Rio Montasio / Clapadorie

Create: 2026-08-06 15:05:05	**Update:** 2026-08-08 12:56:58	**Print:** 2026-11-24 03:11:55
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Friuli Venezia Giulia **Subregion:** ente di decentramento regionale di Udine **Town:** Dogna		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v5 a2 V	**Total time:** 6h25
Approachtime: 1h50	**Tourtime:** 4h	**Returntime:** 35min
Altitude entry: 1400m	**Altitude exit:** 950m	**Delta Altitude:** 450m
Canyon length: m	**Highest rapell:** 70m	**Amount rapells:** 19
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 3 (2)	**Info:** ★ 3 (2)	**Belay:** ★ 1.5 (2)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x70m
Drill, drill tool,

Summary: (machine translated)
A diverse and adventurous canyon in one of the wildest corners of the Julian Alps

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
From Dogna, follow the road down into the valley, passing Chiout Zucuin, Chiout, Costa Saccetto, and Mincigos. After crossing the Rio Budic and the Rio Bianco, a forest road with a no-entry sign branches off to the right; just past it, there are parking spots on both sides of the road.

Approach: (machine translated)
Head briefly downhill on the forest road and cross the Torrente Dogna via a ford; then ascend briefly and follow the forest road branching off to the right, which initially descends gently toward the southwest. At its highest point, turn left onto an old military trail (reflectors, painted dots, and “Via Dogna” markings). Follow the old wartime trail uphill through several haipin bends until faded red paint dots point to the right. Climb laboriously and on slippery terrain along the paint dots for about 150 meters in elevation until you reach the ridge bordering Val Rottas. Cross down into the valley over scree, then cross the stream—secured by a wire rope—and on the other side, descend slightly at first to reach the wide, mountain pine-covered ledge that leads into the valley of the Rio Montasio. Climb upward over mountain pines and exposed scree (up to grade II) until you reach a narrow rock crevice; from here, ascend another 50hm up a damp chute until you reach the mostly dry stream at the start of the route.

Tour: (machine translated)
Downclimb over beautifully weathered, white rock until you reach the start of the first narrow gorge. Five rappels up to 30 meters in a confined area with low water flow and several somewhat challenging downclimbing sections. The gorge exits above a high rock ledge. From here, rappel 25 m and downclimb in a zigzag pattern.
Rappel 70 meters from the hanging belay station (anchor for the hand rope is located above and to the right), then traverse 3 meters to the left along an exposed ledge to reach the next belay station. Rappel 70 meters from two anchors down to the bottom of the Clapadorie Gorge. In the remote, great canyon, complete another 11 rappels down to 30 meters, including small slides and downclimbs. The final step before Val Rotta is unsecured and currently requires a somewhat tricky downclimb.

Return: (machine translated)
Descend through the streambed until you reach a gravel gully coming in from the right. At the exit of the gravel gully, ascend to the right to reach the forest road from the access.
Follow the forest road uphill for about 80hm until you reach the turnoff to Via Dogna, then head back to the car the same way you accessed it.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.4408 13.4192
Canyon End 46.4471 13.4119
Parking Entry and Exit 46.4574 13.4094
Waypoint 46.4514 13.4088

Reports:

2026-08-31 | Rick Paapy | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | Low | Completed
We did it today. Yes, the approach isn't for everyone—especially the section from Val Rotta to the entrance, which is quite exposed and a bit steep, but easy to find. The first part of the canyon before you reach Rio Montasio was dry; it would be nice to have water there after it rains. But Rio Montasio would probably be problematic. Rio Montasio is beautiful but short—too short. The 1 hr 50 min approach time is accurate. The canyon took 2 hours at a leisurely pace with four people. The exit took 35 minutes. All anchors were in good condition; for an adventure canyon, there's no need to drill extra bolts. (machine translated)

2026-08-02 | Horst Lambauer | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ | Low | Completed
First ascent, together with Georg, David, Grega, Erik, and Hirti. "Adventure in the Julian Alps" is a very fitting description—at least until you actually reach the base of the Clapadorie. The access is challenging, and the access gorge is quite thrilling as well. I've uploaded the track; see the map Approach Canyon: See photo for location. Unfortunately, the rock quality in the approach canyon is getting progressively worse. You should always carry a drill and anchors with you in this canyon. At times, we had a hard time finding places to place anchors. The approach gorge itself is quite nice and narrow until it opens up and you find yourself in the Rio Montasio in front of the 150-meter wall. The rappelling station for the first 70-meter rappel on the final wall is located far to the right. We had to set it there due to the rock quality. This means that, when looking directly toward Montasio, you should continue downclimbing on the ortographic left until you reach an obvious wide rock ledge. From there, traverse the wall toward the right. Main Canyon: The Rio Montasio / Clapadorie is very impressive, especially due to its alpine surroundings. To the left and right are walls hundreds of meters high and boulders the size of houses in the canyon. The canyon itself has a few narrow sections with some nice rappels. However, the combination of the scenic views and the adventure of even getting there make the canyon truly special. Definitely only for fit adventurers (machine translated)

First descent: 02.08.2026 by