Doughboy

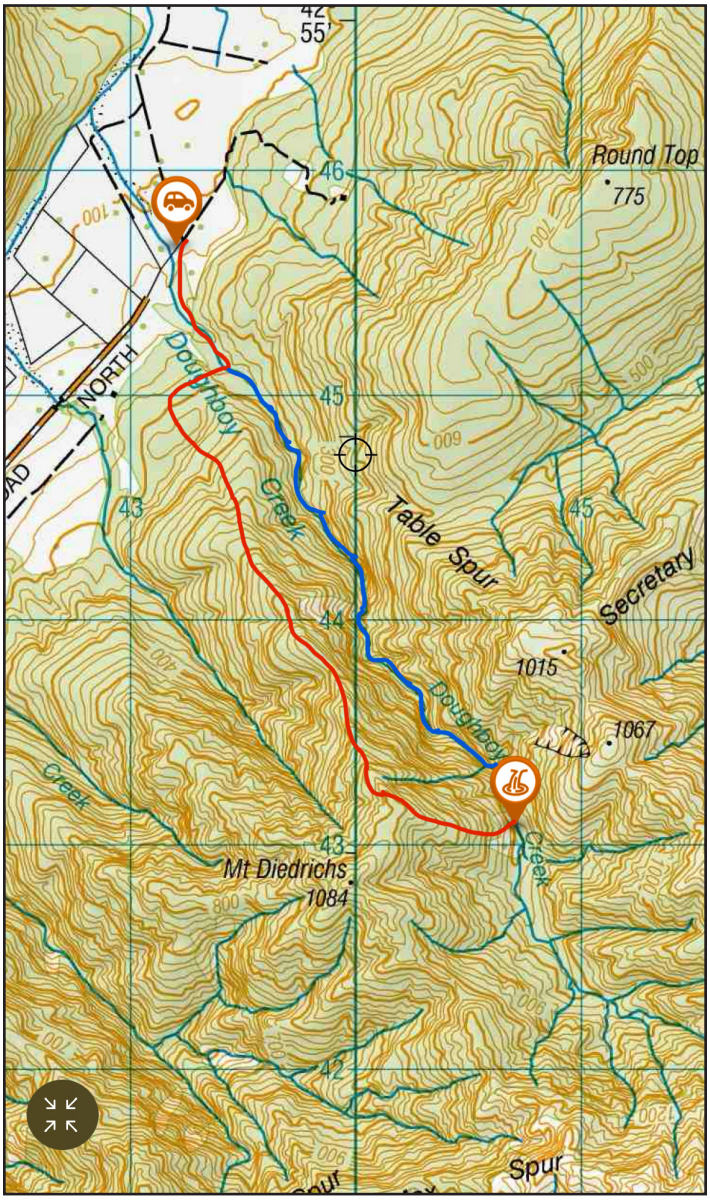
V5 A4 IV ★★

Location
Doughboy Creek 30 km SSE from Hokitika

Map
BV18 & BV 19

Character
Long high flow canyon with 15 abseils. A few abseils where avoiding the flow can be tricky and finding natural anchors also can be challenging. Most of the time it feel like you're a bit enclosed and it has some smaller sections.

Approach by Car
To reach the starting point, head in the direction of Hokitika Gorge and locate 'Doughboy Road North'. Follow this gravel road until it finished and you'll hit Doughboy Creek. Ford the creek and proceed to park your vehicle approximately 30 meters further on the grassy area.



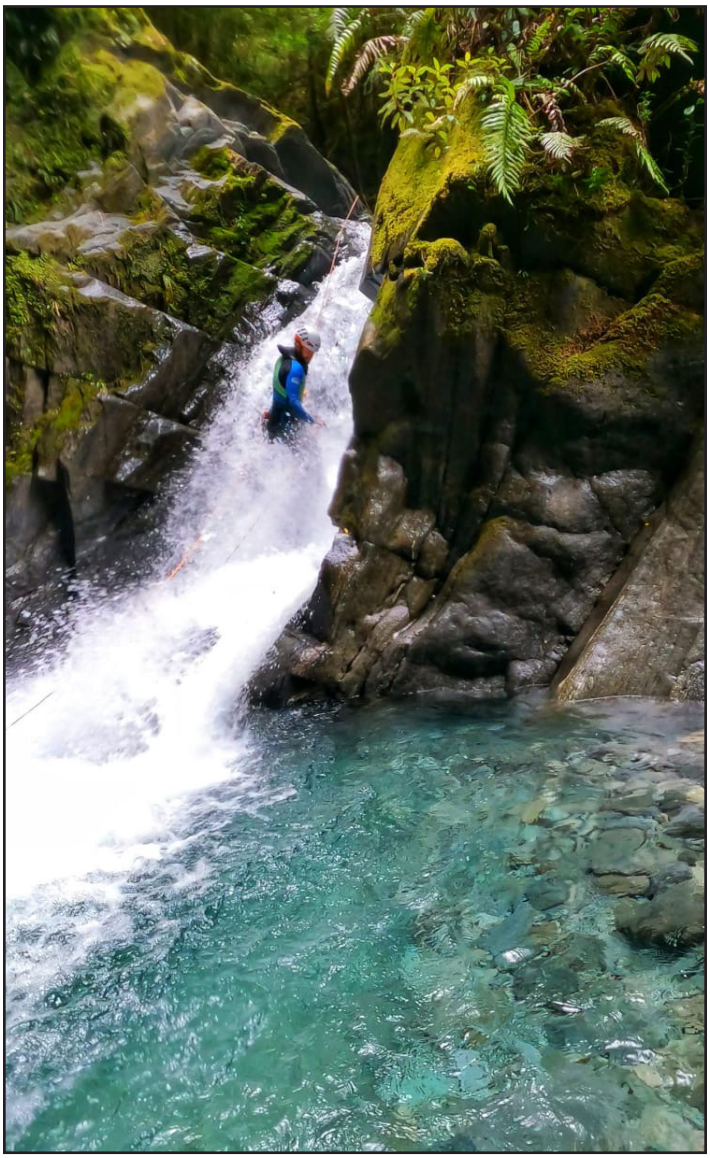
Approach on Foot
From the car, walk upstream for 400 meters, find the pink flagging tape (TL) and head into the bush on the TL. Bush-bash until you hit a paddock, and you will find an old 4wd track that takes you up for a couple of hundred meters. Then head back into the bush following the spur and pink flagging tape until the 1000 meter contour. From here the alpine scrub is bad, and you have to find your way down the spur that will bring you to the river. If you're lucky, you will find a track that is not on the map but has blue and pink flagging tape.

Rock
Schist.

Pepijn drilling deviation on R15

Water
High flow canyon, given its enclosed nature in some spots. Sensitive to flash flood when raining, water-levels can become dangerous quickly when rain hits the coast!

Catchment
3.5 km^2



Anchors
4 Single bolted anchor. Sling on rocks, some trees have slings some trees don't and can puled back easy.. Bring bolting kit as some trees can be gone and some abseils need a bolt.

Gear
Minimum ***2 x 40m*** ropes. Spares recommended.
To complete the canyon there are ***4 more bolts*** needed. (See red dots in topo)

Most trees have no slings, you can just wrap the rope around the tree.

Route Description
@700 meters you start with a tricky down climb. After a few smaller down climbs you will reach the first bolted rappel (R1). R2 has a tree that can be reached by climbing up 3 meters, a small rock face. R3 Is rappelled of a sling wrapped around a small pointy rock, treat it carefully to not whip off! After R4 you can down climb 15 meters or the TR.

R5 & R6 are not bolted yet these are two beautiful waterfalls that can be done! For the first accent, we chicken-runned on the TR through a slip.

From R7 till R14 you can use mostly trees without slings. You will find one bolt on R8

R14 and R15 is the crux section. R14 is rigged off a big log. (This log could wash out on a big flood event, so that is why there could be an option to place a bolt here.) From the log you abseil to a single bolted hanging re-belay R15. From here you can abseil via a deviation with a carabiner. This waterfall is pretty amazing.

After R15 There are a couple of small down climbs and two (R16 & R17) rappel from trees. Follow the creek and find your last waterfall R18. This one can be done from a tree in the flow or from a tree higher out the flow. If your rope gets stuck if you rig for going in the flow you can climb back around to retrieve it. It would be optimal to put a bolt in the TL.

Time
Vehicle park to start of canyon 4h
Canyon descent 5h
Return to vehicle 30m
Total 9.5h

Flash Flood Danger
Medium. Few places to get above flood levels. But when it rains river levels could rise quickly, its the west coast so only go when it is good weather
forecasted.

Escape
Some slips you could try to get back on the spur.

Is really hard! So pretty much if you start the canyon you're in.

Notes
First descent: Pepijn Hoeksema, Erwan Coq. Feb 2024.

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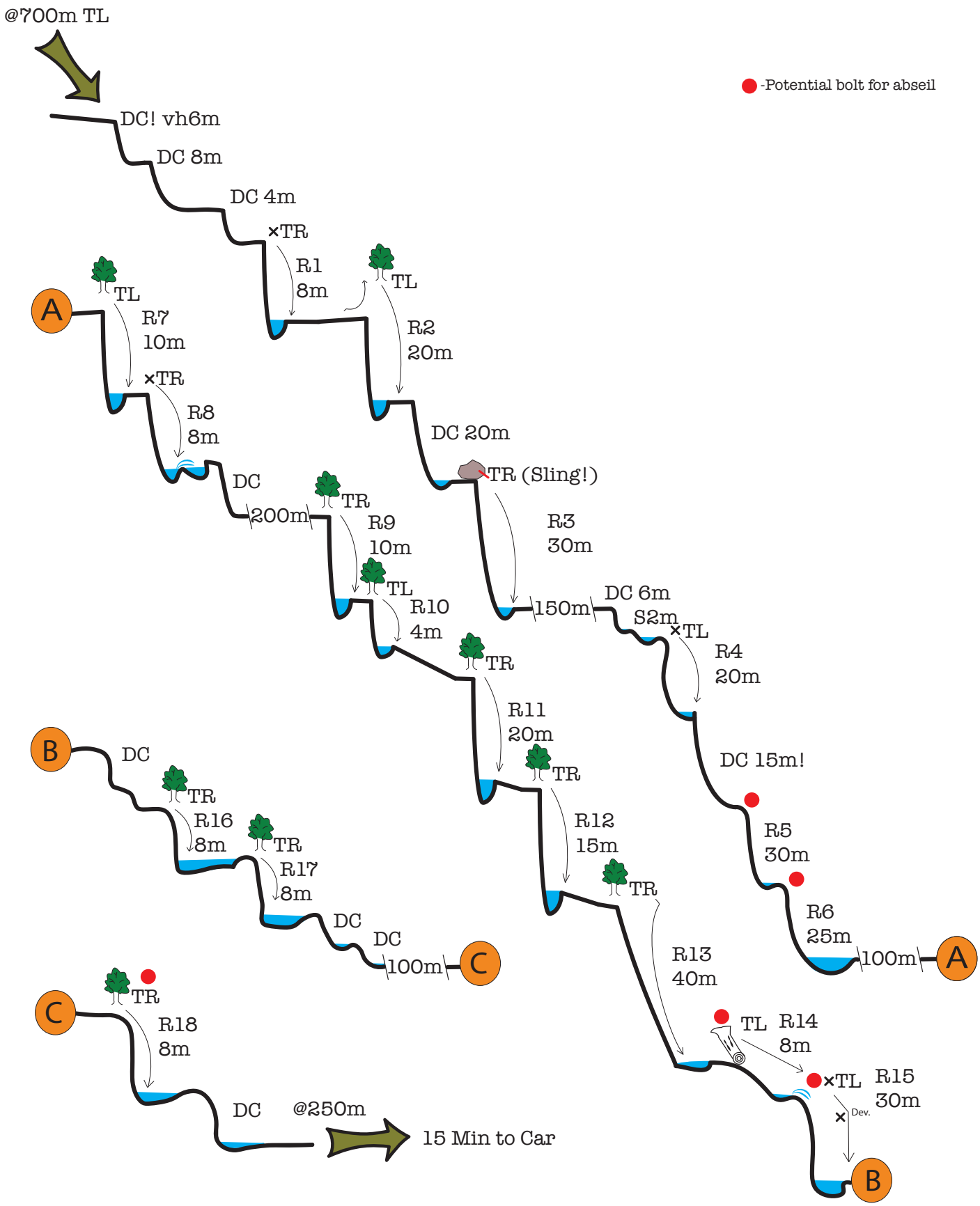

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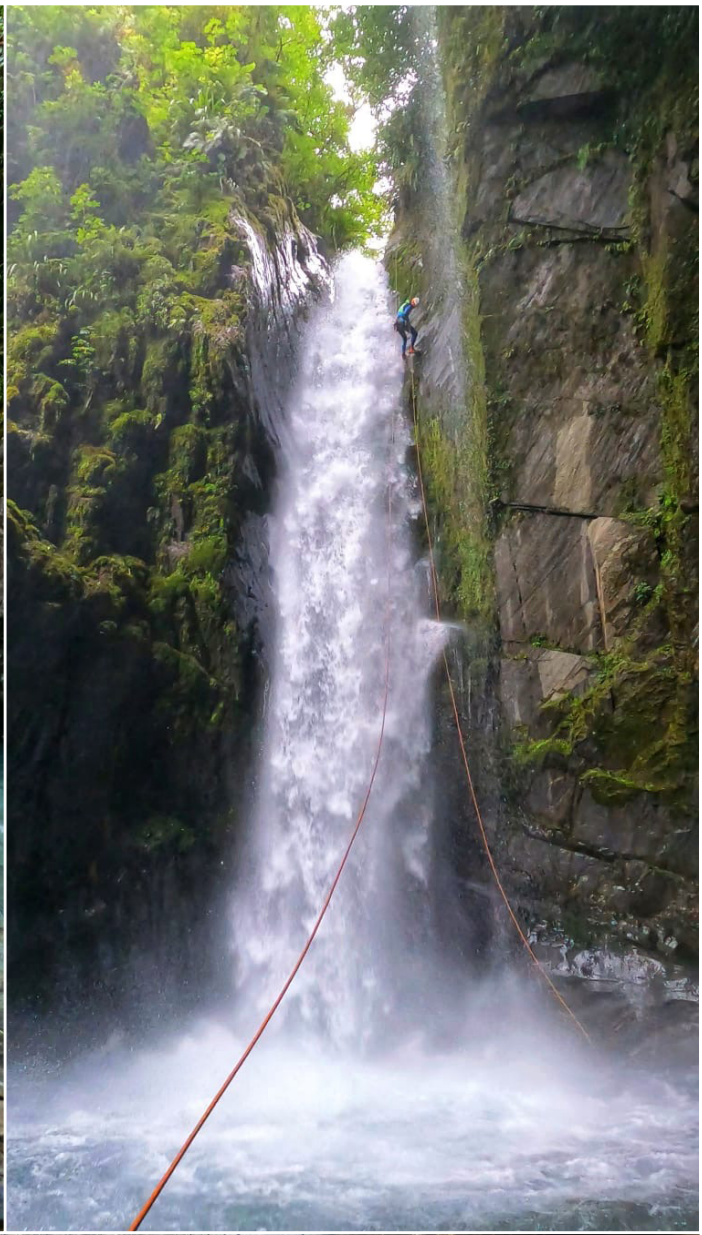

