Torrente Novarza superiore

Create: 2025-07-11 11:11:02	**Update:** 2026-08-16 18:54:25	**Print:** 2026-10-30 01:10:35
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Friuli Venezia Giulia **Subregion:** ente di decentramento regionale di Udine **Town:** Ampezzo		
Difficulty: very difficult	**Grading:** v5 a6 IV	**Total time:** 3h30
Approachtime: 0min	**Tourtime:** 3h	**Returntime:** 30min
Altitude entry: 1175m	**Altitude exit:** 705m	**Delta Altitude:** 470m
Canyon length: 2000m	**Highest rapell:** 45m	**Amount rapells:** 15
Transport: Car required	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 3.5 (1)	**Info:** ★ 3 (1)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (1)
Specialities:		

Gear:
Ropes: 2x50m + 1x20m

Summary: (machine translated)
A very challenging and watery tour. Entry is only possible after long, very dry periods or in winter!
Entry at Torrente Pieltinis. The canyon is very rarely traversed due to its aquatic nature. The water level cannot be assessed at the entry because the main water flow comes from the Torrente Novarza. If necessary, follow the road to Novarza (see “Approach”).
Afterward, it is mandatory to hike the Novarza.

Hydrology: (machine translated)
A dam in the middle of the gorge that must be swum through; depending on the water level, climbing out on the right side can be difficult. Large watershed of the Torrente Novarza. Access is possible only after long, very dry periods or in winter!

Access: (machine translated)
parking exit: From Tolmezzo, take the SS52 toward Villa Santina/Ampezzo --> In Villa Santina, turn left at the roundabout toward Froni di Sopra/Ampezzo --> At the exit of the village of Ampezzo, turn right onto the SP73 heading up toward Sauris --> After a few switchbacks and a significant climb, you’ll come to a small tunnel --> After a while, you’ll reach a second, longer tunnel --> Just before it, on the left, there’s a stone fountain --> Park in the large gravel parking place across from the fountain. (approx. 830 Hm)

Parking entry:
Continue toward Sauris. 200 m past the dam, turn left toward Lateis. Drive through the village and continue uphill. At the exit of the village, follow the road as it takes a sharp hairpin turn to the right toward “via delle Malghe.” Continue following the road, which after a while turns from paved to a well-maintained gravel road. After passing a house on the left (1,320 Hm), turn RIGHT. Cross the Rio Piellinis ford until you reach a large timber storage area with a bench right next to the Torrente Piellinis. The Torrente Piellinis dam is located right there, marking the starting point.

Possible water check at Novarza:
To reach Novarza, continue along the road.

Approach: (machine translated)
Right next to the parking lot, to the right of a tree at the Torrente Piellinis dam, rappel down into the gorge.

Tour: (machine translated)
The tour begins at a tributary of the Novarza, the Torrente Piellinis.
The Torrente Piellinis has a low water flow (Aquatic Level 2) and also features several sections with logs that appear to have been washed in from the lumber yard.
R10 to the right of the tree at the Rio Piellinis dam
Downclimb several pools
C17 left
C35 left
C5 left
R7 right
C45 right—through the chute
Downclimb to the confluence with the Novarza
First, walk about 400 m along the partially slippery streambed and swim through some small pools.
R5 to the right
Another short walking passage with a small slide in deep pools
R17 to the left—in turbulent pools with logs. If water levels are high, it may be necessary to build a bypass over a tree
C5 left—in a narrow corridor with water pressure
C15 right—in turbulent pools over a rope traverse—it may be necessary to build a rope traverse with a drift anchor if the water is too turbulent or the rope traverse is defective
C10 right—directly through strong currents—it is possible to slide the last 4 meters in turbulent pools (the first ascenders' bypass to the left is no longer viable! May need to be re-drilled (as of August 14, 2026)
Swim across the reservoir
Climb out on the right at the end of the reservoir to reach the dam.
Descend the paths
R8 right—At the end of the paths, rappel into the dry Novarza inferiore.
R5 left
R12 left
Downclimb the "Bockchaos" section
R8 left
You now reach the entry of the Novarza inferiore—see the Novarza inferiore description for details

Return: (machine translated)
Through Novarza Inferiore—see the description of Novarza Inferiore

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.4652 12.7624
Canyon End 46.4587 12.7682
Parking at Exit 46.4487 12.7700
Parking at Entry 46.4653 12.7622

Reports:

2026-08-14 | Horst Lambauer | ☆☆☆½ | 🕮★★★ | ⚓★★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
We hiked through the canyons today and did some maintenance. In total, we drilled 8 anchors and replaced the fixed handline. From the lake near the dam, you can easily climb out on the left or right. Despite the extremely low water level, the canyon is still quite aquatic, especially the final cascades before the lake. Right now, the water level is perfect for a summer ascent. The section from Novarza, in particular, is definitely worth seeing. It took us about 2:45 to drill the bolts and set up the handline for the upper section. I've updated the description and uploaded photos from our climb. (machine translated)

Parts:
Torrente Novarza superiore, v5 a6 IV, 0min+3h+30min
Novarza, v4 a3 IV, 35min+3h30+20min