Kirchlbach

Create: 2023-04-19 10:10:30	**Update:** 2026-10-24 08:27:33	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:00
Country: Österreich / Austria **Region:** Tirol **Subregion:** Bezirk Innsbruck-Land **Town:** Scharnitz		
Difficulty: not as difficult	**Grading:** v3 a2 IV	**Total time:** 4h5
Approachtime: 1h	**Tourtime:** 3h	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 1460m	**Altitude exit:** 1165m	**Delta Altitude:** 295m
Canyon length: 800m	**Highest rapell:** 26m	**Amount rapells:** 16
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:** East	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 3.7 (5)	**Info:** ★ 1.7 (4)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (5)

Warnings:
Snowfields
Typically there will be persistent, large snowremains in the canyon (escape left bank, not verified). Alpine techniques are a must and great caution should be applied when evaluating the impacted/absent anchors and state of the rock. In certain years there may also be a second avalanche at the exit of the canyon = can be checked on foot before going up. Often when passing by Kirchlbach, one may even notice an increasing cold.

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x30m

Summary: (machine translated)
An alpine tour through a canyon that becomes increasingly narrow and of increasing depth. In normal years, it involves traversing large patches of remaining snow as well as potentially damaged anchors, and should only be attempted by experienced teams with the appropriate equipment.

Hydrology: (machine translated)
Remnants of snow, precipitation, and karst springs at the entrance to the canyon.

Access: (machine translated)
From Scharnitz, cycle into the Karwendel valley towards the Karwendelhaus.
After the Isar bridge, turn left and cycle steeply up into the Karwendel valley.
6.1 km after this turn-off we cross the Kirchlbach. We park our bikes here.

Approach: (machine translated)
About 400m further along the road, we turn left onto a dirt track. We leave this later and follow the path that leads us uphill until there is an access into the open streambed here.

Tour: (machine translated)
Updated Route Oct. 2026
2 anchors on the left, 20 m
1 anchor on the right, 10 m
2 anchors on the right, 20 m (original anchor on poor rock!)
1 anchor on the left, 10 m
1 anchor on the right, 6 m
1 anchor on the right, 20 m
2 anchors on the left, 25 m
1 anchor on the left, 6 m
1 anchor on the left, 8 m
Snowfield that must be crossed over a distance of 100–200 m: Emergency bolt on the left at 20 m (if the snow still extends to the bend in the canyon); if the end of the snow is already visible before the bend in the canyon (a wall blocking the snow), descend using alpine techniques and look for 1 bolt on the left at 15 m
Narrow section, high risk of rockfall, 2 different bolts on the right at 8–10 m
Fixed boulder, 1 bolt on the right at 10 m (damaged quick-release clip, secured with a carabiner)
2 anchors on the right, 16 m
1 anchor on the right, 18 m
Grand finale: 1 anchor on the left or 1 anchor on the right, 24 m (the other anchors are currently inaccessible)
Possible second patch of snow (forming a higher wall than the first), possible emergency exit to the left
1 anchor to the left, 10 m
1 anchor to the left, 4 m
Exit

Return: (machine translated)
After we are out of the gorge, about 100m in the wide gravel bed to the road bridge.

Coordinates:
Parking Entry and Exit 47.4135 11.3169
Waypoint 47.4165 11.3198
Canyon Start 47.4190 11.3064
Canyon End 47.4148 11.3145

Reports:

2026-10-23 | Jeroen Kirchner | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≈ Normal | 👍 Completed
It's exceptional to have no snowfields. But the absence of snow did not reveal anything, in fact the canyon loses 1/2 star. It is still a worthwhile trip, among the best in these valleys, with splashy abseils, compact rock and an encased part. Finally, today i equalized the anchor on fractured rock but in fact they should be relocated. Since last time i was here i notice 3 new anchors and one quicklink (non-stainless). On the to do list here: add the redundant anchors which will make some abseils more comfortable, double a series of quicklinks and replace non-stainless steel quicklinks.

2026-09-05 | Ba | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ | ≈ Normal | 👍 Completed
Climbed today with 3 people; no snow left at all. The first half was uninteresting, with lots of sharp-edged loose rocks and a corresponding risk of rockfall. The second half was nice, but unfortunately relatively short. We placed 4–5 new anchors; strictly speaking, maybe only 1 or 2 were absolutely necessary. No headlamp required. The access is very easy to find and well-trodden, with plenty of chamois. Access takes 1 hour from the bike parking area, plus 3 hours in the canyon including drilling. Some anchors are either hard to reach or a bit tricky to rappel down from, so I wouldn’t really recommend the canyon for beginners. A few high rappels in the water jet—cool. (machine translated)

2024-10-16 | Jeroen Kirchner | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≈ Normal | 👍 Completed
Also this year, very late (October), large snowremains halfway and (this is new) also at the exit of the canyon, both impossible to go below. Alpine techniques are a must! Anchors: some of the single anchors deemed 'ok' by previous teams, are actually on hollow, fractured rock!! These are now doubled but should be evaluated carefully, possibly equalized or even relocated. I have taken out much of the non-stainless steel anchors and replaced with inox. Doubled or renewed others. At the end of the large snowfield halfway the canyon, there is an emergency anchor (high!) and a damaged anchor (low), both on the left. The snow seems to end at this location every year (i.e. just before the narrow part, where the canyon makes a bend and stops the snow), this emergency anchor may be useful for reentering the canyon. From this point onwards, high chances of rockfall, until the impressive grand finale with unreachable anchors (i added in 2023 a single M10 on the left, with exposed access but well-protected). I post the sequence here, for copying it to the file on Opencanyon: 2 bolts L 20m 1 bolt R 10m 2 bolts R 20m (original anchor on bad rock!) 1 bolt L 10m 1 bolt R 20m 2 bolts L 25m 1 bolt L 6m 1 bolt L 8m Emergency exit L Snowfield to traverse for 100-200m: emergency bolt L 20m (if snow still reaches the bend in the canyon), if the end of the snow is in sight before the bend in the canyon (a wall that stops the snow) descend with alpine techniques and find 1 bolt L 15m Narrow part, high chances of rockfall, 2 different bolts R 8-10m Stuck boulder, 1 bolt R 10m (damaged quicklink backed up with carabiner) 2 bolts R 16m 1 bolt R 18m Grand finale 1 bolt L 24m (the other anchors are, at present, unreachable) Possible second snowremains (building a higher wall than the first) possible emergency exit L 1 bolt L 10m Downclimb and exit

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2024-07-11 | yuc | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≈ Normal | 👍 Completed
Only the first anchor has two points; all the rest are single points. The anchors are mixed with M8 aluminum (or non-stainless steel?) and M10 stainless steel. The oldest anchors are M8 Aluminum Petzl Hanger (look like this https://vintageclimbing.com/products/hanger). - We replaced two rusty maillons with 8mm galvanized steel one. - We took down one worn-out orange rope, because there is another well-bolted anchor nearby. - We rappeled with the existing bolts and didn't feel unsafe, but use them at your own risk. - We met some snow in the middle of the riverbed, but walking beneath/around it was easy and fun. Be sure to come to this canyon after the snow has mostly melted, because the snow can literally block the passage. - Approach trails are not obvious in the middle, but it is not hard to find the correct direction. - Rocks are mostly not slippery.

2023-10-07 | Gregor Bernsteiner | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≈ Low | 👍 Completed
All stands OK (machine translated)