Dorferbach

Create: 2023-03-09 20:49:55	**Update:** 2026-10-07 09:08:41	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:41
Country: Österreich / Austria **Region:** Tirol **Subregion:** Bezirk Lienz **Town:** Prägraten am Großvenediger		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v3 a4 III	**Total time:** 4h17
Approachtime: 10min	**Tourtime:** 3h30	**Returntime:** 37min
Altitude entry: 2160m	**Altitude exit:** 1650m	**Delta Altitude:** 510m
Canyon length: m	**Highest rapell:** 20m	**Amount rapells:** 14
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 4.2 (10)	**Info:** ★ 2.8 (8)	**Belay:** ★ 2.1 (9)

Specialities:
Winter canyon,

Gear:
Ropes: 2x40

Summary: (machine translated)
The Dorferbach is a stream that can only be walked from the exit of October to the beginning of November. It is fed by a glacier and has too much water in summer to be passable. Only in October/November, when the temperature at night at 2000m is at or below 0°, the Dorferbach becomes passable. Accordingly, you should be equipped for the walk!

The gorge has several gorges, which are interrupted by longer walking passages in the streambed. He impresses especially geologically, because he has "eaten" through beautifully grained serpentine, partly interspersed with beautiful quartz veins.

It is a gorgeous glacial canyon that is highly impressive geologically. Beautiful quartz vein eaten through by the stream. Several rock gates/rock bridges. Unique canyon section under the landslide through below the Gumpachkreuz.
Can only be done when it is freezing above 2000m at night, otherwise impassable due to high water level, appropriate equipment and possibly warming drinks necessary.
Not for people who can not deal with cold, narrowness and darkness. South exposure, thus in sunshine even in late autumn good lighting conditions

Hydrology: (machine translated)
The trail is only passable at night when temperatures drop below 2,000 meters, as it is otherwise impassable due to high water levels; appropriate gear and possibly warming beverages are necessary.

A good time to hike this trail would be late October through early November.

Link to the webcams via the Venediger Taxi website (Johannishütte webcam, view of the Großvenediger):
https://www.huettentaxi.at/webcams-in-osttirol-praegraten/

Access: (machine translated)
Drive to Lienz in East Tyrol, then continue for about 26 km on the B108 toward Matrei. At Matrei, turn into the Virgental valley and drive about 17 km to Hinterbichl. Drive through Hinterbichl and across the Dorferbach bridge (you'll see an old mill on the right). 700 m after the bridge, take the first possible right turn, heading up the mountain. After another 1.3 km, you'll reach the "Johannishütte" parking lot. Park here.

To make the access to the Johannishütte more comfortable—which is especially recommended during the season when the Dorferbach is only passable on foot—you can reserve the Venediger Taxi the day before. The taxi takes you up the mountain to the Johannishütte, shortening the access time from about 2 hours to about 10 minutes.
Venediger Taxi:
Per ride: 17 euros per person

Day rate (valid from 6:30 a.m.): min. 60 euros / trip
Phone: +43 4877 5369
Email: info@huettentaxi.at
https://www.huettentaxi.at/huettentaxi-johannishuette/

Approach: (machine translated)
From the Johannishütte, take the gravel road uphill and cross the Zettalunitzbach stream after approx. 100m in the direction of the "Boulder area". Follow the initially clearly recognizable path until you reach the Dorferbach stream. Follow this upstream until you reach a small wooden bridge at the beginning of the Dorferbach gorge at approx. 2160m.

Tour: (machine translated)
The first gorge begins at 2160m directly at a wooden bridge under which there is a rock arch. The first rappel is either a 6m rappel or a 4m jump. This is followed by another small rappel followed by a nice downclimb, short swim and walking passages before the stream makes a 90° left turn, becomes open again and you pass the Johannishütte.

After a longer walking passage in the streambed, past the Johannishütte, you come to the next gorge, which again begins at a wooden bridge. Here you will probably find one of the largest exposed quartz veins running through the middle of a stream. The village stream has really hollowed out the quartz vein - this spot alone would be worth doing the stream - but the most exciting part is yet to come.
Past the beautiful quartz vein, a small swimming passage follows and you come to a striking clamping block under which you pass below. It becomes increasingly narrow and you come to the next beautiful rock arch that has been carved into the stone. Here you rappel down 5m before you reach the next beautiful rock arch after about 50m of walking and downclimbing. Here, the first person should rappel into the pool with body protection and check whether it is possible to jump. During our ascent, this pool was jumpable.
This is followed by an open walking passage under another rock arch down to the first higher rappel (approx. 17m). After another walking passage, there is another jump before you reach the dam wall of the small power station after another walking passage. It takes about 1.5 hours to get here.
Here you leave the stream and walk along the forest road to the Gumpach cross.

