

Oules de Freissinieres

Oules de Freissinières,Torrent des Oules,Oules

Create: 2023-03-09 20:55:04	Update: 2024-01-15 22:10:25	Print: 2025-07-09 12:07:12
Country: France Region: Provence-Alpes-Côte-d’Azur / Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur Subregion: Hautes-Alpes Town: Freissinières		
Difficulty: very difficult	Grading: v5 a6 IV	Total time: 6h5
Approachtime: 1h	Tourtime: 5h	Returntime: 5min
Altitude entry: 1750m	Altitude exit: 1440m	Delta Altitude: 310m
Canyon length: 850m	Highest rapell: 33m	Amount rapells:
Transport: on Foot	Rock type:	drainage area: km²
Season: August - October	Orientation: North	Best Time:
Rating: ★ 5 (4)	Info: ★ 2 (3)	Belay: ★ 3 (3)
Specialities: Glacier in drainage area,		
Gear: Ropes: 2x 50m		
Summary: (machine translated) Extremely watery rappel canyon, accessible from mid-August due to glacier water		
Hydrology: (machine translated) Glacier water. Before you set off, check the amount of water at the wooden bridge at the start of the Dormillouse trail.		
Access: (machine translated) From L'Argentière-la-Bessée, drive up to Freissinières and follow the D238 to the exit of the valley and park at the end of the road in the public parking lot.		
Approach: (machine translated) On the left bank of the Biaysse / Chichin, first follow the path towards Dormillouse. The path then climbs steeply in several bends. This is followed by a longer grade in a north-westerly direction, a leftward haipin bend and a fork at the next hairpin bend. Continue along the gradient (no further to Dormillouse). Continue along the path and follow the forks in a southerly direction (towards Gletcher, not Dormillouse). As soon as the path runs parallel to the Oules with little difference in altitude, you have reached the entry point.		

Tour: (machine translated)

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http://stephanecote.free.fr/fluide%2520glacial/Topos_oules_meije/Oules_de_freissini%25E8re/Topos_oules_de_freissini%25E8re/
access options and corresponding parts.
See also photos & videos.

Before you set off, check the water level at the wooden bridge at the start of the Dormillouse trail:

- 1. Watch the oval pool under the bridge, 3 meters downstream. The foam must not take up more than 1/3 of the pool! Otherwise it is "almost insurmountable" and only for experts who know the route. To find this famous 1/3, make a line running from the small ledge RG towards the RD (see photo).
- 2. locate the 50 cm scale to the right of the main overflow of the same basin, which has 6 rows of holes with an arrow;
 - If the waves fluctuate at the level of the 2-hole row, the canyon poses no particular danger.
 - From 3 to 4 holes, the water movements become more and more pronounced and the canyon becomes increasingly sporty and impressive without being really dangerous.
 - Beyond the 4/4.5 hole level, the canyon is aimed at very experienced practitioners who know the course (some passages can prove to be very technical).

Jumps: The oules become greased and degreased over the years. Some pools can be very deep in some years and completely greased in the following years and vice versa. It is therefore necessary to check the depth of each pool before jumping.

Equipment completely revised and updated in 2013.

IMPORTANT INFO: The names of the obstacles used in this description (slides/cascades/protrusions...) do not correspond exactly to the names in the topos Canyons des Hautes-Alpes (Henri Vincens) / Tour d'Europe des Canyon (Caracal). For the sake of "clarity", the names used by these authors for the main obstacles are specified in the following lines and added to the names of this description; example: for the first T5: "T5/dc", "T8/hv", "T6/c", which means in the order Descente-Canyon, Henri Vincens, Caracal (Tour de l'Europe).

The first part of 1.5 to 2 hours consists of ledges and small slides (T5, T10, T3, C5, C20, C12, and C6) where you have to be careful of the water movements. If you are strongly agitated in the slide "T5/dc", "T8/hv", "T6/c" (foaming tub and violent drop to the left), you can still escape to the right via a steep grassy scree just before "T10/dc", "T14/hv", "T10/c" (RD relay) (violent drop due to large current at the finish). This is followed by a small 2/3m slide and then a 4/5m jump/waterfall (RD relay/knot rope/required 4m jump/left bank drop). The 20m waterfall slide: "C20/dc", "T18/hv", "TC17/c" can be dangerous (handrail + RG relay). It can be lowered easily if the foaming jet does not touch the opposite bank (otherwise dangerous drop). Otherwise, you can save yourself via the RG (easy climb/3 m, at the height of the MC start) and then rappel 20 m from a relay on the ledge next to the rechapper. The next waterfall is no problem, RG relay (2 points), 10m rappel + slippery jump. The next obstacle requires a 6m jump into a pool (+/- depth/years).

