Rio Bianco

Create: 2023-03-09 20:50:24	**Update:** 2025-09-02 14:52:55	**Print:** 2026-10-30 01:10:56
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Friuli Venezia Giulia **Subregion:** Udine **Town:** Santa Catharina		
Difficulty: not as difficult	**Grading:** v3 a3 IV	**Total time:** 6h30
Approachtime: 1h10	**Tourtime:** 5h	**Returntime:** 20min
Altitude entry: 1324m	**Altitude exit:** 710m	**Delta Altitude:** 614m
Canyon length: m	**Highest rapell:** 28m	**Amount rapells:**
Transport:	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 2.6 (2)	**Info:** ★ 3 (1)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (1)

Specialities:

Gear:

Summary: (machine translated)
Long, very remote canyon somewhere between hiking day and canyoning tour

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
Parking exit: Take the E55 highway to the Pontebba exit, change here to the SS13 and drive towards Tarvisio. After a few kilometers turn left to Santa Catharina. Park at a small rest area directly on the Rio Bianco
Parking entry: Back onto the SS13 and via Tarvisio and Arnoldstein to Austria. Here take the main road 111 to Hermagor and follow the signs for Garnitzenklamm to the Garnitzenklamm parking lot. Just before the parking lot, follow a narrow asphalt road on the left to the parking lot on the Eggeralm. Alternatively, you can also drive to Hermagor via Pontebba and Nassfeld - less km but no time saving.

Approach: (machine translated)
From the parking lot 200m along the road, then turn right onto a sand road that you follow slightly uphill to the Kersnitzensattel. From here descend to Stallensattel (1496m) where you change to the marked Kärntner Grenzweg, which leads downhill to the Rio Bianco valley. You cross some gravel gullies (partly wire rope safety devices) until the valley becomes wider. Good descent to the Rio Bianco in the area of the second streambed crossed: first easily through the scree bed until you are in front of a small waterfall, bypass it on the left on Gamssteig and downclimb into the streambed. In the Rio Bianco descend a few more 100m until you reach the wooden beams of an old hermitage. Here is the entry.

Tour: (machine translated)
Oberste Klause 1324m - Hauptklause 1099m
Open canyon with some nice possible jumps, the highlight is the 'Wendlingbad', a deep pool in the white rock with a metal plaque. A few 100m further on is the only equipped abseil point in this part: below a clamping block, a sling leads 8m into a short gorge. Then about 1000m of hiking in the wide gravel bed.

Main chasm 1099m - end of gorge 946m
The canyoning part of the tour. Short gorges alternate with wider parts - it is hardly possible to leave the canyon.
* 15m rappel over 2 pools from anchors with sling left
* 6m rappel from anchor left
* 10m rappel from anchor left
* 4m downclimb left over clamping block, side stream from right
* From here great rock folds
* 8m rappel from tree
* 28m rappel from 2 anchors + sling from block in the middle of the river
* Downclimb
* 14m rappel from anchors with slings on the left
* 4m rappel from jammed tree
* 20m rappel from 2 anchors + sling left, this belay is unfavorably placed and it is questionable whether it will survive many floods.
* 15m downclimb right

End of gorge 946m - last gorge 710m
300m of block climbing until the canyon narrows again and eats its way through black slate. Here a 10m abseil from a clamping block + sling on the left. Then downclimb and slide until the canyon widens and flattens out. From here, a long hike (>2 km) in the wide gravel bed until you reach the last gorge: rappel 20m from a tree on the right and downclimb 15m keeping right. The rest of the gorge is scenically impressive but easy to walk.

Return: (machine translated)
Continue descending through the streambed. You pass a huge boulder dam and 10min later the abandoned Santa Catharina train station. From here it is only a few meters to the parking lot.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.5627 13.3484
Parking at Exit 46.5030 13.3963
Parking at Entry 46.5869 13.3741
Canyon End 46.5186 13.3921

Reports:

2026-10-03 | Horst Lambauer | ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | Normal | Completed
We tackled the canyon today and re-anchored a few belay stations. There are still two 3-meter downclimb sections left. If you’re not a good climber, bring a drill. The canyon is a dream in the fall if you want to enjoy beautiful scenery and are interested in geology. I’ve rarely seen such beautiful limestone strata and conglomerates in Friuli. In terms of canyoning technique, it has some great sections to offer, but also very, very long walking passages. I can’t imagine it being much fun in midsummer when temperatures are high. (machine translated)

2023-03-09 | System User | ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ | |
Daten importiert von https://canyon.carto.net/cwiki/bin/view/Canyons/RioBiancoCanyon.html

First descent: 29.08.2014 by Urška Bricelj, David Sefaj, Andi Aichholzer, Georg Buol, Tom Prettner