Coumelade

Canyon de la Coumelade

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: 2024-06-05 22:33:23	**Update:** 2025-10-27 08:19:52	**Print:** 2026-10-31 01:10:08
Country: France **Region:** Occitanie **Subregion:** Pyrénées-Orientales **Town:** Le Tech		
Difficulty: not as difficult	**Grading:** v3 a3 III	**Total time:** 3h35
Approachtime: 1h	**Tourtime:** 2h30	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 1540m	**Altitude exit:** 900m	**Delta Altitude:** 640m
Canyon length: 4700m	**Highest rapell:** 21m	**Amount rapells:**
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 1.6 (1)	**Info:** ★ 0 ()	**Belay:** ★ 0 ()

Specialities:
Permit required, Dam (inform operator),

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 20m

Summary: (machine translated)
Four parts in total.

P1 Riu dels Troncassers, P2 Sant Guillem, P3 Coumelade, P4 La Llau, Ribera de la Comalada

Hydrology: (machine translated)
There are numerous alternative routes in all four parts, but be careful in the parts that are cut in!

Access: (machine translated)
Follow the D115 from Prats de Mollo to Le Tech.
Cross the bridge over the Coumelade river and then follow the departmental road as it leaves the village.
Leave the D115 and cross the D74A, the second road on the right towards the EDF hydroelectric power station above the hamlet of Banat.
After a few sharp hairpin bends, you will reach the first houses of La Llau.
At the entrance to La Llau, you will see a small mountain road that branches off to the right and leads up to Col de la Rua at an altitude of 1013 meters.
A large sign indicates the Sant Guillem refuge and its opening hours.
Follow this small road, which quickly becomes a dirt track, or take the second vehicle that serves as a shuttle if you have opted for this option.
If you have opted for the shuttle, go directly to the parking lot of La Llau on the D74 on the other side of the bridge by crossing the hamlet.
You can also drive up to the refuge in a single car, as the road is passable, but for more comfort we recommend you take an off-road vehicle/SUV.
At the Col de la Rua mountain pass, you must pass the open barrier, paying attention to the road closure dates, and after twenty minutes you will reach the Sant Guillem mountain refuge.
For part 1 "Riu dels Troncassers", the parking lot is located 500 meters further up after the small bridge in a widening if you follow the path above the refuge and the chapel of Sant Guillem.
Shuttle buses are not essential for the four parts of the canyon; you can start directly from the La Llau parking lot if you wish.

Approach: (machine translated)
- P1 Riu dels Troncassers: 10 min./40 min.
10 min: The first access on foot to the most interesting part of this part starts next to the small bridge.
From the bridge, walk along the right bank below the forest for ten minutes until you reach the C15 "Gerbe".
Once you are in front of the small canyon, continue uphill to the left over the rocks of this part.
At the level of the hunters' markings (orange dot), follow the well-marked path to the Gerbe of this beautiful, equipped waterfall.
40 min: To descend the entire first part, follow the path after the parking lot of the small bridge until the Y fork and then start the ascent towards Col Baixo.
Once at the mountain pass, pass the electric fence and close it behind you.
Continue up the path for a quarter of an hour until you reach "els Troncassers", where there is a wooden fence made of pallets used for livestock.
Walk along the fence on the right and descend directly to the starting point opposite the Congeste canyon (tributary on the right).

- P2 Sant Guillem: 10 min.
From Sant Guillem, the ascent begins behind the chapel under a Catholic cross.
A clearly visible path leads to a stone fountain with drinking water. Follow the river downstream for a few meters until you reach the first abseiling point.

- P3 Coumelade: 15 min.
The starting point of the canyon is eight hundred meters below the mountain hut.
Go past the arboretum near the electric fence and then take the steep, very open path that leads down to the EDF reservoir.
A sign prohibits access to the dam, do not enter it!
You must reach the starting point by going down well before the prohibition sign.

