Zanaibach

Create: 2023-03-09 20:53:27	**Update:** 2025-08-03 17:09:53	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:19
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton St. Gallen **Subregion:** Wahlkreis Sarganserland **Town:** Valens		
Difficulty: very difficult	**Grading:** v5 a6 V	**Total time:** 5h
Approachtime: 45min	**Tourtime:** 4h	**Returntime:** 15min
Altitude entry: 1096m	**Altitude exit:** 926m	**Delta Altitude:** 170m
Canyon length: 1500m	**Highest rapell:** 45m	**Amount rapells:** 14
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** 17.76km²
Season:	**Orientation:** East	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 4.3 (8)	**Info:** ★ 2.5 (4)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (6)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 1x50m, 2x30m

Summary: (machine translated)
Extremely narrow canyon that has no spectacular jumps, but shines through its scenic and aquatic impressions. Tour only go in absolutely stable weather and low water level !!!! A thunderstorm in the Zanaikessel would have fatal consequences. The water changes the streambed constantly. Many stands are often meters away from the canyon floor because the bed has sunk. Be sure to take enough emergency material with you!

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
Eastern Switzerland, Bad Ragaz, Valens. Approx. 1 km after Valens the road leads over the Zanaibach. Sparse parking immediately before and after the bridge.

Approach: (machine translated)
On the orographic right side of the canyon follow a hiking trail until you reach the other side of the canyon via a wooden bridge. After another 200m follow a thin path into the canyon and rappel about 25m from a tree into the streambed just before an erosion gully.

Tour: (machine translated)
The abseil station for the highest waterfall (45m) is on the right behind the edge, belay anchors for traverse on the right in the corner. Further down, the abseiling points are lower but more aquatic. In 2014 there were many wedged trees in the area of the old bridge - downclimbing in the water is not easy.

Information on current conditions can be obtained from Alphons Kühne: 7317 Valens, 081/3025044, 079/6603318

Return: (machine translated)
Just before the road bridge, get off to the left over an overgrown steep slope.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.9623 9.4525
Parking Entry and Exit 46.9643 9.4711
Canyon End 46.9636 9.4697

Reports:

2026-10-24 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Zanaibach Beautiful canyon! First half has some very interesting drops. Second half less interesting obstacles and a bit of walking with some trees here and there, nevertheless still an amazing gorge overall. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21337/observations.html)

2026-10-24 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Zanaibach Good strong flow, but i think quite normql for this canyon, no problems.Some rain and snow before and during the descent. But water level was not raising during the descent.2h for the descent with 5 people. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21337/observations.html)

2026-10-16 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Zanaibach La première partie est de loin la plus sympa. Après la C23 c'est looooong et beaucoup de troncs. Le point de la vasque intermédiaire de la 45 a été changé. Tout est ok. Faut compter plus près de 2h/2h30 que les 4/5 heures annoncées. Cairn qui marque la sortie. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21337/observations.html)

2026-10-09 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Zanaibach Debit correct malgré les pluies de la veille. Les ancrages sont plutot bon (attention, mono point de la C45 en sortie de vasque pas en bonne etat alors qu'on aimerait que ca tienne.)Magnifique encaissement.Odeur de charogne au milieu mais rien vu. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21337/observations.html)

2026-09-12 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | |
Automatisch importiert von Schlucht.ch für Canyon Zanaibach superiore, Wasserstand: "Normal" Verankerungen: "Gut" Aktuell sehr gute Bedingungen; oberhalb der Holzbrücke gibt es keine Abseiler mehr, der erste kommt unterhalb der Brücke an einem grossen Felsblock mittig in der Schlucht; etwas Holz, das aber nirgends problematisch ist; leider trübt man das ansonsten klare Wasser selber durch die Begehung ein... Ausgestiegen links steil hoch vor der Autobrücke. (Quelle: https://schlucht.ch/schluchten-der-schweiz-liste/1001-zanaibach-superiore)

2026-09-12 | Sarah Allemann | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ⯨ |🕮 |⚓ ★ ★ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
Conditions are currently very good; there are no more rappellers above the wooden bridge—the first one reaches a large boulder in the middle of the canyon just below the bridge; there’s some driftwood, but it isn’t a problem anywhere; unfortunately, we ourselves cloud the otherwise clear water as we hike through it.... After exiting, head steeply uphill to the left before the car bridge. Flow rate of the Görbsbach: approx. 0.40 m³/s—but is the stream a suitable reference? (machine translated)

2026-09-06 | Peter Lampacher | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | 〰 Low | 👍 Completed
At this water level, it's a relaxing trip. All necessary moorings are in place and in good condition. (machine translated)

2026-08-11 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Zanaibach Los anclajes estaban bien (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21337/observations.html)

2026-08-02 | Betschart Stefan | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | 〰 Normal | 👍 Completed
All the anchors are in place for now; we drilled two new holes for the hooks in the INF section. We rappelled down from a tree by the wooden bridge, straight into the canyon. It was a long, strenuous hike. We completed both sections. The water wasn't clear, so it was difficult to walk through. (machine translated)

2025-09-20 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 〰 High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Zanaibach Équipement en place, rajouté 1 seul point.Dans la 45, le point en sortie de vasque suspendue est massacré, tirer direct du haut.C23 magnifique, belle douche dessous.1 vasque qui tournait sur le bas de la course.2h à 3.Retour droit dans la pente raide en rive gauche, sans trop de sentier. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21337/observations.html)
