

Torrent de Chichin

Cascades de Dormillouse

Create: 2023-08-29 09:23:43	Update: 2024-02-02 16:54:55	Print: 2025-07-09 07:07:32
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
Approach time: 1h	Tourtime: 6h	Returntime: 5min
Altitude entry: 1760m	Altitude exit: 1440m	Delta Altitude: 320m
Canyon length: m	Highest rappel: 70m	Amount rapells:
Transport: on Foot	Rock type:	drainage area: km ²
Season:	Orientation: Southeast	Best Time:
Rating: ★ 5 (1)	Info: ★ 3 (1)	Belay: ★ 3 (1)
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 Biayse 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.

DORMILOUSE, 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](#)

Reports:

2024-09-21 | System User | |📖|⚓| ≡ High | 🤗 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Super canyon et très belle conditions. Le siphon passe bien (vérifier quand même avant), il y a un tronc coincé au niveau du rétablissement pour passer le siphon et pouvoir vérifier la sortie. Beaucoup de saut et toboggan presque pas mis la corde sur la première partie, attention toutefois à un petit toboggan précède d'un ressaut avec une petite vasque qui tourne (le toboggan ou le saut ne passe pas à cause des blocs au fond) on a failli se faire piéger. Rencontre avec des futurs DE très sympa. Effectivement la goulotte avant le geyser s'est élargi il faut être vigilant au débrayage avec un noeud patate pour le premier afin d'aller sous la casquette. Régalez-vous et attention aux prochaines pluie qui vont grossir le débit. (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html>)

2024-09-17 | System User | |📖|⚓| ≡ High | 🤗 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Magnifique canyon !!! Attention tout ne saute pas , il faut sonder si on ne connaît pas car il y a pas mal de bloc ! Pour la dernière cascade au niveau du coup de canon on a déroulé quasiment 60m de corde (corde mesurée) ?! alors que dans les topos ont a vu 45m . Mon conseil est de prendre au moins une longueur de 60m . Sinon c'est vraiment une merveille ce canyon : très esthétique , ludique et avec une belle verticale à la fin !!! (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html>)

2024-09-17 | System User | |📖|⚓| ≡ High | 🤗 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Magnifique canyon !!! Rentabilité extraordinaire : 1h de marche d'approche pour 3-4h de parcours ! Première partie ludique, ça saute, toboggans, on se fait bien arroser, et la cagoule était la bienvenue !! Deuxième partie plus verticale. Dernier cassé avec queue de cheval magnifique. Attention à bien gérer les courants, siphons, fortement ! Magnifique cadre, ambiance montagne. On adore ! (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html>)

2024-09-14 | System User | |📖|⚓| ≡ High | 🤗 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Juste époustouflant. Équipe de choc. (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html>)

2024-09-14 | System User | |📖|⚓| ≡ High | 🤗 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin 2eme chichin en deux semaines on fait parler la passion ! équipe de 4 au top. Descente partagé avec suze51 et epine79 (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html>)

2024-09-14 | System User | |📖|⚓| ≡ High | 🤗 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Simplement énorme. Merci à Ricardcoca pour le guidage !!! (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html>)

2024-08-31 | System User | |📖|⚓| ≡ High | 🤗 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html>)

2024-08-31 | System User | |📖|⚓| ≡ High | 🤗 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Magnifique canyon, à ne pas mettre entre toutes les mains. Ça saute et toboggan pas mal. Le CREPS de Montpellier était dans le canyon. Impressionnant. Ils rééquipent fort. Avec Martin (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html>)

2024-08-26 | System User | |📖|⚓| ≡ High | 🤗 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Chichin Arrêtez tout , dite à votre femme que vous devez partir en urgence , à vos enfants que vous avez mieux à faire que de leurs raconter des histoires qui vous saoule et à votre boss que c'est un con et bougez vous d'aller faire chichin qui est dans des conditions venu d'un autre monde !!! Tout saute et passe en toboggan , on a presque pas sortie les cordes sauf pour la dernière partie . Le toboggan du milieu est exceptionnel , je n'ai pas jamais connu chichin dans ces conditions , je sais même pas si c'est le même canyon :pli est en gros débit même un peu plus dans les endroits où c'est plus encaissé mais pour un canyoneur expérimenté c'est un pur régal . Des le début on est mis dans l'ambiance du au débit mais putain qu'il est booooooon . L'équipement est impeccable.Bougez vous d'aller en profiter.5h à 7 , que du plaisir :D (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2265/observations.html>)