Gamchi

Gamchi (Gletscherschlucht),Gamchibach

Create: 2023-03-09 20:54:22	**Update:** 2026-10-26 09:34:51	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:52
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton Bern / Canton de Berne **Subregion:** Verwaltungskreis Frutigen-Niedersimmental / Frutigen-Niedersimmental administrative district **Town:** Kiental		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v5 a5 V	**Total time:** 5h20
Approachtime: 2h	**Tourtime:** 2h40	**Returntime:** 40min
Altitude entry: 1950m	**Altitude exit:** 1670m	**Delta Altitude:** 280m
Canyon length: 1000m	**Highest rapell:** 60m	**Amount rapells:** 20
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:** limestone	**Drainage area:** 6.50km²
Season: October - November	**Orientation:** North	**Best Time:** 10-14 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 4.4 (19)	**Info:** ★ 1.8 (11)	**Belay:** ★ 1.7 (16)

Warnings:
Ban on Commercial Canyoning
According to https://www.belex.sites.be.ch/app/de/texts_of_law/923.111/versions/1792/annex/2, the commercial operation of water sports activities is prohibited year-round.
inactive: *Prohibition of fishing in Bern Case C* (yearly 01.01. - 15.07.)
According to the fishing regulations of the Canton of Bern, this stretch of water may only be used from 16.07.-31.12.

Specialities:
Glacier in drainage area, Winter canyon,

Gear:
Ropes: 2x70m
Headlamp,

Summary: (machine translated)
High alpine gorge with entry directly under the glacier. One third of the route is in complete darkness.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
Take the A6 to Spiez, then turn off towards Adelboden. In Reichenbach, turn left and follow the road uphill to Kiental. Continue to the exit of the public road at the Griesalp parking lot (2016: 2 Chf, change machine for francs available)

Approach: (machine translated)
Follow the road as far as a snack station, from here cross an alpine path through steep terrain to the flat Gamchiboden. The rest of the ascent crosses rocky terrain and is secured with wire ropes in places. At around 2000m, the hiking trail climbs to the left to reach the glacier meadows above. Here, branch off to the right onto a very unclear path that crosses the crumbly slope directly to the entry (cairns). If you want to walk the main branch of the gorge, you can enter at the first gorge about 90m above the bridge, otherwise walk about 100m to the east to reach the left branch of the gorge. In winter, the bridges over the gorge are dismantled. The access crosses many small watercourses that are completely frozen over in winter. Crampons and ice axes are then necessary.

Tour: (machine translated)
Main branch: First rappelling point on the orographic right canyon rim, just above where the gorge begins; then downclimb and rappel through a narrow gorge where the left branch also joins (three rappelling points here). In open terrain with challenging downclimbing sections up to a cliff edge above the gorge. Rappel 20 meters from the rock platform on the left, then rappel from anchors on the right beneath a large clamping block. The rappel stations for the 60-meter rappel are located on the left. If the water level is too high for a direct rappel, there is a hard-to-reach intermediate belay point a few meters to the left. From here, there are several more rappels in complete darkness before the gorge exits with a long, narrow corridor featuring several constrictions.

Return: (machine translated)
Turn right onto the trail and return to the car as for the access.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.5168 7.7927
Parking Entry and Exit 46.5482 7.7622
Canyon End 46.5245 7.7901
Canyon Start 46.5167 7.7922
Parking Entry and Exit 46.5483 7.7609
Waypoint 46.5173 7.7927
Waypoint 46.5215 7.7929

Reports:

2026-10-24 | Christoph Cramer | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Light snowfall; the approach traverse is manageable even without crampons if you have sufficient balance and good footing. Some ice at the start; a few narrow sections at the exit, but these can be climbed over if necessary. Anchors are in good condition. Some loose rocks that may fall if touched. [from the fall meet] (machine translated)

2026-10-23 | Joey CIA | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Conditions were good, with light snowfall at the start. Anchors were scarce before the dark section; the dark section was fine. The canyon at the exit had changed significantly. Climbing section (machine translated)

2026-10-17 | Alex Arnold | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ |🕮 |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
A sporty water level—impressive and beautiful. Drilled 5 anchors, since things have changed quite a bit again. (machine translated)

2025-11-15 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | |
Automatisch importiert von Schlucht.ch für Canyon Gamchibach / Gletscherschlucht, Wasserstand: "Mittel -." Verankerungen: "Mäßig. Man kommt runter..." Im finsteren Teil hat sich die Schlucht verändert: nach dem C55 kommt neu ein C30, wo der Abseilhaken angeklettert werden muss. Im flachen Schlussteil muss neu auch eine Stufe von 5 m abgeklettert werden. (Quelle: https://schlucht.ch/schluchten-der-schweiz-liste/1069-gamchibach-gletscherschlucht)

2025-11-09 | MarcoW | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Adventurous and dark :) with Sami, Damian, Dario... (machine translated)

2025-11-08 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | |
Automatisch importiert von Schlucht.ch für Canyon Gamchibach / Gletscherschlucht, Wasserstand: "Mittel" Verankerungen: "Ok" Warme Temperaturen, nur leicht Eis auf dem Zustiegsweg, kein Eis in der Schlucht. Einstieg über orograaphisch linken Arm, wo wir 1 Hacken gesetzt haben. Sehr schöne Schlucht! (Quelle: https://schlucht.ch/schluchten-der-schweiz-liste/1069-gamchibach-gletscherschlucht)

2025-11-08 | Peter Lampacher | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Access partly icy, entry via left arm. Very good conditions in the canyon - little ice. (machine translated)

2025-11-06 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Gamchi Snowline around 1850m with 0-degree limit at 3000m. Some snow and ice during approach (see photos). Doable without crampons but with some care. Water level normal and no significant rise during the descent. We started the descent in the right arm ('bras central'). First afluent adds quite some water to the canyon (see photo). In the section from the start to the C56 some bolts missing, however rocks provide perfect natural anchors. We couldn't find the anchors for the deviation of the C56 (D7 + D48) which were in place last year (2024). Remaining anchor was excellent and the C56 through the water level was no problem.Edit: I don't know why 'carotte pointu' makes the accusation in his or her comment towards our group. It's both not true and very disrespectful. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22228/observations.html)

2025-11-06 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Gamchi Magnifique canyon avec un encaissement et des étroitures splendides, Pas de glace pour l’instant avec cette température. Débit idéal. Les vélos électriques sont un atout majeur pour raccourcir l’approche et le retour. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22228/observations.html)

2025-11-06 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Gamchi What a fucking day! The group in front of us took a dump in the canyon, my ropes got soaked in it, it's disgusting! The canyon is full of walking through the boulders, the narrow passage is beautiful but the smell of shit followed me all day... I hope the next flood will clean it up! (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22228/observations.html)

2025-11-06 | Alexander de Tempe | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Snowline around 1850m with 0-degree limit at 3000m. Some snow and ice during approach (see photos). Doable without crampons but with some care. Water level normal and no significant rise during the descent. We started the descent in the right arm ('bras central'). First afluent adds quite some water to the canyon (see photo). In the

Parts:
Gamchi, v5 a5 V, 2h+2h40+40min
Gornerbach (Bern), v4 a5 III, 1h+1h30+35min
Gries (CH), v5 a6 IV, 35min+2h+5min