Pontirone (Superiore)

Pontirone Superiore,Lesgiüna,Pontirone superiore - Lesgiuna superiore ,Lesgiuna superiore

Create: 2023-03-09 20:50:03	**Update:** 2026-05-18 09:25:34	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:41
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton Tessin / Cantone Ticino **Subregion:** Bezirk Riviera **Town:** Malvaglia		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v4 a4 IV	**Total time:** 4h20
Approachtime: 5min	**Tourtime:** 4h	**Returntime:** 15min
Altitude entry: 830m	**Altitude exit:** 470m	**Delta Altitude:** 360m
Canyon length: 2600m	**Highest rapell:** 30m	**Amount rapells:** 13
Transport: Car optional	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season: June - September	**Orientation:** West	**Best Time:** 10-12 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 4.3 (19)	**Info:** ★ 2.8 (12)	**Belay:** ★ 2.3 (15)

Specialities:
Dam (inform operator),

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 35m

Summary: (machine translated)
Long, in places deeply cut canyon with some hiking trails. Possible jumps up to 15m and a rather aquatic 30m waterfall are the highlights of this scenic tour. The canyon has a large catchment area; long walking passages; several rocky downclimb passages; day tour; artificial water catchment at the beginning of the tour (Info: 0041 (0)91 756 66 15).

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
From Biasca one drives in the direction of Lucomagno. At Ponte Lesgiuna, before the big bridge on the right (town sign 'Valle di Blenio'), park the shuttle car (380Hm). With the 2nd car one continues in northern direction (Malvaglia). In Malvaglia turn right towards Malvaglia Chiesa and follow the road for about 700m (northwards). At marker 372 follow the signs for Val Malvaglia and Pontirone, pass marker 640 and continue up towards Val Pontirone. Just before the village of Pontirone, turn right onto a forest road. The forest road descends slightly to the bridge where you park your car at the water intake.

Approach: (machine translated)
From the parking lot descend by the bridge to the stream (830Hm).

Tour: (machine translated)
At the 30m rappel there is an intermediate stand orographic right about in the middle from which the remaining part of the waterfall can be rappelled dry or from which you can jump. The upper part of the canyon exits after a chaos of blocks that is best downclimbed on the orographic right bank. There is an emergency exit from the gorge to the left (cairn and red color dot). The lower part should definitely also be done.

Before and after the tour, please call the power station operator on +41 91 756 66 15.

The Pontirone superiore is a long and deeply incised granite gorge. The long walking sections are followed by short abseils, some of which are aquatic. After checking the water depth, several sections can also be jumped. The water level should be correctly assessed before an ascent as there is a 30m narrow section/step in the middle section of the canyon which can be very unpleasant at higher water levels. At the 30m rappel there is orographic right about in the middle an intermediate stand from which the remaining part of the waterfall can be rappelled dry or from which you can jump. In addition, you are in a very secluded environment for a long time. Between the longer walking passages, there are large rock labyrinths, especially in the lower part of the Pontirone inferior, where you have to climb your way down. The canyon as a whole is worth seeing, but the highlight is and remains the short and very impressive Pontirone inferiore, which you can add on after the superiore (see Pontirone inferiore).

Return: (machine translated)
At 470Hm at Felschaos can be exited on the orographic left side. After a short steep ascent comes the cross-cut and descent to the main road (parking lot). Alternative: descent via the Pontirone inferiore (Attention: 2x50m ropes necessary!).

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.3817 9.0193
Parking at Entry 46.3832 9.0172
Parking at Exit 46.3881 8.9862
Canyon End 46.3878 8.9897
Alternative Canyon Start 46.3825 9.0029

Reports:

2026-09-15 | Kris Klein | ★★★★½ | 📖★★★ | ⚓★★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Everything was great—beautiful canyon. In some sections, there was quite a bit of walking and scrambling over wood and boulders. There were a few nice jumps, too. When we were taking the shuttle, there were signs by the road indicating (a closure?) from September 17–19 (just a best guess due to my lack of language skills). (machine translated)

2026-09-13 | System User | | 📖 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Pontirone (supérieur) DC, Ras (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22524/observations.html)

2026-09-02 | Manfred Danglmaier | ★★★★★ | 📖★★★ | ⚓★★★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Water level was challenging but manageable; conditions were okay! 4:45 hours for both sections as a pair (machine translated)

2026-08-22 | System User | | 📖 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Pontirone (supérieur) Débit bien redécandu après les pluies. DC+. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22524/observations.html)

2026-08-17 | Roe_Noerd | ★★★ | 📖★★★ | ⚓★★★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
We didn’t take the Pontirone superiore route, but the Pontirone med. route. The access starts from the parking lot at the exit of Pontirone inferiore and goes via Alpe Piena. We climbed up to the edge of the forest. There’s a small bench there and a signpost pointing toward the village of Pontirone. From this point on, the trail—which is slightly exposed in places—is easy to follow, even though it’s rarely used. The access took 70 minutes. From the water channel that flows into the Legiuna, at coordinates 46.382494 9.002821, the route descends into the canyon via several short rappels. The final 60-meter rappel is well secured with a double hook and chain. At one rappel point (approx. 7 meters), we did not find any bolts and had to improvise the rappel. I recommend bringing a drill on your next ascent via this access. Once you reach the Legiuna, you can follow the superiore section of the Pontirone Canyon starting from the middle part. The water level was rather low for the Pontirone; the water temperature was pleasantly refreshing but actually a bit too high. The brown rocks in the canyon are somewhat slippery. All the anchors are in good condition. The jumps and slides are manageable. (machine translated)

2026-08-12 | System User | | 📖 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Pontirone (supérieur) DC mais probablement faible pour ce canyon. On a fait une indigestion de descente dans les blocs ???? (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22524/observations.html)

2026-07-12 | Simone & Armin | ★★★½ | 📖★★★ | ⚓★★★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
We did the Inferiore on Friday. It was so beautiful that we went ahead and did both the Superiore and the Inferiore right away. I have to say, though, that the upper section has some very long walking passages... but there are some nice jumps along the way. The topographic view from the “old” Ticino guidebook isn’t quite right anymore... there’s only one 30-meter rappel left... (the canyon has changed a bit over time) but otherwise, everything’s great! (machine translated)

2026-07-12 | Rok | ★★★★½ | 📖★★★ | ⚓★★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Everything's fine. A must-see for cliff-jumping fans. Some spots have only 1 bolt, but they're in very good condition. Water levels are superiore right now. A must-do... (machine translated)

2026-07-07 | System User | | 📖 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Pontirone (supérieur) Hike and canyon...1h59'44" car to car with 110m pickline and 36° temperature outdoor....top pontirone...???? (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22524/observations.html)

2026-07-06 | System User | | 📖 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Pontirone (supérieur) Pas mal de marche dans le canyon mais très joli. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22524/observations.html)

2026-07-02 | System User | | 📖 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Pontirone (supérieur) Eau limpide..mais froide du

Parts:
Pontirone (Superiore), v4 a4 IV, 5min+4h+15min
Pontirone (Inferiore), v4 a4 III, 20min+1h30+1min