Saitta

Gola Saracena,Torrente Saitta

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: 2024-06-05 22:54:22	**Update:** 2025-03-28 08:05:53	**Print:** 2026-10-31 01:10:01
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Sicilia **Subregion:** Messina **Town:** Taormina		
Difficulty:	**Grading:** v? a? ?	**Total time:**
Approachtime:	**Tourtime:**	**Returntime:**
Altitude entry: 300m	**Altitude exit:** 40m	**Delta Altitude:** 260m
Canyon length: 700m	**Highest rapell:** 66m	**Amount rapells:**
Transport:	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season: December - May	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 0 ()	**Info:** ★ 0 ()	**Belay:** ★ 0 ()

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 70m

Summary: (machine translated)
It is a short vertical canyon that cuts through the Costa Ogliastro, with a narrow series of four waterfalls, followed by a very open part strewn with chaotic boulders and interrupted by a single vertical. The descent of the highest waterfall (65 m) is spectacular and exciting, spanning an impetuous and concentrated jet of water which, 15 m after its arrival, when the wall breaks and goes into the void, plunges into the depths behind the canyoneer and pours into the middle of a magnificent pond surrounded by tall trees. Although the descent is short, it is certainly exciting and technically challenging when the water level is optimal, whereas without water (see photo on openspeleo.org) it loses much of its charm.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
From the A18 Catania-Messina highway, take the Taormina exit and continue on the S.S.114 state road towards Messina. When you reach the village of Letojanni, continue on the state road and, just before the bridge that crosses the stream of the same name, turn left and continue straight on until the road, which is asphalted but turns into a dirt track, ends in a small clearing where you can park your car. (Parking exit)

Drive back to the highway exit and continue towards Taormina and then Castelmola. A few kilometers before the village of Castelmola, turn right towards the sports field and just before it turn left up a steep slope and continue for about a kilometer until you reach an old, peculiar, abandoned restaurant (Le Quattro Stagioni); here turn right and drive down a small road, which soon becomes unpaved, to the other side of the valley where you can park your car near a residential house. (parking entry)

Approach:

Tour: (machine translated)
Coordinate for entry missing - cannot be clearly determined from description.

Descend the steep slopes to the valley floor towards the obvious entrance to the canyon. Once at the bottom, follow the Saitta stream for a few dozen meters until the walls rise and become increasingly vertical, announcing the start of the canyon, which begins after a sharp 90° bend with the first 12 m high vertical waterfall. This waterfall is interrupted a few meters after the entry by a small, low-hanging pool. Immediately afterwards, we find two small jumps interrupted by two small and deep potholes that can be overcome with a single rope abseil. At this point, the walls of the canyon become higher and are only a few meters apart; a completely vertical descent of 25 meters (if the current is strong, you should secure yourself to a prepared rope device before descending), and crossed by a strong jet of water that makes us slide, leads directly to the top of the spectacular 65-meter descent. The descent is airy, vertical and very exciting, as the concentrated and impetuous water flows between the canyoneer's legs until, 15 meters from the finish, the wall fails and we plunge into the middle of the small lake below with the water, which fortunately rushes down behind us at full force. We arrive above some large collapse blocks that are perfectly protected from the water.

Return: (machine translated)
At this point, it is possible to turn left and reach the car by crossing abandoned fields and then descending steep and impermeable slopes. However, the most comfortable way is to follow the walk of the torrent between chaotic boulders in a very open environment until, 300 meters further on, a path descends to the right that leads to the car parked downstream in a few minutes. Continuing along the stream, however, you descend another 10 meters to reach the confluence with the Letojanni stream shortly afterwards, not far from the clearing where the car is parked.

Coordinates:
Waypoint 37.8796 15.3040
Parking at Exit 37.8859 15.2872
Canyon End 37.8866 15.2883
Waypoint 37.8767 15.2768

Reports:

2023-03-09 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | |
Daten importiert von https://ropewiki.com/Saitta

First descent: 01.05.1998 by Diego Leonardi, Massimo Nicotra, Laura Caponnetto