From the (old) menhir (very large boulders in the canyon bed) things get serious (incidentally, this is the last easy escape route in the RG before... many worries....).

The second, very sporty part takes about 3 hours and requires great attention.

You string together abseiling sections and a nice S-slide, you negotiate de-escalations that are sometimes "hot", and you reach the "climax", the famous "cannon shot" (geyser); a water fountain shoots up horizontally and forms a beautiful ponytail.

On to the technical aspects; after "le Menhir", the 5 m high waterfall is jumped. The following "C8/dc", "C10/hv", "C8/c" can also be jumped, but the start is technical and slippery and you have to jump far to avoid falling onto an edge at a lower depth. It is better to rappel from the RD relay (2 points) (beware of the hanging tub, if the current is strong, it is better for the first person to rappel to reach the relay to avoid being washed away).

The relay of the S-slide, "T3+6/hv", "T5,T8/c", is more difficult to find. One meter before the first slide, climb over the RD jump (it's slippery!... short ladder more or less mandatory) to find two points, sometimes under the vegetation, two meters further (violent water movements and second part to be avoided when active/ ankle bise...). The next ledge offers a small waterfall (1 m, strongly reminiscent when the water flow is strong) and leads into a hanging pool. The next waterfall is an RD waterfall that de-escalates behind a group of trees.

After this, you finally reach the big abseils. A slide sends you directly into a new hanging basin (belay possible / 2 points above the slide / slippery access) towards the first MC with RG cable + RG relay: "C22/hv", "C23/c", rappel

Return: (machine translated)

After the 2nd bridge turn right to the car.

Coordinates:

Canyon Start [44.7250 6.4452](#)

Parking Entry and Exit [44.7334 6.4496](#)

Canyon End [44.7336 6.4493](#)

Reports:

2025-03-08 | System User | |📖|📌|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2024-09-20 | System User | |📖|📌|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres Un grand merci pour le rééquipement, canyon incroyable, les deux parties sont ok et les conditions étaient parfaites (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2024-09-15 | System User | |📖|📌|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres Tout saute dans la partie sup (excepté saut avec mélèze RD avec corde jaune autour). Gros chantier pour se souvenir où était le départ de la MC sous le Geyser. Merci aux DE (le déboucheur de siphon Destop05 en particulier et Marine !) du coin pour toutes les précieuses infos et le rééquipement absolument parfait ! Encore une journée où on se couchera moins con.Partagée avec Ricardcoca l'ami de longue date (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2024-09-07 | System User | |📖|📌|🌊 High |🔴 Not done

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2024-09-01 | System User | |📖|📌|🌊 Normal |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres Avec Martin (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2024-08-31 | System User | |📖|📌|🌊 High |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2024-08-19 | System User | |📖|📌|🌊 Crazy |🔴 Not done

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres Info remontée du terrain : "Les Oules de Freissinières ont subi des crues qui ont changé la morphologie du canyon : vasques engravées, amarrages tordus voire arrachés sur plusieurs têtes de cascades (plus aucun relais au geyser, mc endommagée), suspicion de glissement de terrain en rive droite... [...] Et en attente de plus d'infos, et des réparations, il serait sage de ne pas prévoir de descendre les Oules [...]" (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2024-08-18 | System User | |📖|📌|🌊 Crazy |👍 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres Partie amont jusqu'au mélèze réservée aux équipes connaissant parfaitement le canyon , les techniques de cordes et les techniques propres à l'eau vive.L'équipement dans la partie après le mélèze est rudimentaire suite aux crues rendant la descente de cette section extrêmement difficile jusqu'à rééquipement.Attention il y avait 4 trous mais cela correspond à peu près à 6 trous avant les crues! (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2024-08-16 | System User | |📖|📌|🌊 Crazy |🔴 Not done

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres Il reste un peu de neige au dessus.... (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2023-03-09 | System User | ★★★★★ |📖|📌| |

Info: Teile der Canyonbeschreibung wurden automatisiert übernommen. Konkret die Felder Weblinks, Koordinaten, Rating, Länge des Canyon, Einfachseil Mindestens von <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon/2266>

2023-03-09 | System User | |📖|📌| |

Daten importiert von <https://canyon.carto.net/cwiki/bin/view/Canyons/OulesdeFreissinieresCanyon.html>

2022-10-06 | Christian Balla | ★★★★★ |📖|★☆☆ |📌|★☆☆ |🌊 Crazy |👍 Completed

Water quantity ===== Very high flow rate. We avoid water as much as possible. Temperature ===== Water: Very cold. Gloves are mandatory. Air: Cool. During the waiting times, a cold feeling