

## **Rio Bianco**

### **Description**

Rio Bianco is a very long and extremely remote canyon between the Austrian border at Eggeralm and Val Canale in Italy. There are some interesting parts (especially geologically) but also very long stretches of walking on flat gravel. Only rewarding for explorers and fans of remote places.

### **Zone**

Friuli – Udine – Canal del Ferro

### **Details**

Entrance: 1324m

Exit: 710m

Difference in Height: 614m

Length: 8000m

### **Period**

July – October , don't do it on very hot days

### **Time needed**

Approach: 1-1.5h

Progression: 6h

Return: 30 min

### **Shuttle**

Yes, 1h

### **Equipment**

Insufficient, 8mm and 10mm spits and slings. Not all waterfalls are bolted – some tricky downclimbs .  
Take a complete bolting kit with you!

### **Rope**

2x30m

### **Possible Exits**

Leaving the immediate danger-area is possible at most places, leaving the actual canyon is only possible in the uppermost and lower parts of the valley.

### **Maps**

Tabacco Map 018

### **Attraction**

Local

## Difficulty

V3 A3 IV

## Access

Lower Parking: Highway E55 to Pontebba, then follow the SS13 in the direction of Tarvisio until you reach Santa Catharina. Park at a little picnic place right next to Rio Bianco.

Upper parking: Drive back to the SS13 and follow it to Tarvisio, cross the Austrian border and follow street 111 to Hermagor. In the village find the signs to Garnitzenklamm and follow that street until you reach the big parkingplace for the tourist canyon. Follow the small street that goes up on the left until you reach a big parkingplace at the meadow of Eggeralm. You could also reach Hermagor via Pontebba and Pramollo – less km but same amount of time needed.

## Approach

Follow the main street from the parking place for 200m, turn right on a logging road and follow this route to Kersnitzensattel (hut). Go down on the logging road a bit until you reach Stallensattel (1496m). Cross the border and stay on the marked path that goes down into the valley of Rio Bianco. After a few crossings with iron cables the valley gets broader – reach Rio Bianco by going down a broad scree-bed. Pass the last little waterfall on the left. After a few hundred meters of hiking in the creekbed you reach the beginning of the upper canyon near the remains of a wooden 'Klause/chiusa' Follow the marked hiking path 640 down into the valley.

## Description of the canyon

Upper chiusa 1324m – main chiusa 1099m

Open canyon with some nice jumps. The main attraction is the 'Wendlingbad', a deep pool in white rock. A few 100m downstream is the only rappel – 8m from a sling beneath a choke-block. After this there's about 1km of hiking in a flat gravel bed.

Main Chiusa 1099m – Canyon exit 946m

C 15m spit with sling on the left, go down both pools

C 6m spit with sling on the left

C 8m spit with sling on the left

D 4m climb down on the left, a waterfall enters from the right

From this part onwards very impressive rock formations

C 10m Tree on the left

C 28m 2 spits on the rock in the middle of the creek

Downclimbs

C 14m spit with sling on the left

C 4m log

C 20m 2 spits on the left – not placed in a high-water secure area

D 15m downclimb on the right

Canyon Exit 946m – last narrow part 710m

300m of downclimbing between big boulders until you reach a canyonpart in black rock. There's a 10m rappel from a sling in this part, then some more downclimbing until the canyon opens up again. A long hike (> 2km) in a deep valley follows, mostly on gravel. At the beginning of the last canyon, rappel 20m from a tree with sling on the right, then downclimb 15m on the right side of the canyon.

The rest of the last canyon is just walking and downclimbing between high walls.

C = cascade

D = downclimb

J = jump

S = slide

### **Return**

Go down the creekbed past an enormous floodgate until you reach the trainstation and a bit later, the lower parking place

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