- P4 La Llau: 30 min.
From the La Llau parking lot, return on foot over the D74 bridge.
Walk along the road until you reach the marked PR footpath, which starts with a short fenced path (footpath sign at the roadside).
Walk past the barn on a dead-end road and take the only path to the left.
After a few minutes, you will reach a breathtaking viewpoint of the cliffs of Roca Roja and then descend to the river via the first easily recognizable path on the left side of the hiking trail that leads up to the mountain hut.

Tour: (machine translated)
A varied canyon for all age groups, P1/P2/P4 also suitable for families with children.
The four parts are completely different, but all very entertaining.
There is something for everyone: rappels, jumps, slides, swims, counter-movements, abseiling.
The first part called Riu dels Troncassers is very wild with abseiling parts, you have to get the rope out of your rucksack a bit more often than in the second part, the Sant Guillem waterfalls, where several slides follow each other.
For P1 and P2 there are interesting, hollowed out and incised passages, but the profile is more like rafting or a water hike.
The third part is more canyon-like and much more hollowed out with numerous slides, as is the fourth part, which is much shorter and has beautiful parts.

- P1 Riu dels Troncassers: 30min "partie intéressante"/1h30 "entièrement"
Rn°1: AN/C9 RD + Rn°2: AN/C13 RD + D3 + Rn°3: C5 RG + T3 + T1 + Rn°4: AN/C5 RD + D2 + T4 sec RG + D2 + Rn°5: AN/C7 RG + S2 RG + T6 + O6 + Rn°6: AN/C4 RG + T1 + T2 + D1 + D2 + D3 + D1 + D1 + D1 + la partie la plus intéressante sculptée de P1 = Rn°7: MC/AN C12 "gerbe" RD + r + T2/S2 RD + Rn°8: AN/C6 RG

- P2 Sant Guillem: 1h30.
T1 + Rn°1: AN/C10 RD + r + T2 + T4 + Rn°2: AN/C3 RD + r + T3 plat + T2/S2 RD + T7 + Rn°3: C9 RG + D1 + T3 "dans la forêt" + encaissement majeur: T5 tape fesses + T4 plat (attention à la réception) + T2 + T3 (face au monopoint) + petit T2 RG + T5 + T6 + Rn°4: C4 RD (relais haut) + T1 + D4

- P3 Coumelade: 2h30.
D2 + Rn°1: MC/C7 RG "toboggan extrême" (T7 délicat) RD uniquement pour expérimenté(es) + Rn°2: R10/AN RG + T2 + T9 + T8 + Rn°3: MC/C11 RD + R6 RD hors flux équipé sur lunules (abalakovs) + T6 + Rn°4: C14 RD + D3 (Danger! bloc caché) + S1 + Rn°5: AN/C20 RD + ressaut + T3 + T1 (Danger ! casse chevilles) + T4 + T7 + T1 + Rn°6: MC/C12 RG=AN/C12 RD + Rn°7: C9 RD + D1 + D2

- P4 La Llau: 45min.
T5 + Rn°1: C6 RG/S4 + Rn°2: C13 RD + ressaut étroit + Rn°3: C8 RD + T2 au pied de la goulotte ouverte.

- The 112 does not work almost anywhere except in the refuge and the chapel of Sant Guillem, it is very difficult to find network reception.
- P1 (Riu dels Troncassers) can be reached directly over the small bridge by walking along the right bank through the forest.
This is the most interesting part of section 1, it starts at abseil point no. 7 (MC C15 RD "gerbe"). To continue with another part, take the path to the Catholic cross above the Sant Guillem chapel. Never continue under the bridge at the exit of P1 in the river (long and arduous path).
- Telephone number and e-mail address of the Sant Guillem refuge: 0978049685 refugesantguillem@gmail.com. Don't forget to book accommodation and meals.
- The trail is closed from July 1 to August 31.

Return: (machine translated)
- P1 Riu dels Troncassers: 2 min.
Leave the path on the right bank (cairn) "before the small bridge".
It leads directly back to the parking lot. If you want to continue the second part, follow the path on foot to the cross above the chapel.

