Ochsenschlucht (oberer Teil)

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: 2023-03-09 20:49:54	**Update:** 2025-11-17 12:55:04	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:13
Country: Österreich / Austria **Region:** Kärnten **Subregion:** Bezirk Spittal an der Drau **Town:** Berg im Drautal		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v3 a4 III	**Total time:** 2h45
Approachtime: 30min	**Tourtime:** 2h	**Returntime:** 15min
Altitude entry: 1200m	**Altitude exit:** 850m	**Delta Altitude:** 350m
Canyon length: m	**Highest rapell:** 17m	**Amount rapells:** 15
Transport: Car optional	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 2.5 (2)	**Info:** ★ 1 (1)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (1)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 40m +30m

Summary: (machine translated)
IMPORTANT: The access to the canyons must be announced! For contact details see approach.

The canyon can be accessed via a right and a left access (times and altitude meters in parentheses). While you can drive up the right access partly by car, you have to walk up the left access all the way to the entry on a forest road.
The right access is very scenic, but has a lot of long walking passages. The left access, on the other hand, has only one longer walking passages in between and you come to an interesting narrow part of the upper part right away.
Both inlets are worthwhile in any case. The upper part impresses with its beautiful scenic and geology, but is certainly not as demanding (except for 2 places) as the lower part of the Ochsenschlucht.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
At the train station in Berg an der Drau, cross the bridge over the Drau. Stay on the road for approx. 2km until you reach a junction where you turn right towards "Radlerstation Sandhof". Continue on the road for approx. 150m, crossing the stream of the Ochsenschlucht (Feistritz), before the parking lot (picnic area) appears on the left - directly after the stream. Here you can park your vehicle with your dry clothes. In general, the parking lot should be used to park the majority of cars. The number of parking spaces at the upper parking lot is limited (2 cars).

IMPORTANT: Permission must be requested before entering the canyon (preferably the day before). To do this, call Mario Duller from Ares Canyoning (+43 676 844425280; office@bikeschule.at). Mario has leased the canyon and knows the farmer over whose land the private access road runs!
Water control:
Directly at the Sandhof farm, the road leads uphill to the right. After approx. 500m, a gravel road leads downhill to the right, which is blocked by a large tree trunk. Get out here and walk to the weir system of the stream for the water check. There is no point in checking the water at the lower parking lot by the stream because the water is diverted at the weir! A reference photo of the water level on our walk can be found below; this is the "normal water level", but it can be challenging at one point or another. Alternatively, you can hike from the lower parking lot for about 15 minutes in the direction of the canyon, before you reach the weir and can check the water according to the reference photos.

Approach right inlet (red tour on topographic view)
If the water level is ok, take the road uphill for approx. 3.5 km. After a few hairpin bends in the forest, you come out at a mountain pasture where you keep to the right. Drive briefly into the forest again before you come out at the mountain pasture again and drive past the farm and a deer enclosure. The asphalt road turns into a gravel path that continues uphill. You drive back into the forest, keeping to the right at junctions until you come to a barrier after 2000m. You should park somewhere before the barrier, as this is where the federal forest begins and the road may not be driven on.

Approach: (machine translated)
Access right access (red tour on topographic view): 30min
Follow the forest road for about 30 minutes before the road leads directly over the right access. Attention, there is a large inlet about 5 minutes before the entry (but it is led under the forest road). This is not yet the entry but comes 5 minutes later.

Access left access (blue tour on topographic view): 2h
From the lower parking lot or left follow the hiking trail/forest road 233 uphill (no driving) until below a small hut at approx. 1160m in the first hairpin bend a narrow path leads directly down into the canyon.
(More pleasant than the earlier access via a boulder field, which is also marked in the topographic view).

Tour: (machine translated)
Tour description right approach to confluence: approx. 1.75h
The right approach is characterized by a very beautiful open hiking gorge with a few rappels inside, but these are not difficult. There are several tributaries in the right-hand tributary of the Ochsenschlucht. The right-hand approach consists of relatively long walking and downclimbs, but is quite beautiful due to the beautiful scenery and the clear water, which gradually becomes more and more. Only in the last 500m of the right tributary, before the left tributary joins it, does the canyon become narrower and narrower.

Tour description left tributary to confluence: approx. 0.5h (first ascent May 2020)
The left approach saves you a few meters of streambed walking before you reach the more interesting part of the Ochsenschlucht.
At the beginning, smaller steps are downclimbed, followed by a rappel point or left with 5-7m (not marked in the topographic view), after another walking passages you come to a short rappel from a tree. Then you have about 400m of walking passages ahead of you before the canyon cuts in noticeably and you come to a small cascade. The first 3 m can be downclimbed or carefully slid before you come to a bolt on the right. You rope into the 2nd pool and can slide the last 3 m steps. Then you come to the right-hand approach and stand directly in front of the interesting first section of the upper approach.

Tour description from the confluence to the start of the lower section: approx. 1.5 hours
The confluence of the right and left tributaries is the first very beautiful, but technically challenging section. Due to the confluence, the water volume suddenly doubles and you have to enter a deeper, turbulent pool to set up the rappel ortographic left. The rappel leads through a turbulent pool and you have to rappel directly in the water. It is advisable to set up a closed circle at this point because the water pressure is quite high.
This is immediately followed by another cascade, which begins at a chain anchor on the right. You then have to cross the stream with a strong current before you reach a bolt on the left at the rock ledge.

These 2 highlights are followed by a relatively long walking and partly swimming passage in a canyon with impressive geology. The further you go down the Ochsenschlucht, the more springs and tributaries flow into the Ochsenschlucht, making it an aquatic canyon in the lower part. For this reason, certain sections in the upper part of the canyon should not be underestimated (baffle wall, currents). Compared to the lower part, however, the water problems are manageable.
Towards the exit of the upper part of the canyon, it narrows again and you sometimes have to rappel into more turbulent pools or cross them. At 850m, a boulder field enters the canyon on the right. If there have been problems with the water up to this point, you should get out here. There are practically no escape routes in the lower part. This boulder field also marks the beginning of the lower part of the Ochsenschlucht (see separate description).

Return: (machine translated)
(on foot: 45 min.)
If you don't want to walk the lower part of the canyon, you first have to walk up the boulder field at 850m or right before you come out at the forest road after about 15 - 20 min. If you have not parked your car here, you will have to walk 45 min - 1 h to the lower parking lot or 30 min to 45 min before you reach the barrier where you have to park your car for the upper part

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.6971 13.1198
Canyon End 46.7160 13.1242
Parking Entry and Exit 46.7332 13.1208

Reports:

2025-11-15 | Theresa Petschar | ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | Low | Completed
Entered the upper canyon via the left-hand (blue in the topographic view) section. Entry difficult to find (GPS coordinates updated). 2-3 cool rappels, but otherwise long streambed hassle and therefore prematurely chose the "emergency exit" (left; very steep and at risk of falling!). (machine translated)

2023-03-09 | System User | ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ | |
Daten importiert von https://www.canyoning.or.at/index.php/liste-aller-canyons/497-ochsenschlucht-oberer-teil

Parts:
Ochsenschlucht (oberer Teil), v3 a4 III, 30min+2h+15min
Ochsenschlucht (unterer Teil), v3 a5 IV, 0min+3h+0min