



Carpe Diem

V4A4III ★ ★ ★



Location

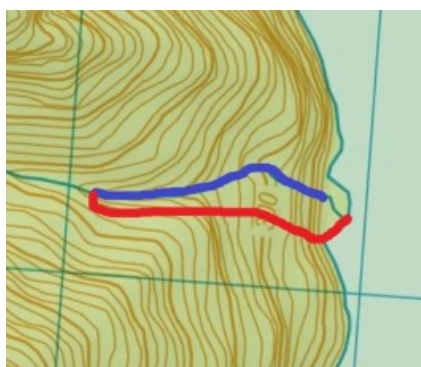
Lake Hauroko

Character

An exhilarating and continuous descent with an epic final descent straight through the flow. A surprising amount of rappels (<20) for the limited height difference. Because of this the team ran alarmingly low on bolts during the first descent literally finishing the trip with empty pockets.

Map

CE-06 Lake Roe



Approach

This canyon is only accessible using a boat.

Launch your boat using the Lake Hauroko public Jetty on the end of Lillburn Valley Road.

-45.989864, 167.382014 (WGS 84).

There is a large beach on the true left of the canyon to park your boat.

-45.873933, 167.160836 (WGS 84).

You can stay at the Carolina hut (6 bunks) and combine this canyon with other canyons around the lake.

Approach on Foot (marked in red)

Follow the beach on true right until it meets the forest. Zigzag up into the forest following animal tracks. There is a approximately 15 m high cliff you have to get up. We send our best rock climber up first who set up a rope for the rest of the team. This is not ideal however as the climb is hard to protect and there are some loose rocks and logs. If you can find an alternative way up this would be preferable.

After the cliff the terrain gets less steep and you can move in the direction of the canyon. Try to get up a spur directly next to the canyon which you can follow until 460hm where you traverse into the canyon through some heavy bushes just above R1.

Rock

Psammite (sandstone)

Water

Considerable flow. Some descents are in the flow. Do not underestimate the water levels.

Catchment

6.8 km²

Anchors

Exploratory rigging!

Most descents are equipped with (single) 10 mm stainless steel bolts and Tebylon hangers.

The final 50 m waterfall is a bit "under equipped" with only one bolt for the descent. The rigger, who shall remain nameless, managed to drop the very last bolt we had down the pitch before the eyes of the whole team.

Gear

2 x 60 meter ropes.

Please note that all pitch lengths are estimated.

Time

Approach	1 hr 40 min
Canyon descent	4 hr
Total	5 hr 40 min

Total time is excluding the boat ride as this all depends on the type of boat and engine you will have!

Flash Flood Danger

The canyon has a considerable catchment. Only commit to a descent after checking the flow and during stable conditions.

Escapes

The canyon is pretty enclosed but the canyon walls are of moderate height (max 20 m). There might be some possibilities to escape.

Notes

First descent: 24-03-2026

Dutch Canyon Expedition 2026:

Lisa Ahsmann
Erik Birkhoff (topo)
Max Bogaerts
Erwan Coq
Pepijn Hoeksema (pictures)
Kevin Leys
Stijn van de Ven

This is not the hardest or longest canyon in New Zealand but it is the best trip on Lake Hauroko and it is definitely worth the effort of getting yourself there.

Carpe diem is best enjoyed with a group of friends and will guarantee a grand day out as good as they will get.

When you walk back to the beach take some time to reflect how lucky you are to enjoy these adventures with good friends and to commemorate the friends who are no longer with us; carpe diem!



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X = Bolt (10 mm)
R = removable bolt (10 mm)
V = (V)-thread

A person in a yellow jacket and blue pants is rappelling down a massive waterfall. The water is cascading over dark, jagged rock formations. The scene is dramatic and adventurous.

CANYONING EXPEDITION TEAM

