Tignaga

Vallone Tignaga

Create: 2024-06-05 22:27:47	**Update:** 2026-08-16 20:45:41	**Print:** 2026-10-31 01:10:48
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Piemonte **Subregion:** Verbano-Cusio-Ossola **Town:** Ceppo Morelli		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v4 a3 III	**Total time:** 5h5
Approachtime: 1h	**Tourtime:** 4h	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 1160m	**Altitude exit:** 760m	**Delta Altitude:** 400m
Canyon length: 1000m	**Highest rapell:** 37m	**Amount rapells:** 18
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:** gneiss	**Drainage area:** km²
Season: June - September	**Orientation:** North	**Best Time:** 10-16 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 3.5 (3)	**Info:** ★ 2 (2)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (2)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 40m

Summary:
A narrow section for the first three waterfalls, followed by a succession of falls; some beautiful, others less. It is undoubtedly a magnificent canyon.

Hydrology:
WARNING! Following investigations carried out by the AIC (Associazione Italiana Canyoning) with the operators of the Ossola hydroelectric power plants, it emerged that the operation of the facilities affecting the Tignaga (and Toce) canyons is extremely dangerous. Therefore, exploration of these canyons is strongly discouraged. Nevertheless, there is no evidence of significant flooding, and local guides continue to take clients through them. Furthermore, during the first descent in 1995, the SCVV team observed the release of approximately one hundred litres of water from a hydraulic valve of the facility located high above the canyon on the left bank. It is leakage from this installation (the penstock) that causes the water in the canyon to become turbid after the initial filling.

Access:
Following the Anza Valley upstream to Ceppo Morelli, turn left at the edge of the village, cross the Anza River, and continue to the sports field. Park there, or continue as far as the bridge over the stream.

Approach:
Take the path that climbs towards the hamlet of Piana di Ceppo Morelli. Leave the hamlet on your left and continue along the trail, which soon crosses the canyon. Cross the bridge and climb a few metres up the left bank to reach the canyon.

Tour:
The gorge was renovated by locals in August/September 2025 and should be very well equipped again.

Escape: the wooded banks are often easily accessible.

Return:
After the final waterfall, at the pedestrian footbridge (which also provides an escape route), the exit is on the left bank, via an easy crossing over rock slabs that leads to the bridge.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 45.9609 8.0636
Parking Entry and Exit 45.9696 8.0656
Canyon End 45.9688 8.0668

Reports:

2026-08-14 | MirkoT | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
The descent went smoothly, and the large waterfall flowing in from the left bank (immediately after the 5th rappel) did not trigger a release. The release, however, occurred the following day (August 15, 2026, a holiday), and you can see from the state highway when a release is triggered. A couple of belay stations could use some additions or starting points for MC. (machine translated)

2026-07-10 | Isabella Rosenau | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 📈 Emergency exit
Out on the Tignaga today. Up to an elevation of about 930 m, the water levels were unremarkable. The orographic tributary flowing in from the left side of the canyon (at an elevation of about 1,000 m) initially carried a normal flow of water, but then rose dramatically within a very short time—presumably due to water being released from the power plant located upstream. We subsequently made an emergency exit and aborted the trip. (machine translated)

2023-03-09 | System User | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 | ⚓ | |
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