Giétro

Create: 2023-10-11 21:41:45	**Update:** 2025-10-27 07:18:24	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:04
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton Wallis / Canton du Valais **Subregion:** Bezirk Entremont **Town:** Mauvoisin		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v5 a5 V	**Total time:** 12h30
Approachtime: 4h	**Tourtime:** 7h	**Returntime:** 1h30
Altitude entry: 2750m	**Altitude exit:** 2000m	**Delta Altitude:** 750m
Canyon length: 800m	**Highest rapell:** 90m	**Amount rapells:** 50
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** 7.50km²
Season: October - October	**Orientation:** West	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 5 (3)	**Info:** ★ 2 (2)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (3)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 1x 85m, 2x60m

Summary: (machine translated)
One of the most extreme and beautiful canyons in the Alps. From the foot of the Giétro glacier to the Mauvoisin reservoir. Very narrow parts in the upper parts. It is difficult to find the right conditions for an ascent. The canyon is long, very technical and can only be climbed when temperatures are low in mid-October. Ice is to be expected in the upper parts. Temperatures must therefore not be too low, as the amount of ice will then be too great.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
Unfortunately, the road to the dam is most likely closed during the time when it is possible to walk up (winter closure). If not, you can park near the dam. Otherwise there is a parking possibility at Bonatchiesse at an altitude of approx. 1580m (registered coordinate). It is then advisable to use e-bikes or normal bicycles to get to the dam wall 5.3km/420m.

Approach: (machine translated)
Follow the road through the tunnel up to the dam wall. Cross the dam wall and pass through the tunnel on the north side. After a short time you will reach a ladder where the ascent begins. Follow the path until you come to a technical building with a ladder and some kind of measuring apparatus at an altitude of approx. 2340 m above sea level. Turn left (NW) here. The rest of the trail is not marked on the Swisstopo, but on OSM maps. However, it is relatively obvious and partly secured with steel chains. At an altitude of approx. 2720m, the path branches off to the entry.

Tour: (machine translated)
The water from the glacier is extremely cold and ice must always be expected. Also with icefall on the high rappel. After the first part, there is a heavily cut passage that offers no escape route for some time. An ascent should therefore only be made by very experienced teams who can move quickly in these conditions. Depending on the amount of ice, it may be necessary to set a large number of additional anchors or to set stands in the ice accordingly. The lower half of the canyon is gripped. It is therefore essential to obtain information from the operator or to wait until operations cease around mid-October (for the lower part) before attempting the route.

Rope requirements: The highest waterfall has a height of approx. 90m and 4 stands (approx. 20m, approx. 25m, approx. 50m, approx. 15m (please adjust if exact values are known)). The lower two stands may not be usable depending on the water level and icing. An 85m rope is required to rope through from the second stand. If the water level is low and there is little ice, a 60m rope is sufficient.

Update 2023 : The middle stands were not well visible, + with more water probably in the wet, so we went down directly with 100m rope, probably smarter.

Return: (machine translated)
The canyon exits directly onto the hiking trail, which leads you back to the dam wall. From there, take the road back to the car.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.0015 7.3671
Canyon End 45.9966 7.3540
Parking Entry and Exit 46.0210 7.3291
Parking Entry and Exit 46.0025 7.3418

Reports:

2025-10-18 | Peter Lampacher | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Walked up to the water intake. Some ice, partly slush with undercurrent. Spectacular tour! (machine translated)

2023-10-15 | Bubtore | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Definitely one of my favorites, probably in the top 3 in Switzerland for me! But brutally cold! And always take a drill and anchors with you, about 5 places were no longer well equipped. (machine translated)

2022-10-22 | Hendrik | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
The original description is based on this walk-through. The anchorage evaluation refers to the condition after the walk-through. (machine translated)