



Rainbow Falls

V3A2II



Location

Lake Hauroko

Character

This trip is mostly memorable for the final pitch which drops straight into Lake Hauroko from where you have to swim back to your boat.

Map

CF-07 Mary Island



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 very small rocky beach to land your boat just after the final waterfall (coming from the Carolina hut). -45.9673808S, 167.2962131 (WGS 84).

You can stay at the Carolina hut (6 bunks) and combine this canyon with other canyons around the lake. From the hut it is a three kilometre boat ride to the canyon.

Approach on Foot

From the beach climb into the forest and go up on True Right. The going is very steep and you might have to put a rope up in a steeper section. After the steep section you can walk relatively close to the canyon and spot some of the descents.

After some time the bushbash fortunately gets less steep and you can abseil into the canyon using a tree around 570hm.

Rock

Granodiorite.

Water

Moderate flow. The final waterfall gets a bit splashy.

Catchment

3.6 km²

Anchors

Exploratory rigging!

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

Gear

2 x 50 meter ropes.

Please note that all pitch lengths are estimated.

Time

Carolina hut to start of canyon	20 min
Approach	2 hr
Canyon descent	3 hr
Return to Carolina hut	20 min
Total	5 hr 40 min

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

Flash Flood Danger

It is not recommended to make a descent during, or just after, heavy rain.

Escapes

The canyon is not very enclosed and multiple escapes are possible in the last section.

Notes

First descent: 22-03-2026

Dutch Canyon Expedition 2026:

Lisa Ahsmann
Erik Birkhoff (topo)
Max Bogaerts
Pepijn Hoeksema (pictures)
Kevin Leys
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Although there are some nice drops the canyon fails to deliver a bit. The final pitch into the lake is one of a kind and is an obligatory photo opportunity point.

The canyon gets its name from the rainbow the first descent team saw on their way to the canyon.

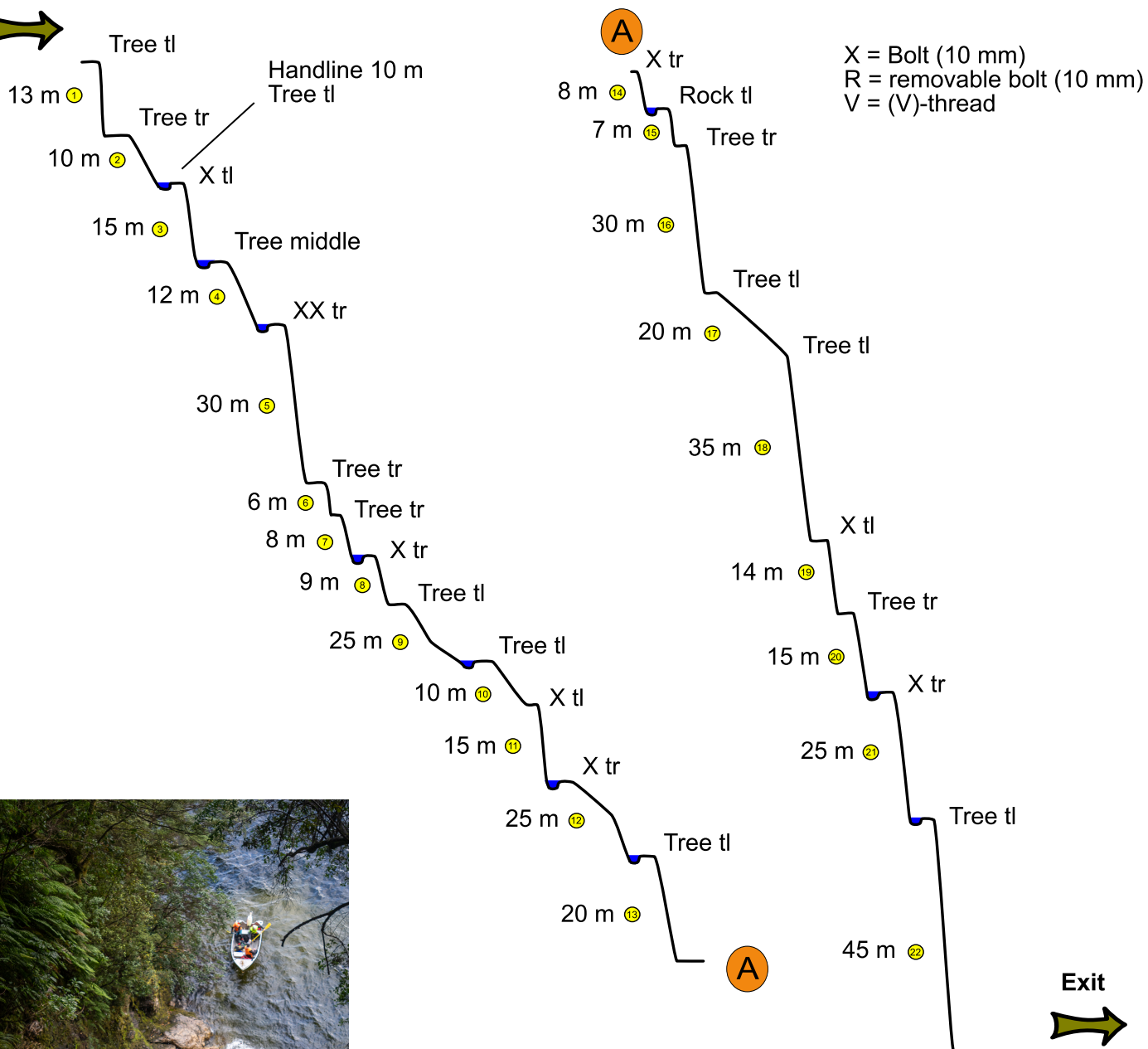


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Entrance



A person in a bright yellow jacket and blue pants is rappelling down a massive, powerful waterfall. The water is white and turbulent as it falls over dark, jagged rock formations. A red rope is visible, extending from the top left towards the person. In the background, another person can be seen higher up the waterfall, also rappelling. The overall scene is dramatic and adventurous.

CANYONING EXPEDITION TEAM

