Gorduno (superiore)

Create: 2023-08-07 18:58:25	**Update:** 2026-07-01 00:15:12	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:44
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton Tessin / Cantone Ticino **Subregion:** Bezirk Bellinzona **Town:** Gorduno		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v4 a4 III	**Total time:** 3h35
Approachtime: 30min	**Tourtime:** 3h	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 940m	**Altitude exit:** 530m	**Delta Altitude:** 410m
Canyon length: 2000m	**Highest rapell:** 30m	**Amount rapells:** 9
Transport: Car optional	**Rock type:** gneiss	**Drainage area:** 8.00km²
Season: April - October	**Orientation:** East	**Best Time:** 8-18 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 2.5 (1)	**Info:** ★ 2 (1)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (1)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 30m

Summary: (machine translated)
The upper section of the Gorduno has some beautiful features, though unfortunately they are interrupted by long walking passages.

Hydrology: (machine translated)
It's a medium-sized watershed, but there are some very narrow sections in the stream, so you shouldn't go in with too much water.

Access: (machine translated)
Below, you can pay the toll using Twint for 7 francs.

Approach: (machine translated)
Park at P.1160, and walk from there to Pián d'Arnè. From there, head downhill cross-country until you reach the trail at 1000hm, which is no longer visible. Follow the old track through the steep cliff face to reach P.935.

Tour: (machine translated)
The route has a few rappels right at the start, but then there’s a long stretch that, while it has some cut-ins here and there, is full of boulders to downclimb. It’s not until you round the hill at P.717 that polished rock reappears. There’s a really beautiful narrow section there, where the final rappel should not be underestimated when the water level is high.

After that, the stream becomes less exciting again. The water disappears completely in some places, and you have to downclimb boulders for several dozen meters before the terrain flattens out again and you reach the entry to the Inferiore.

Return: (machine translated)
Either continue on the Inferiore, or take its access trail in the opposite direction.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.2187 8.9897
Canyon End 46.2176 9.0133

Reports:

2026-06-30 | Bubtore | ☆ ☆ ⯨ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
It's okay once in a lifetime. It's a shame that many of the vertical parts of the route are just boulders you have to downclimb. But a few spots are really beautiful, and I've never seen water this golden before. (machine translated)

2023-09-28 | Daniel Sturm | | 🕮 | ⚓ | |
Basic data taken with kind permission by Matthias Holzinger from "Swiss Alps Canyoning VOL. 2.0" (machine translated)

Parts:
Gorduno (superiore), v4 a4 III, 30min+3h+5min
Gorduno (inferiore), v3 a3 III, 55min+2h30+5min