Val Tovanella

Torrente de Ponte Ferrovia,Torrente Tovanella,Tovanella

Create: 2023-03-09 20:49:54	**Update:** 2026-09-24 14:44:16	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:38
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Veneto **Subregion:** Belluno **Town:** Ospitale di Cadore		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v3 a4 III	**Total time:** 1h42
Approachtime: 10min	**Tourtime:** 1h30	**Returntime:** 2min
Altitude entry: 570m	**Altitude exit:** 500m	**Delta Altitude:** 70m
Canyon length: 400m	**Highest rapell:** 19m	**Amount rapells:** 8
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:** limestone	**Drainage area:** 10.00km²
Season:	**Orientation:** East	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 3.8 (13)	**Info:** ★ 2.6 (11)	**Belay:** ★ 2.6 (11)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x40m (2x30m)

Summary: (machine translated)
Short, beautiful, deeply incised lime canyon; slide brake at entry; clean water; several slippery spots; often only sparse sunlight; nice picnic area at the exit.

If you want to descend the upper Tovanella (or the Costa Signora tributary), the highest descent is 35 meters. There are six abseiling points on the Costa Signora.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
SS51 to Picnic Area Val Tovanella

Approach: (machine translated)
(15 min from the picnic parking lot)
Before starting the hike, check the water level at the last waterfall near the picnic area (takes about 5 min.). Follow the mountain road with the “Val Tovanella” sign on the orographic right side of the gorge. Further up, cross the stream via a concrete bridge with a view into the canyon. Then cross two more wooden bridges before reaching a suitable spot (broken wooden railing). Here, enter the stream before the iron debris barrier you’ve already spotted. Entry point at approx. 570 m.

Tour: (machine translated)
After passing through the gap at the boulder barrier, you initially follow a fairly open canyon with short sections requiring downclimbing or rappelling to a depth of about 5 meters. The canyon narrows noticeably as you proceed. Artificial light is generally not needed, though some parts are very dark and exciting if you’re not familiar with the canyon yet. Starting from the middle, the canyon gets really interesting. After a short jump into a dark pool, you reach a rope traverse mounted high on the right side with a belay station, from which you then rappel about 15 meters into a small grotto. A short, narrow walking passage follows before you reach the railroad bridge. (Here, with a great deal of skill, you could reach and use the railroad bridge’s ladder as an emergency exit.) The next 20-meter abseil is partly done in the water, and the rope retrival is done in the pool. This is followed by a small 2-meter step (belay point on the left) leading to the final 12-meter waterfall. Here, the canyon opens up again. The pool varies in depth, so a jump should be carefully considered!!! After the last rappel of about 500 meters, the canyon exits.

Return: (machine translated)
After the last pool, follow the shallow streambed to the gravel bank in front of the road bridge. Here you are left at the picnic parking lot or return to the parking area on the access path.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.3178 12.3102
Canyon End 46.3182 12.3154
Parking Entry and Exit 46.3189 12.3163
Waypoint 46.3167 12.3172
Alternative Canyon Start 46.3159 12.2966

Reports:

2026-10-18 | Nicola | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
The descent is always very beautiful and enjoyable.WARNING: THE VHE ANCHOR POINTS ARE BEGINNING TO BECOME UNRELIABLE, especially those after the overhead handrail—which has a chain link that’s been cut and then hammered shut—and the final rappel section, which has three anchor points but all of them are loose. They need to be re-anchored. (machine translated)

2026-10-03 | Jeroen Kirchner | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Good combo. In total it makes sense to go up. Only 30' needed for the lower part. No issues here. For the upper part, see separate description.

2026-08-28 | Horst Lambauer | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Today we descended the canyon starting from the highest entry point. All the anchors are in good condition, and we also re-drilled two rappelling points. Immediately after the dam in the second “Superiore” section, you no longer need to rappel from the tree on the ortographic right, but instead rappel down to a new rappel station and then tackle the 30-meter waterfall. It took us 6 hours for the entire canyon, including the access and drilling (approx. 1:45 for the access). The upper sections are definitely worth it, though there are a few walking passages in between. (machine translated)

2026-08-25 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Tovanella (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21731/observations.html)

2026-08-19 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Tovanella (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21731/observations.html)

2026-08-03 | Jan Grundheber | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
Low water level, but still a fair amount of flow. Despite the long dry spell, it’s still an aquatic canyon. In the lower third, a tree trunk has become lodged (see photo), with about 30 cm of it being eroded away beneath the water. This could become a hazard if the water level rises. The final 12-meter rappel cannot currently be jumped, as the water depth at the deepest point is about 1.5 meters. The debris barrier was easily bypassed. (machine translated)

2026-07-18 | MirkoT | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
We began the descent from the Costa Signora branch at an elevation of 1,000 and ended it at the start of the lower section due to a 15-minute thunderstorm with light rain. The rapids on the Costa Signora branch continue for 6–7 obstacles, followed by a walk along the riverbed until the confluence with the Sesarola branch. There are a few more obstacles—none particularly difficult—leading up to the highlight of the Upper Tovanella: the hanging pool plus a 35-meter descent (located immediately after the weir). Photo 1: Waterfall just past the hydroelectric plant Photo 2: Pool suitable for diving on the Costa Signora. Jump well forward. Photo 3: Sesarola tributary Photo 4: Hydroelectric plant and possible entry and exit points (machine translated)

2025-11-16 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Tovanella Entrati circa a quota 760 quando il sentiero costeggia vicino il greto. E' un altro ingresso intermedio tra inizio parte alta e parte classica.Armi minimi nella parte alta e da migliorare, anche come posizionamento.Alberi insidiosi anche appena sopra l'ultima calata.Pozze abbastanza sgombre di ghiaia. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21731/observations.html)

2025-11-16 | MirkoT | | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Enter at about elevation 760 when the trail skirts near the creek bed. It is another intermediate entrance between beginning upper part and classic part. Minimal weapons in the upper part and also to be improved as positioning. Trees also treacherous in the puddle above the last rappel. Pools fairly clear of gravel. (machine translated)

2025-09-18 | Péter Bonczi | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ High | 👎 Not done
Logging was taking place in the canyon area today. Trees may have fallen into the canyon. One fell into the last pool. (machine translated)

2025-09-09 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed