Schwarzbach (Bern)

Create: 2023-11-20 21:11:35	**Update:** 2025-11-17 07:08:17	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:46
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton Bern / Canton de Berne **Subregion:** Verwaltungskreis Frutigen-Niedersimmental / Frutigen-Niedersimmental administrative district **Town:** Kandersteg		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v5 a5 V	**Total time:** 6h40
Approachtime: 1h30	**Tourtime:** 5h	**Returntime:** 10min
Altitude entry: 1820m	**Altitude exit:** 1420m	**Delta Altitude:** 400m
Canyon length: 0m	**Highest rapell:** 35m	**Amount rapells:** 24
Transport: Cablecar	**Rock type:** limestone	**Drainage area:** 15.00km²
Season: October - November	**Orientation:** North	**Best Time:** 10-14 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 4.3 (6)	**Info:** ★ 2 (3)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (5)

Warnings:
inactive: *Prohibition of fishing in Bern Case J* (yearly 01.01. - 15.04.)
This stretch of water may only be used from 16.04.-31.12. in accordance with the fishing regulations of the Canton of Bern.

Specialities:
Glacier in drainage area,

Gear:
Ropes: 2x40m

Summary: (machine translated)
Glacier gorge with three parts.
1. narrow and deeply incised 2. more open 3. threatening.

Hydrology: (machine translated)
You can escape between the individual parts via the long-distance hiking trail.

A glacier feeds the canyon. The water level drops as soon as it freezes at 2000 m every day. The canyon is very narrow and has active abseiling points. In the middle of the second narrow section, the canyon receives a spring. The ideal starting flow rate is around 70 l/s for the exit of 100 to 120 l/s.

Access: (machine translated)
From Bern, drive in the direction of Interlaken. Turn off towards Kandersteg. Drive to the village and then continue up the valley towards Selden. You have to pay 10 francs at an automatic toll booth to drive on the road through the canyon. Please note, certain ascent times apply to the one-way road (between 45 and 10 for the ascent). The route leads through tunnels and crosses the Kander. As soon as you come to a passable bridge leading back to RG, take it and park a little further on next to the Forsthaus Waldhus.
It is possible to take the cable car up before the toll station. From the top station you have to walk back down to the river.

Approach: (machine translated)
Take the path that leads past the forester's lodge and follow the signs to the Sunnbüel cable car, Gemmi Pass. The GR leaves the path to the right and approaches the last waterfall of the third part. The path runs along the side of the mountain and is dizzying in places. You reach a bridge that overlooks the second part. Now you climb up to the right and reach a path. Follow this for 200 m and a small path leads you naturally into the open part of the canyon.

Tour: (machine translated)
3 separate parts, separated by hiking trails.
The canyon narrows immediately. The waterfalls plunge under boulders. The passages are very aesthetic.
The hike is quite short, less than 10 minutes, and you reach the bridge of the second part. Here, too, the canyon immediately becomes narrower and steeper. The waterfalls get bigger and some of the stands require an MC. The most beautiful is the 35 m high waterfall under an aesthetic rock arch. You can pass RD both below in the water and outside the water.
The next parts are longer and the terrain is a bit unstable. The GR approaches and immediately afterwards the river descends with the same force as in the other parts. The rappels are always aesthetic. After a less aesthetic and more open part, you reach the last waterfalls. The penultimate abseil of 22 m exits in a deep pool, with a dangerous current RD at high water level. You pass a new waterfall and outside the narrow section you find the last points in the fossil riverbed RG.

Return: (machine translated)
You leave RD and reach a path and the GR.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.4526 7.6497
Parking Entry and Exit 46.4641 7.6619

Reports:

2026-10-25 | Stephan Gehringer | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
All the anchors are there; the route has been fully climbed. A few belay stations could use replacement due to very old, rusty anchors. (machine translated)

2026-10-24 | David Bolo | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
Partial inspection; sections 2 and 3 inspected. Anchors OK. Anchor c20 is now G. (machine translated)

2025-11-16 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | |
Automatisch importiert von Schlucht.ch für Canyon Schwarzbach, Wasserstand: "Mittel-hoch" Verankerungen: "Noch ok, teils aber alt, könnten mal erneuert werden" Alle 3 Teile spannend und schön. Kein Eis oder Schnee. Im letzten Abschnitt ist der (kritische) Pool mit Kies gefüllt, wodurch man gut stehen und rausgehen kann und nicht gegen die Strömung schwimmen muss. (Quelle: https://schlucht.ch/schluchten-der-schweiz-liste/1071-schwarzbach)

2025-11-16 | Peter Lampacher | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Perfect conditions - water level (photo), pleasant temperature, free of ice and snow. No deep pools; lots of debris in the canyon. (machine translated)

2025-11-08 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Schwarzbach Canyon sympathique, les trois parties sont intéressantes L’équipement est bon, nous avons rajouter aucun amarrages (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22229/observations.html)

2024-10-29 | Nico Schneider | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
All anchors still in place. A few could be replaced in the next few years. Only do the last part with a floating bag or a very good swim (machine translated)

2023-03-09 | System User | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ | |
Daten importiert von https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon/22229/Schwarzbach.html

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2021-11-06 | Joey CIA | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ |🕮 |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Lots of snow and ice, crazy tour. (machine translated)