Les goilles du Pourtset

Gouffrer de Champorcher,Goilli di Pourtset,Ayasse

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: 2023-08-28 15:16:11	**Update:** 2024-01-06 17:41:18	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:42
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Valle d'Aosta / Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta **Subregion:** Champorcher **Town:** Champorcher		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v5 a5 V	**Total time:** 3h33
Approachtime: 3min	**Tourtime:** 3h	**Returntime:** 30min
Altitude entry: 1400m	**Altitude exit:** 1765m	**Delta Altitude:** -365m
Canyon length: 750m	**Highest rapell:** 20m	**Amount rapells:** 5
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:** East	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 0 ()	**Info:** ★ 0 ()	**Belay:** ★ 0 ()

Specialities:
Siphon,

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 40m

Summary: (machine translated)
Canyoning for professionals. A great adventure for experienced canyoners.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
Between Verrès and Pont St Martin, leave the national road in the direction of Hône and then drive up the entire Champorcher valley to the center of this municipality, which is called "Château" or "Castello".
In "Château", go straight on at the first crossroads. 300 m further on, turn left and park before the bridge over the Ayasse in a parking lot opposite a sports field.

Approach: (machine translated)
Cross the Ayasse and walk 100 m along the river on a fishing path before entering the water (obviously).
Before entering the canyon, follow the hiking trail that runs along the canyon some distance downstream in RD.
From this trail, sections of trails are created for tourist purposes that lead to viewpoints overlooking the canyon.
This allows you to gauge the flow rate and see what difficulties await you.

Tour: (machine translated)
Anyone entering the Canyon Pourtset should know exactly what they are doing. There are several potentially critical sections that should not be underestimated. Be careful, it is slippery. Scenically, this canyon is very beautiful.

After a short horizontal river ride, the canyon begins with a C8, which can be jumped over without any problems. Incidentally, from the wide catch basin, you can climb onto a ledge at a right angle to make a jump of about 15 meters. This is immediately followed by a second waterfall (visible from the first vantage point), which initially runs diagonally and then vertically and can also be jumped over. However, if you jump, a strong counter could prevent you from getting out of the pool, not to mention the risk of being pulled towards the overflow. A better option is to rappel down a rope and climb over the vein of water directly above the pool, then take a delicate step to gain a foothold on an RD platform. This is the only real difficulty of the canyon. Further along, there are numerous chutes that dangerously pool the still-strong water flow. They must not be entered under any circumstances. The flood-free facilities in the RD make it possible to bypass them safely. It is a little frustrating, but the descent remains of great aesthetic interest.
A long inclined area located in the RD at the exit requires two 40 m ropes.
The final abseil is skipped with the usual reservations.
Nota Bene: In Arpitan or Franco-Provençal, a goille is a basin animated by the movement of water. A whole program!

Commitment
After the first waterfall, an exit from the canyon is impossible or extremely difficult without first putting on a rope.

Season/water character
The water level of the Ayasse river, which collects the valley, is high all year round. Wait for the exit of the melting of the high-altitude firn, not before July, to consider the descent.
At the beginning of the canyon you will find the usual signs warning of the danger of a sudden rise in the water. According to a fisherman, there is a reservoir above the river to regulate the flow of the Ayasse, but no water is released, either at inopportune times or otherwise, only by overflow. Every spring, however, this reservoir is drained for maintenance purposes. The canyon is not accessible at this time of year.

Geology
Metamorphic rock

Very aesthetic canyon with a pronounced gulch and water flow, an "atmosphere" that will delight many people.

Return: (machine translated)
When the canyon widens, you can quickly get back on the above trail through an RD exit and return to the car in 30'.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 45.6220 7.6179
Canyon End 45.6220 7.6256
Parking Entry and Exit 45.6223 7.6171

Reports:

2020-09-29 | Christian Balla | | | | High | Completed
All rappels in the dry. Nevertheless, high risk, as the Pourtset is crossed several times. There are several potentially critical points which should not be underestimated. Be careful, it is slippery. This canyon is very scenic. No emergency exits. (machine translated)

First descent: 05.10.2017 by JM Aguilar, M Fraise, F Lété, E Létrillard, L Offredo et Th Martinello