At the Gumpach cross, follow the hiking trail downhill towards Dorferbach. The 3rd gorge section begins directly in front of the Felschaos. A unique dark gorge section with fantastic geological formations begins here! The Dorferbach stream was buried here by a large landslide and has eaten further into the rock under the landslide. The entry into the rock chaos is on the left where you squeeze through a small hole into the rock chaos. This is followed by a clamping block through which you have to crawl underneath. This is followed by an extremely dark swimming passage on the right, past a clamping block. After another narrow section where you squeeze past on the left, you can see daylight again and the road on the left above. This is followed by the first 8m rappel in this part under another huge clamping block. Here you come to a beautiful passage out of the darkness and you can see the fantastic panorama out of the Dorfertal. This is followed by another dry rappel at a clamping block back into the darkness. After another forced rappel in the water, there is a small downclimb or 5m rappel on the right, followed by another 15m rappel before you reach the next beautiful rock bridge in the darkness. Here another 15m rappel leads to another walk and downclimb, as well as a small swim of approx. 20m before you reach the exit of the 3rd and probably one of the most unique gorge sections in Austria. Directly above you is the bridge over the road to the Johannishütte.

The 4th part is relatively discontinuous and open. It begins with a downclimb and a tributary ortographic left. After another walking passages you come to a 5m jump. After a small walking passage you come to a large block. Here you either climb down ortographic right or turn left, climb under the large block into the small cave and then come out under the small waterfall (worthwhile). This is followed by a small 4m rappel followed by a larger rappel cascade of 18m, 15m and 7m. After a downclimb you leave the village stream ortographic left at the serpentine quarry (1760m).

To get to the last part, walk along the road until you reach a large bridge over the Dorferbach. Cross it onto the ortographic right bank and then path upstream for approx. 100m into the Dorferbach. Directly under the bridge is the anchor for the 10m rappel. This pool is probably also jumpable. It is advisable to leave the Dorferbach ortographic left after the other pools, as from now on there is only a river walk. Exit ortographic left at approx. 1650 m altitude.

Return: (machine translated)
Stay on the forest road for about 30-45 minutes until you reach the Johannishütte parking lot again.

Coordinates:
Parking Entry and Exit 47.0239 12.3320
Waterlevel Checkpoint 47.0250 12.3325
Canyon Start 47.0621 12.3335
Canyon End 47.0346 12.3322
Intermediate Canyon Exit 47.0597 12.3331
Intermediate Canyon Exit 47.0448 12.3320
Intermediate Canyon Exit 47.0399 12.3328
Intermediate Canyon Exit 47.0507 12.3315

Reports:

2026-10-18 | Paul Niederwieser | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ | Normal | Completed
Everything's fine. No ice. The siphon is clear. We were at the entry point at 9 a.m. The water level had barely changed by the time we reached the exit. (machine translated)

2025-11-08 | Pavel Urbanek | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ | Normal | Completed
Bit of ice, microspikes recommend. Normal flow some bolts hard to find, some downclimbs on ice and slippery rocks. Siphon full, 1m long underwater swimming

2025-11-08 | Jeanne Picart | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | Normal | Completed
Not much ice in it yet. All ok. (machine translated)

2025-11-01 | Horst Lambauer | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | Normal | Completed
Have added an anchor where Clarissa vom Stein had to rappel yesterday. Got in at 9:30 winter time) at the 1st part above the Johannishütte Perfect time at this time of year to have exactly the right position of the sun in the dark area... (machine translated)

2025-10-31 | Clarissa Linder | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ | Normal | Completed
Perfect water level (see 1st picture). Some ice and snow in the canyon in the first part, quite slippery from part 2 onwards. Siphon currently free to dive through. Once we had to rappel from a rock, remaining anchors ok. (machine translated)

2024-11-02 | PeterAlbertini | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ | Normal | Completed
Schöne Gletscherschlucht. Ausgezeichnete Bedingungen! Obwohl ein heißer Tag. Auch im oberen Teil hervorragende Bedingungen. Route von 3 Personen aus der CanyonEast Gruppe (machine translated)

2024-10-13 | Joey CIA | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 | ⚓ ★ | Normal | Completed
Part 1-5 walked. Water level ok or rather quite sporty in parts 1+2 after numerous inflows, but doable. Then after the power station and water drainage to the start part 3 superiore conditions. Part 3 is highly recommended if the water level passes. A few loose anchors pulled up. Superiore day. Access by cab. (machine translated)

2024-10-06 | Peter Lampacher | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | Normal | Completed
Parts 2 to 5 walked, very good conditions. (machine translated)

2024-02-04 | Peter Lampacher | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | Low | Completed
Winter ascent of sections: 1st and 2nd part not walked (too much snow) 3rd section climbed, we had to bypass one section (blocked with snow) 4th part not climbed, too much snow in the canyon and half-broken cornices above 5th part climbed Water level ideal. Access and tour threatened by numerous avalanche tracks. We crossed at least 5 large avalanche cones. Better in late fall, before major snowfalls. (machine translated)

2023-03-09 | System User | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 | ⚓ | |
Daten importiert von https://www.canyoning.or.at/index.php/liste-aller-canyons/519-dorferbach