Le Bief des Parres

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 09:03:57	**Update:** 2026-05-13 07:06:53	**Print:** 2026-10-31 01:10:11
Country: France **Region:** Bourgogne-Franche-Comté **Subregion:** Jura **Town:** Les Moussières		
Difficulty: not as difficult	**Grading:** v3 a? II	**Total time:** 6h10
Approachtime: 5min	**Tourtime:** 6h	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 1090m	**Altitude exit:** 450m	**Delta Altitude:** 640m
Canyon length: 4000m	**Highest rapell:** 30m	**Amount rapells:** 19
Transport: Car required	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:** North	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 0 ()	**Info:** ★ 0 ()	**Belay:** ★ 0 ()

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 35m

Summary: (machine translated)
Long gorge hike with a few rappels

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
Approach:
From downstream: same as for Flumen, i.e., take the D436, then the D290 toward Geneva and continue on to Villard.
In Le Martinet, at the fountain, turn left onto the Route des Cascades. Park at the end of the road near the EDF power plant.
Flow measurement: The Bief des Parres is the FIRST of the two streams you'll encounter when you reach the power plant; the second is the Bief Noir, which resurfaces 50 m further upstream. Do not confuse the two.
Upstream: Drive back and head toward Geneva on the D436, then turn right in L'Evalide onto the D25 toward Les Moussières. Park at the bridge 1.5 km before the village, near the large Combe Bry farm. It's surprising, but during very wet periods, the field turns into a raging stream that flows into the canyons hidden in the forest!
New upstream access: Follow the same route as for the standard access, but 1,200 m before the Combes Bry bridge, at the spot called "La Cernaise," turn right onto the road leading to the parking lot at the "La Roche Blanche" viewpoint (600 m from La Cernaise), at the spot called "sur le Brayon."
Follow the blue trail markers. On foot, these markers lead you down the cattle trail to the left and then along a path at the edge of the forest. Walk under the high-voltage power line and then past the abandoned house. Near the house, turn onto a clearly visible path and head 150 meters into the forest, then turn right into the valley, always following the markings. Descent of about 1 km.
This new, more logical route saves you the first kilometer, which is not very interesting, and allows you to reach the challenging parts of this very long run a bit faster. Parking is also convenient and straightforward.
Note: It is possible to tackle only the last 800 m of the canyon, with access from below without a shuttle bus. See the "Notes" part below.

Approach: (machine translated)
Once you're under the bridge, you'll be in the Bief; walk through the dry riverbed, and you'll reach the first rappel point in 8 minutes.

Tour: (machine translated)
Since there is no flowing water at the start, this tour should not be considered a typical canyoning experience. It is more of a long hike during which you'll navigate numerous rappels in a peaceful forest setting. The route begins with a very long walk through the underbrush; the first challenges don't appear until later, but they then come in rapid succession, so that a total of about twenty waterfalls must be navigated.

The difficulty is low, as is the exposure, which is relatively minor and occurs only sporadically.
However, this hike is very long and runs far from roads and thus far from civilization. Therefore, caution is still advised. No significant difficulties. If you encounter problems (past the halfway point), leave the road and take a trail that leads up from the valley to Rocher Blanche.
On the way back, a trail that crosses the route and runs to the right of it provides an emergency exit.

Return: (machine translated)
They come right out onto the street near the cars, heading toward the EDF plant.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.3359 5.8883
Parking at Entry 46.3356 5.8879
Canyon End 46.3643 5.8790
Parking at Exit 46.3641 5.8796

Reports:

2026-10-11 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Parres (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/20196/observations.html)

2026-05-03 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Dry | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Parres Canyon où le plaisir est gâché par des remparts de bois étalés tout le long du canyon. Il y a un très joli passage avec des arches et des rappels qui s'enchaînent. Après avoir bataillé 4h , on avait la vue sur la partie avale qui était barré sur 200m par un amas de bois, on est sorti par le chemin de la passerelle. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/20196/observations.html)

First descent: 01.01.1977 by