- P2 Sant Guillem: 20 min.
Just after the last two obstacles Rn°4 and the following T1, climb up the slope on the left bank, corridor of foliage, behind a rock pillar, then boulders and forest. Follow the blue markings that lead to the refuge.
This return route is well before the EDF water intake.

- P3 Coumelade: 30 min.
The first way back is about twenty meters before the last part, a blue dot on a tree marks the exit.
You can pull yourself up on a rope that is stretched from one tree to another and leads to a stone channel.
Follow this to the marked PR trail, which exits opposite a waterfall (one of the tributaries on the left bank of the Coumelade) that interrupts the trail.
Either continue in the water over the boulders and then downstream on the bank and get out of the water just after a second tributary, also on the left bank.

- P4 La Llau: 5 min.
Immediately after the last anchor in the open chute, follow the watercourse on the right bank to the channel leading to the D74 bridge (do not continue down in the water).
The canal overlooks the river on the left bank, the way back is easy and in a few minutes you are back at the hamlet's parking lot.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 42.4406 2.5092
Parking Entry and Exit 42.4409 2.5096

Reports:

2026-09-27 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Coumelade (intégrale) Descente au barrage pour la partie 3, belles condi, automne arrive aux frondaisons (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21319/observations.html)

2026-08-27 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Coumelade (intégrale) (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21319/observations.html)

2026-08-22 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Coumelade (intégrale) Retour au Gourg de la Llau ou Coumelade P4 avec Kevin T. M. pour actualiser l'équipement qui était resté dans sa version initiale (+ correction du point qui était un peu trop haut, dégagement des troncs en travers, etc..)
Une belle petite section, avec du ludique, qui peut se faire après avoir fait la Coumelade classique (P3) ou bien comme mini-parcours pour une fin de journée ou comme plan B après avoir fait demi-tour sur un autre site, avoir oublié ses chaussures (oui, oui, ça arrive ;)), etc..
Débit moyen moins. Le gros débit d'après-l'orage de Mayerr96 était complètement redescendu. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21319/observations.html)

2026-08-17 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Coumelade (intégrale) (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21319/observations.html)

2026-06-30 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Coumelade (intégrale) Parcouru P2 P3 P4. P2 accès facile juste après le refuge. Ambiance nature avec plein de petits obstacles. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21319/observations.html)

2026-05-15 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Crazy | 👎 Not done
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Coumelade (intégrale) (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21319/observations.html)

2025-09-07 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👎 Not done
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Coumelade (intégrale) Fait la partie 3 en partant du refuge (très agréable, DP à 50 euros). Personne d'autre que nous sur ce tronçon ce jour.Très beau canyon, très varié, avec des cascades d'aspects très différents, et bcp de tobogans qui expédient à vitesse grand V !Sortie bien raide pour jusqu'à rejoindre le canal, puis encore pour remonter l'affluent qui l'a défoncé jusqu'au chemin au dessus... Mieux vaut bien faire l'harnachement du sac pour avoir deux mains de libre. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21319/observations.html)

2025-08-22 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Coumelade (intégrale) De retour ! en petite équipe, toujours top (P3 et eeeeenfin .... kev!) (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21319/observations.html)

2025-07-20 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Coumelade (intégrale) Effectué juste p2 du refuge.Piste fermé en juillet août, ça rajoute un peu de marche (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21319/observations.html)

2025-07-19 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Coumelade (intégrale) Nuit au refuge Sant Guillem avec un super super groupe :) et notamment canyon PII, les cascades Sant Guillem, presque tout passe en tob, mais il faut bien remonter juste en face de la confluence avec le ravin de la LLosa, derrière un pilier rocheux.
+ descente de cet affluent, rec de la Llosa, en tout petit débit, on en profite mieux avec plus d'eau. C'est un bon plan B lorsqu'il y a trop d'eau dans la vallée. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21319/observations.html)

2025-07-18 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed