Sponde

Riale delle Sponde,Riveo,Someo ,Ri delle Sponde

Create: 2023-03-09 20:50:30	**Update:** 2025-11-26 19:29:27	**Print:** 2026-10-30 01:10:34
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton Tessin / Cantone Ticino **Subregion:** Bezirk Vallemaggia **Town:** Maggia		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v5 a3 IV	**Total time:** 7h35
Approachtime: 1h30	**Tourtime:** 6h	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 960m	**Altitude exit:** 380m	**Delta Altitude:** 580m
Canyon length: 1300m	**Highest rapell:** 60m	**Amount rapells:** 22
Transport: Car optional	**Rock type:** gneiss	**Drainage area:** 5.33km²
Season: May - October	**Orientation:** South	**Best Time:** 9-12 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 4.3 (15)	**Info:** ★ 2.4 (11)	**Belay:** ★ 2.2 (13)
Specialities:		

Gear:
Ropes: 3x70m (ggf. 1x110m)

Summary: (machine translated)
Beautiful, long canyon with steps up to 110m and high technical rappels up to 60m; several intermediate belays; communication not easy; some emergency exits; long access; only with small groups; some slippery passages; check belays!!!

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
From Locarno you drive into the beautiful Maggia Valley --> on the main road you drive through several small villages until you reach the village of Someo. There are 2 parking options in Someo, the best of which is in the center of the village by the fountain and a bridge (where the hiking trail leaves). Before the tour, however, you should check the water level and park the shuttle car at the exit. There is a large parking area on the right after a long bend to the left.

Approach: (machine translated)
On the side of the fountain there is a path with the signs "Lualt, Madonna di Monte, Bignasco" and Sentiero di montagna. The trail continues left up the mountain, passing several small streams, chapels and houses. For the tour and the long access (mostly wooded) you should take enough to drink! At a fork in the road (at a considerable height) turn left. After some time you will come across a ruin and then a beautiful stone cottage on an open area. The trail continues to the left and passes other ruins. After an open space you can already see one of the high waterfalls. From here you continue to a stone house at about 990 meters above sea level, surrounded by beech trees. There, on the left side, a steep path leads down to the stream/bridge at about 890Hm. Even further up (from the stone house), at the large bridge that leads over the stream, getting on does not necessarily pay off (only some entertaining slides).

Tour: (machine translated)
This canyoning tour is only for absolute canyoning professionals who like high technical rappels. The slides and jumps at the beginning of the tour are very entertaining, although not always easy to assess. Some blockages and steps can be bypassed via the slope. Not too much time should be wasted on the small steps anyway, as the high rappels are very technical and time consuming. Communication at the intermediate levels is not always easy due to the rappelling height and the rushing of the water. Also, the pitons/eyes should be checked before hooking up (some were loose/defective on our ascent!). There are some emergency exits (see topographic view in the book Eldorado Ticino), which mostly lead over steep terrain. Overall, for the long access, the tour offers some entertaining slides/jumps and lots of high rappels with nice views. The beginning and final part can be skipped / bypassed depending on your mood.

Return: (machine translated)
From the last large pool, you will soon reach the road/parking lot on the right at an altitude of approx. 350m. If you don't have a second car, walk an additional 20-25 minutes to the fountain/hiking trail in Someo.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.3018 8.6428
Canyon End 46.2949 8.6397
Parking at Entry 46.2878 8.6627
Parking at Exit 46.2938 8.6405
Waterlevel Checkpoint 46.2950 8.6398

Reports:

2026-06-28 | Massimo Loriato | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ⯨ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | 𝌆 Crazy | 👎 Not done
Just observed after the heavy rain that covered the high and mid Maggia valley in the afternoon, we were hit just at the end of Tomè and observed Sponde on the way back home and it was impracticable.

2026-05-02 | Clarissa Linder | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | 𝌆 Normal | 👍 Completed
Great view! Overall, with the combination of high rappels and many small slides/jumps, a very nice canyon. (machine translated)

2025-10-18 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 𝌆 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Sponde Très beau avec ce mélange de ludique et de GV.Faut un peu d'optimisme au sommet des grandes verticales, mais y a toujours un relais qui sauve...Merci à le dernière équipe qui a complété l'équipement. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2679/observations.html)

2025-10-07 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 𝌆 Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Sponde Un canyon fantastique qui a tout pour plaire : toboggans et sauts dans la première partie, descentes en rappel extrêmement hautes, soleil, belles formations rocheuses et eau cristalline d'une couleur magnifique.Un rêve pour les canyoneurs expérimentés en techniques de corde.Seule l'approche nous empêche de refaire immédiatement cette descente.Fraîche dans la première partie, puis plutôt chaude, car le contact avec l'eau diminue.Nous avons installé quelques nouveaux relais. Cela permet de réduire considérablement le frottement de la corde à certains endroits. Au Tessin, on dirait parfois qu'un fabricant de cordes a choisi l'emplacement des points, comme c'est le cas à Sponde.Première haute cascade, 90 mètres :le premier nouveau relais se trouve sur la rive droite, environ 12 mètres en dessous de la chaîne précédente. Il est situé à l'avant du rebord, chaîne, inox.C15, C 12, nouveaux relais C55, traverser le cours d'eau, C35 Deuxième haute cascade, 130 mètres (tout sur la rive gauche) :2 nouveaux pitons simples avec anneau, inox, sur la rive gauche, tout en haut. Ancrage à chaîne, inox, sur une petite vire rocheuse.2 nouveaux pitons simple avec anneau, inox, à hauteur d'une grande tache blanche de 2 mètres de large, environ 3 mètres plus loin à orografique gauche sur une large vire rocheuse.Nouveaux pitons C15, C30, nouvel relais C55, nouveaux pitons C30.Tous les autres points nécessitent également un repositionnement, nous n'avons apporté aucune modification à cet endroit.Troisième cascade haute, 110 mètres :Tout sur la rive droite :C10, C15, C40, C55Quatrième cascade inclinée, 160 mètres :Sur la rive droite :Contourner le premier bassin à droiteC15, C45, C35, position confortable, changer de rive, C45, C35 (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2679/observations.html)

2025-10-07 | Christian Balla | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ | 𝌆 Normal | 👍 Completed
An extremely long day, even the access is tough. It's a long, hard climb, but on superiore hiking trails. So it's easy to walk and easy to find. The Sponde Canyon is extremely spectacular in many ways, magnificent, impressive .... absolutely worthwhile. The anchoring is very mixed, some superiore chains, often single pitons, sometimes old junk. As some anchors are loose, I only give it 1 out of 3. The rope specifications in the description are not necessary. We had 60m, 70m, 100m with us + another 70m emergency rope. The 60m+70m passed everywhere, we didn't need the 100m. Sometimes we used it to pull off or set up short rappels. The access and canyon are very sporty. Not for beginners. You have to know exactly what you are doing and where to look for anchors. (machine translated)

2025-09-11 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 𝌆 High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Sponde (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2679/observations.html)

2025-09-02 | Bubtore | ☆ ☆ ⯨ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | 𝌆 High | 👍 Completed
Nice thing to do when the big streams have too much water, but I don't have to do it again so soon. (machine translated)

2025-09-02 | stijn van de Ven | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | 𝌆 High | 👍 Completed
Beautiful with this water level

2025-09-02 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | 𝌆 High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Sponde GD ce jour, mais pas de soucis majeurs, toujours aussi beau. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2679/observations.html)