Choltalbach (superiore)

Create: 2023-06-06 08:49:54	**Update:** 2026-06-26 12:51:54	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:45
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton Nidwalden **Subregion:** Emmetten **Town:** Emmetten		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v4 a5 III	**Total time:** 3h10
Approachtime: 5min	**Tourtime:** 3h	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 946m	**Altitude exit:** 726m	**Delta Altitude:** 220m
Canyon length: 1750m	**Highest rapell:** 23m	**Amount rapells:** 12
Transport: Car required	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** 21.00km²
Season: August - August	**Orientation:** North	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 3 (3)	**Info:** ★ 2 (3)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (3)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 30m

Summary: (machine translated)
A beautiful, varied canyon with some truly fantastic parts along the way. Unfortunately, these parts are interrupted by several longer stretches of walking and climbing. Otherwise, the rating would be on par with that of the lower Choltalbach.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
On the A2 highway, take Exit 35 (Beckenried) and turn right toward Emmetten. As you leave Emmetten, you'll pass the Niederbauen cable car station on your right.
From there, continue for 320 meters, turn right, and after 150 meters, turn right again to follow the road and the gravel path to the exit. Park in a spot where you won't block access to the lumber yard.
Leave the first car there and drive the second car back to the Niederbauen cable car station you just passed. From there, continue toward Choltal. Park 2.5 km past the station on the right-hand side, right next to a water reservoir.

Approach: (machine translated)
The entry is only 40 meters from the upper parking lot.

Tour: (machine translated)
The canyon begins right above the bridge next to the reservoir. You can either start with a few small slides or jump straight off the bridge into the canyon—what a great start! The beginning is very varied and offers many small slides and jumps. The first highlight is the natural arch, through which you can rappel. It looks very spectacular. From there, a fairly long hiking section follows, repeatedly interrupted by small waterfalls, slides, or jumps. The exit from the canyon is truly beautiful: At C24, you can choose between the active route (RG) through the narrow passage and the easier route (RD), where less water flows through this branch. After that, several large jumps and beautiful rappelling spots follow all the way to the exit. The very last waterfall used to be a natural arch as well—perhaps it will return to its original state in the future. From below, you can see the blocked outlet.

Return: (machine translated)
At the exit of the canyon, continue walking for 150 m and then climb up the footbridge on the left to get back to the car.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.9423 8.5165
Canyon End 46.9560 8.5248
Parking at Exit 46.9563 8.5246
Parking at Entry 46.9425 8.5161

Reports:

2026-06-27 | David Bolo | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ | Normal | 👍 Completed
Built as integral structures with old but serviceable anchor points. Water level is perfect. (machine translated)

2026-06-27 | David Bolo | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ | ⚓ ★ | Normal | 👍 Completed
Mostly okay when climbed as a single pitch with inferior anchors. Water level is good. (machine translated)

2025-06-29 | Silvan | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | High | 👍 Completed
As the lower part (Inferiore) unfortunately still has too much water at the moment, we did the upper parts. A few jumps were possible, but the 12 m jump was covered in gravel. The siphon at the exit is completely blocked and has built up into a pool. (machine translated)

2023-09-28 | Daniel Sturm | | 🕮 | ⚓ | |
Basic data taken with kind permission by Matthias Holzinger from "Swiss Alps Canyoning VOL. 2.0" (machine translated)

Parts:
Choltalbach (Inferiore), v6 a5 IV, 5min+4h+20min
Choltalbach (superiore), v4 a5 III, 5min+3h+5min