Choltalbach (Inferiore)

Risletenschlucht,Grueblital

Create: 2023-03-09 20:50:18	**Update:** 2023-10-14 09:16:08	**Print:** 2026-10-30 01:10:29
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton Nidwalden **Subregion:** Emmetten **Town:** Emmetten		
Difficulty: very difficult	**Grading:** v6 a5 IV	**Total time:** 4h25
Approachtime: 5min	**Tourtime:** 4h	**Returntime:** 20min
Altitude entry: 715m	**Altitude exit:** 435m	**Delta Altitude:** 280m
Canyon length: 1300m	**Highest rapell:** 22m	**Amount rapells:** 20
Transport: Car optional	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** 21.00km²
Season: September - September	**Orientation:** North	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 4.1 (10)	**Info:** ★ 2.2 (6)	**Belay:** ★ 1.9 (8)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 25m
drill tool,

Summary: (machine translated)
Watery rappel canyon that ends with a slide into Lake Lucerne. View-rich access from below.
Can be climbed only after long periods of drought (no precipitation for about 4 weeks).

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
We leave the A2 (Lucerne-Gotthard) at Lake Lucerne via exit 35 - Beckenried. We drive down to the lake and there we take the Rütenenstraße, which leads along the lake in eastern direction. Before the Ounkt, where it is no longer allowed to continue by car, we find parking spaces on the left hand side, where we can park our (possibly lower) car (P2).\n\nIf we have a second car available, we drive up to Emmeten and park the car there either after the Choltalbach bridge on the left at the chapel on P1a (only limited space) or in the village on the parking lot of the Niederbauen(rappel)bahn P1b.

Approach: (machine translated)
From the parking lot at the lake in Rütenenstraße (without implementation - advantage of checking the water level in passing) up the footpath on the orographic. left slope. First on stairs, then horizontally towards the canyon and ann on the edge of the canyon up to the plateau. Arrived at the farmhouses we look for an access to the streambed (from orographic left).\n\nIf we have made a conversion, we climb into the stream at the road bridge.

Tour: (machine translated)
About 20 rappel, but also slide and jump possibilities. Exit possibilities only in the first third.

In the C20 there is an intermediate pool which should be avoided urgently at higher water levels. Alternatively rappel RG in the dry.

Exit possibilities only in the upper part quite steep in the forest, in the lower area no exit possibilities.

Return: (machine translated)
After the slide into the lake, turn right and follow the Rütenen road to the car.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.9611 8.5272
Canyon End 46.9686 8.5256
Alternative Canyon Start 46.9586 8.5259
Parking at Entry 46.9596 8.5274
Parking at Entry 46.9558 8.5187
Parking at Exit 46.9634 8.5106

Reports:

2026-09-13 | Losxy | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
The level of water was normal but the rigging needs improvements.

2026-09-13 | David Bolo | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Water is still flowing through the landslide in C20. As soon as the dam becomes silted up, the water will flow down the descent, which is still dry for now. In the future, we should expect surprises in this section. Improvisation. Two belay stations reinforced with ring plates. At the second rope traverse, an additional ring at the rappel station would make climbing easier for shorter people. (machine translated)

2026-09-13 | Juan Montesinos | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Slippery as always. All the sections were in good condition. The water flow made it possible to hike the entire canyon without any problems. (machine translated)

2026-08-08 | MarcoW | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Water level normal (maybe even a little lower) We replaced the broken MC rope and tightened the loose anchors. with Jenny, Damian, Dario (machine translated)

2026-07-25 | Hexig | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
All anchor points, photos of the water level from the bridge at the exit (machine translated)

2026-07-12 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | |
Automatisch importiert von Schlucht.ch für Canyon Choltalbach, Wasserstand: "Mittel" Verankerungen: "Gut " Im oberen Teil wenig kies und viele sprünge möglich Im flachen zwischenteil versperrt ein grosser felsturz den Bachlauf. Ist aber gut zu überwinden. Im unteren teil recht viel holz. (Quelle: https://schlucht.ch/schluchten-der-schweiz-liste/1053-choltalbach)

2026-06-27 | David Bolo | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Climbed as an integral route. Anchor points are mostly usable. Some belay stations have been washed away; the rings now hang very high. Water level as shown in the reference photo of the Peinen River, 2024 (machine translated)

2025-08-10 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ Crazy | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Choltalbach Hier, lors de la descente du canyon de Rotalbar, nous avons constaté un très gros éboulement en plein milieu du parcours. L’ancien passage nécessitant une escalade sur la gauche n’existe plus : il est désormais possible de passer directement à gauche, sans grimper. La zone reste très instable pour le moment. Nous avons donc emprunté la rive gauche et réalisé une petite désescalade vers un point placé à distance des débris afin d’éviter qu’il ne soit endommagé trop vite.Tous les autres points sont en bon état. Nous avons ajouté un maillon rapide à l’emplacement d’une ancienne corde coincée (corde retirée) afin que le maillon travaille correctement.Le débit était élevé hier, et nous signalons deux zones de vigilance : 1. Juste avant la partie finale : dernier échappatoire sur la gauche dans la marche, un passage piégeux avec de l’eau qui s’infiltre sous un rocher, créant un mini-siphon. Mieux vaut rester sur la rive autant que possible. 2. Les troncs sont toujours présents, mais ne gênent pas outre mesure.Malgré ces changements, le canyon reste superbe et praticable.Les photos de l’éboulement seront ajoutées en complément de ce message. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22943/observations.html)

2025-08-10 | Romain Butty | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Yesterday, during the descent of the Rotalbar canyon, we encountered a major rockfall in the middle section. The former route that required a climb on the left no longer exists: it is now possible to pass directly on the left without climbing. The area is still very unstable at the moment. We therefore took the left bank and made a short downclimb to an anchor located at a safe distance from the debris to prevent it from being damaged too quickly. All other anchors are in good condition. We added a quick link at the spot where there was an old stuck rope (rope removed) so that the quick link now works properly. The water flow was high yesterday, and we'd like to highlight two caution points: 1. just before the final section: last escape route on the left during the approach walk, there is a tricky spot where water runs under a rock, creating a small siphon. It's best to stay on the bank as much as possible. 2 The logs are still there, but they don't pose much of an issue. Despite these changes, the canyon remains beautiful and fully enjoyable. Photos of the rockfall will be added to this report. (machine translated)

2025-08-10 | Romain Butty | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ | 👍 Completed

Parts:
Choltalbach (Inferiore), v6 a5 IV, 5min+4h+20min
Choltalbach (superiore), v4 a5 III, 5min+3h+5min