

Gloomy Gorge

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: 2024-06-10 20:46:46Update: 2024-06-10 20:51:11Print: 2025-07-12 03:07:28

Country: New ZealandRegion: OtagoSubregion: Queenstown-Lakes DistrictTown: Mount Aspiring National Park

Difficulty: very difficultGrading: v6 a6 VITotal time: 25h

Approachtime: 6h40Tourtime: 13h20Returntime: 5h

Altitude entry: mAltitude exit: mDelta Altitude:

Canyon length: mHighest rapell: 50mAmount rapells: 25

Transport: on FootRock type:drainage area: km²

Season: March - MayOrientation:Best Time:

Rating: ★ 5 (1)Info: ★ 1 (1)Belay: ★ 1 (1)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 4x50m

Summary:
Very intimidating and technical canyon. For sure one of the Masterpieces to do in New Zealand.

Hydrology:

Access:

Approach:
Walk in the 16km along the Matukituki River, overnight at the confluence of Gloomy and the main river. On the next day walk up the french ridge, once you hit the Subalpine, a bit hidden there are tapes that will get you to the start of the canyon (1 hour of bush bashing).

Tour:
Get in contact with someone who has done the canyon already to get specific details, as there are plenty of tricky spots, and very long handlines to do.

Return:
Sleep again at the bottom of the canyon, and walk out the 16km on the next day.

Coordinates:

Reports:
2024-03-23 | Bubtore | ★★★★★ | 📖 ★ | ⚓ ★ | 🌊 High | 🍏 Completed
Somehow magical, some have been trying to tackle this monster for years, and we come along with no expectations, have the perfect weather window to take a chance, and it worked out perfectly. Somehow too perfect. We were only in the canyon for 10 hours, before that the fastest was 20 hours, so we were pretty stunned. But hopefully a few more teams will dare to tackle it now, because so far it's only been done every 5 years (2013 and 2018) (machine translated)