Torrent du Glacier Blanc

Wildbach des weißen Gletscher

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Country: France **Region:** Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur / Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur **Subregion:** Hautes-Alpes **Town:** Vallouise-Pelvoux		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v4 a4 IV	**Total time:** 4h20
Approachtime: 1h	**Tourtime:** 3h	**Returntime:** 20min
Altitude entry: 2270m	**Altitude exit:** 1900m	**Delta Altitude:** 370m
Canyon length: 1000m	**Highest rapell:** 25m	**Amount rapells:**
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** 15.64km²
Season: October - November	**Orientation:** South	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 5 (1)	**Info:** ★ 2 (1)	**Belay:** ★ 1 (1)

Specialities:
Glacier in drainage area,

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 30m
drill tool,

Summary: (machine translated)
A very beautiful, but also very challenging tour with some thrills.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
In L'Argentière-la-Bessée, head towards Valorise, then Pelvoux, Ailefroide and finally Pré de Madame Carle, where you park (parking lot at the exit of the valley).
Beware, the road closes in Ailefroide at the first big snowfall (and then closes in Pelvoux when the snow is lower), in which case you can forget about the canyon, as there are still miles of access road...).

Approach: (machine translated)
Take the path that leads up to the Refuges du Glacier Blanc and des Ecrins until it crosses the torrent with or without a footbridge.

Tour: (machine translated)
The creek narrows very quickly and the watered waterfalls follow each other quickly with nice water passages. When you come out of the inlet, 2/3 of the way through the canyon, you have the choice of continuing in a more chaotic area (part 2) or crossing RD to reach a side gully and descending it (part 2b).
Part 1: Almost a dozen abseils and very nice narrow sections.
Part 2: A big block chaos with 5 or 6 abseils.
Part 2b: well-formed chute (part already descended by one group, to be described for the next...).

Strong effort in the first two 1/3.
Possible escape at the exit of part 1 in the RD via a tributary.

Time period/ water character
Too much water during snowmelt and summer.
Ice in winter, with the best season being fall before the big cold snaps.
Above it is the largest south-facing glacier in the region.
The amount of water can double from 8 to 12, even in the fall.

Geology
Complicated.
Gneiss-like crystalline rocks, actually anatexites, disturbed by a bundle of N-S fractures that run through the Pic de Neige Cordier higher up.

Historical background
Already largely developed.

Remarks
Extremely slippery in the water, the rock is covered with lichen comparable to ice!!!
Canyon in the Ecrins National Park.
Light equipment (one point).
Do not over-equip and remain discreet and environmentally friendly.
Report: lolo and RV.

Return: (machine translated)
At the exit of the chaos you reach the glacier plain, then cross the path and reach the parking lot.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 44.9309 6.4105
Canyon End 44.9230 6.4119
Parking Entry and Exit 44.9170 6.4159

Reports:

2022-09-27 | Christian Balla | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ | Normal | 👍 Completed
A very beautiful, but also very challenging tour with some thrills. Located below the white glacier, the water is correspondingly fresh - gloves and a hood are obligatory. The canyon offers a very beautiful view. The vertical drop is no more than 25 meters, but the destination is not always visible from above. There are a few stretches of walking, some of which are strenuous over scree and gravel. Some of the anchor points are in very poor condition. We did not find the intermediate exit. (machine translated)