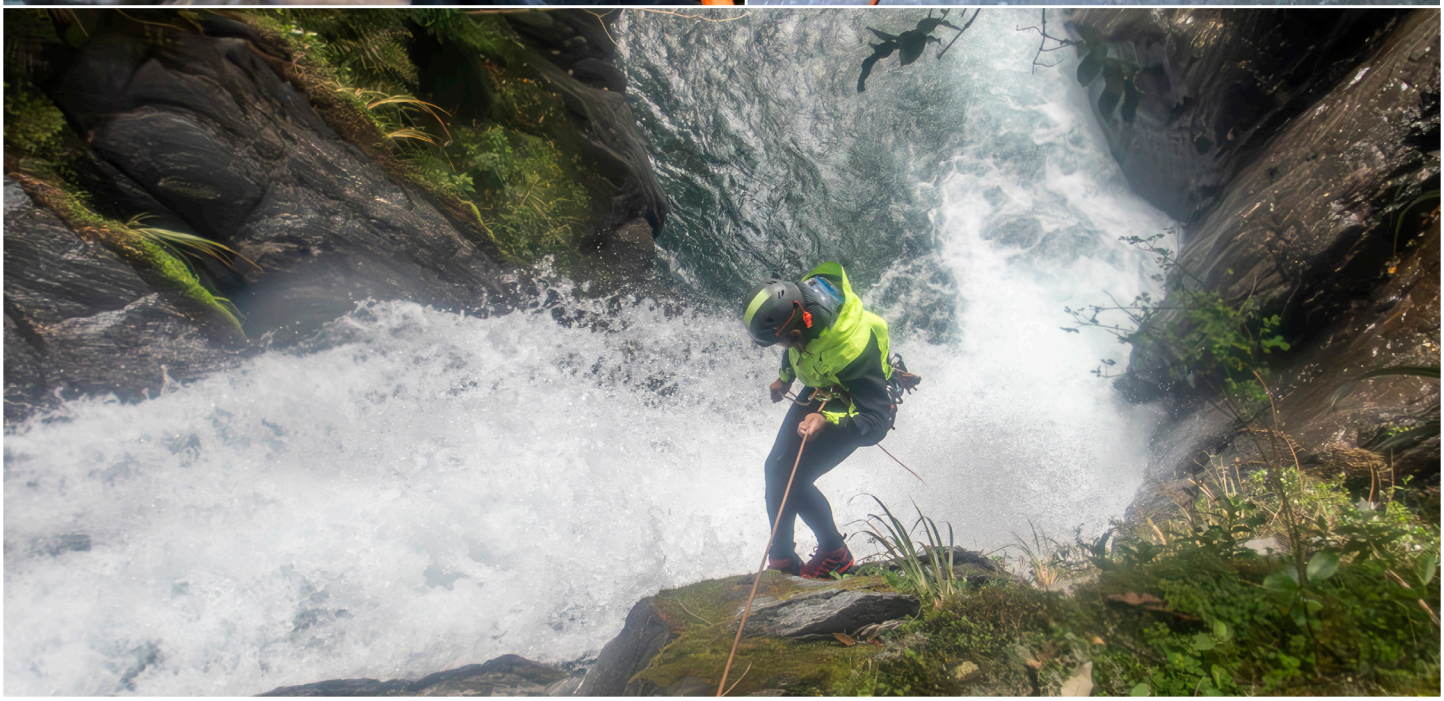

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