Le ruisseau des Gorges

Info: The quality of this description has not been checked yet or was rated bad.
If you know this canyon, please check this description and file a report with a rating for this description using *Reports -> +New Report.* Should you notice any error, please let us know or join the community in order to fix this description yourself.

Create: 2023-05-17 09:49:20	**Update:** 2026-04-07 07:22:58	**Print:** 2026-10-31 01:10:23
Country: France **Region:** Bourgogne-Franche-Comté **Subregion:** Jura **Town:** Vaux-lès-Saint-Claude		
Difficulty:	**Grading:** v? a? ?	**Total time:** 4h25
Approachtime: 20min	**Tourtime:** 4h	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 690m	**Altitude exit:** 410m	**Delta Altitude:** 280m
Canyon length: 1750m	**Highest rapell:** 21m	**Amount rapells:**
Transport: Car required	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:** North	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 0 ()	**Info:** ★ 0 ()	**Belay:** ★ 0 ()

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 25m

Summary: (machine translated)
Relatively long river walk in the forest canyon interrupted by rappels and some jumps/slides at the right water level.

Hydrology: (machine translated)
A relatively easy canyon, as the gulches only occur at certain points and there are numerous emergency exits. There is a marked emergency exit halfway along the right bank of the river. This path is also suitable as an intermediate exit. In this case, it is at the level of the tributary and passes directly in front of the C12 (always blue markings, signs "Zwischenausstieg").
Less frequented and wild route.
Note: Boulders and trees often end up at the bottom of the canyon, be careful! Extensive work has just been carried out, as evidenced by the size of the piles of wood...
High-quality equipment!

A stream with a small volume of water and a rapid walk (small catchment area), which should preferably be navigated in the rainy season, immediately after the flood peak, which unfortunately passes very quickly (rapid drop in water level).
Little water, few deep eddies, no swimming.
The water quickly becomes cloudy.
Discharge measurement: At Vaux-les-Saint-Claude (Rue des Montaines, your access downstream), the discharge is clearly visible to the right of the SNCF tracks, where it is channelized to cross the village. At this point, the outflow is between 80 and 100% of the canyon's outflow.
If you decide to descend when the water level is very high, only the C21 (narrow start, avoidable via a detour on the left bank of the river) and the second C4 are tricky (C4, possibly provide a floating line for the first passage ...).
But at around 150 l/s, the passage is quite feasible.

Access: (machine translated)
An approach without shuttle bus is possible and even strongly recommended (see notes below), otherwise:
Approach: in Vaux-les-Saint-Claude, take the forest road "Route forestière de l'Echine" via the Rue des Montaines (fountain). Park near the quarry, which is on the right at the exit of the bends (N 46°21'08" E 5°44'10"), at the mouth of a forest road (return).
Uphill: From the village, head back towards the center of Molinges, then towards Viry to reach Rogna (D436, D100, D293). Take the path up to the highest point of the village to find (before the exit of the paved road) a good horizontal path on the right that leads north towards the forest of Montbardon. This descends again and then describes a right turn with a parking lot (2100 m from the village). Park without obstructing the forestry operations.

Approach: (machine translated)
Take a path at the bottom on the right, which gradually becomes a path. This follows the valley for about 1000 m until you reach a large plain where you cross the access path coming from below (blue markings). Then keep left and head towards the streambed. The first waterfall (C4) is only a few minutes away.

It is generally cheaper to make the ascent without the shuttle bus; a new, marked route with two blue waves leads up in 45 minutes! (Hiking poles are recommended).
From the quarry, walk up to the exit of the paved road, then turn right onto the tractor path. Halfway up, in a clearing in the forest, you have two options:
1) To the right is a path that drops slightly, crosses a muddy tributary and then descends into the valley; this is the intermediate access point, which also serves as an emergency exit. It takes you to the start of the incised cableway C12, R2, R2, C5.
2) To the left, the path continues to ascend and, after a narrow, slippery passage, leads you onto a plain that you must cross. Follow the dense markings closely. A good path then leads to the bottom of the valley, and the first difficulty is only a few minutes away (C4).

Tour: (machine translated)
A long and beautiful route in a valley with few cuttings, in a lush and unspoiled scenic setting, free from any pollution. About fifteen easy and well-secured rappels on isolated gulches, interspersed with more horizontal parts that sometimes seem a bit monotonous, but are now well exposed. Especially beautiful with the spring vegetation!
Note: The largest waterfall (C21) now has an easily accessible belay with a rappel from the tree set back (or sometimes a fixed MC rope).

Return: (machine translated)
Look to your right (just past the cairn and concrete water catchment) for a slightly horizontal, blue-marked path that leads back to the quarry in 5 minutes. This path starts where the vegetation blocks the canyon, giving an impression of the work done previously.

Coordinates:
Parking at Exit 46.3542 5.7359
Canyon End 46.3535 5.7345
Canyon Start 46.3426 5.7288
Parking at Entry 46.3320 5.7398

Reports:

2026-07-18 | System User | |📖 |⚓ | 〰 Dry | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Gorges Malgré les intempéries de la veille, canyon à sec, dommage... MC de la c22 à changer (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/20199/observations.html)

2026-05-24 | System User | |📖 |⚓ | 〰 Low | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Gorges (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/20199/observations.html)

2026-05-14 | System User | |📖 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👎 Not done
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Gorges (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/20199/observations.html)

2026-04-25 | System User | |📖 |⚓ | 〰 Low | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Gorges Toujours plus d'arbre échoué dans ce canyon. Mais sinon RAS pour l'équipement. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/20199/observations.html)

2026-04-22 | System User | |📖 |⚓ | 〰 Low | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Gorges Débit dès le départ similaire à ce que l'on voit en bas à côté de la voie ferrée.Accès sans navette, conforme à la description mais mériterait une rénovation du balisage, surtout sur la partie plate finale.Assez glissant, méfiance.Nombreux portes-bois et larves de salamandre dans les quelques vasques, attention à eux.Pas mal de passages avec des arbres, la combi protège plus des blessures que du froid :) De belles cascades qui méritent de venir plutôt par débit correct. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/20199/observations.html)

2026-04-05 | System User | |📖 |⚓ | 〰 Low | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Gorges (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/20199/observations.html)