhh".

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 44.7396 6.4391
Canyon End 44.7337 6.4471
Alternative Canyon Start 44.7366 6.4420
Parking Entry and Exit 44.7336 6.4502
Alternative Canyon Start 44.7350 6.4447

Reports:

2026-10-04 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Comme annoncé tout est engravé. Le siphon au debut a disparu . Le tob en S pareil . Malgré tout on a reussi a faire quelque tob malgré le peu de fond en reception . La grande magnifique. Dommage que la queue de cheval de vienne pas titiller la ligne de rappel avec ce debit ... (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html)

2026-09-25 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Did the integrale. Equipment fine. The canyon is not at its best, filled with gravel and mud, with murky water. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html)

2026-09-20 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin RAS, pas un gros débit pour CE canyon, mais ça déroule quand même au pied des cascades. Bcp d'équipements hors crue, avec le soleil on a eu chaud. GD - / DC normal + (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html)

2026-09-20 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Entièrement engravé, ça gâche un peu la première partie.La grande cascade est magnifique 2h20 pour l intégrale (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html)

2026-09-19 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Fait à 4 à partir du pont de bois Passage du geyser mythique !Attention la cascade avant le passage du geyser fait beaucoup plus que 20m, une 30aine de mètres, on a utilisé une 65m pour traverser la vasque du geyser et arriver au dernier relais. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html)

2026-09-19 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Fait à 4 à partir du pont de bois Passage du geyser mythique ! (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html)

2026-09-18 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Équipement OK, lea queue de cheval passe bien (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html)

2026-09-15 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin On a fait que la deuxième partie à partir du pont en bois. GD mais tout se descend hors actif du coup on sent pas grand chose. Aucune difficulté technique pour nous alors qu'on connaissait pas le canyon. On a fait quelques toboggants mais aucun saut. 3h voiture à voiture à 2.Par contre on s'est fait surprendre par la hauteur de la deuxième partir de la dernière cascade. On a utilisé le relais en RG juste à côté du geyser et il faut 2 x 50m de corde ! Le C43 est peut-être depuis un relais RD. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html)

2026-09-13 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Tous engravé, on a pied de partour. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html)

2026-09-12 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Les commentaires précédent résume bien l'état des lieux du canyon. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html)

2026-09-12 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin En crue 2 jours avant, GD ce jour, TGD critère dc, parti depuis la passerelle, aucune difficulté pour la partie inférieure, l’équipement est vraiment hors crue. D’après un guide qu’on a croisé, il manque pas mal de points dans la partie amont. Toutes les vasques sont complètement engravées, aucun saut / toboggans possible, syphon du départ bouché, méconnaissable par rapport il y a 2 semaines. Beaucoup moins ludique du coup. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html)