



DORE PASS

Canyon v4a2IV★

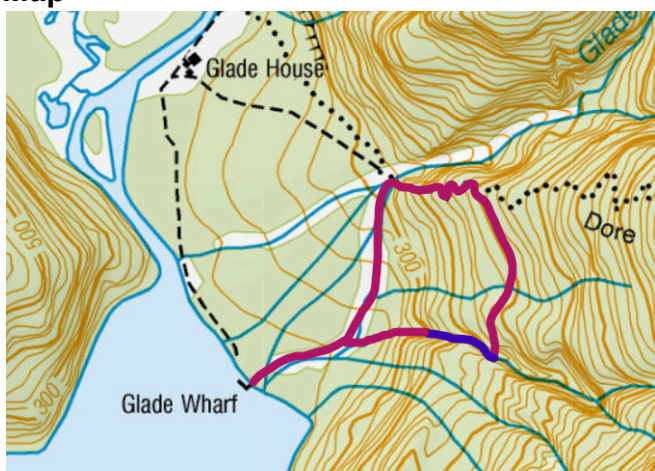
Location

North end of Lake Te Anau. Next to the start of the Milford Track.

Character

A beautiful deep slot in carved diorite. Low flow but great views and fun pitches.

Map



Approach and return in purple, canyon in dark blue.

Approach by Car/Boat

There are multiple water taxi services across Lake Te Anau. As this canyon is by the Milford track you may be able to take the scheduled service (although these are not always at practical times), or arrange a charter.

At the time of writing a charter taxi with Fiordland Outdoors cost \$232 each for 6 people, for drop off and pick up. At scheduled times it may be cheaper. RealNZ also operates a water taxi. Boats usually leave from Te Anau Downs, 30min from Te Anau town. There is parking here.

To avoid a boat entry you could alternatively access the canyon via Dore Pass from the Te Anau Milford Highway. This would involve a ~9km long approach with ~1250m elevation gain and a similar distance and elevation gain on the return. It's your choice.

Approach on Foot

Follow the Glade Burn river flats to the start of the Dore Pass track. Follow the track to the 500m contour. Traverse South through the bush towards the creek, crossing some small side creeks. When above the main creek at about 470m head down the slope. It's very steep but with careful route finding should be possible without a rope.

Rock

Diorite.

Water

Low flow.

Catchment

2.2 km²

Anchors

Mostly single bolts. Double bolts on a hanging anchor.

Gear

At least 1 60m, recommended 2 or more ropes. Although the anchors are placed to be sheltered from floods, it would be sensible to take a drill and bolts if the canyon hasn't been done recently.

Route Description

In places the canyon is very narrow, and most pitches are in the flow. The anchor for R6 is mostly hanging, with only a small ledge.

Time

Glade Wharf to Dore Pass track	15min
Ascending Dore Pass track	40 min
Dore Pass track to start of canyon	1h15min
Total approach	2h10min
Canyon descent	2h
Return to Glade Wharf	15min
Total descent	2h15min
Total	4h30min

Flash Flood Danger

High, the canyon is narrow and inescapable.

Escapes

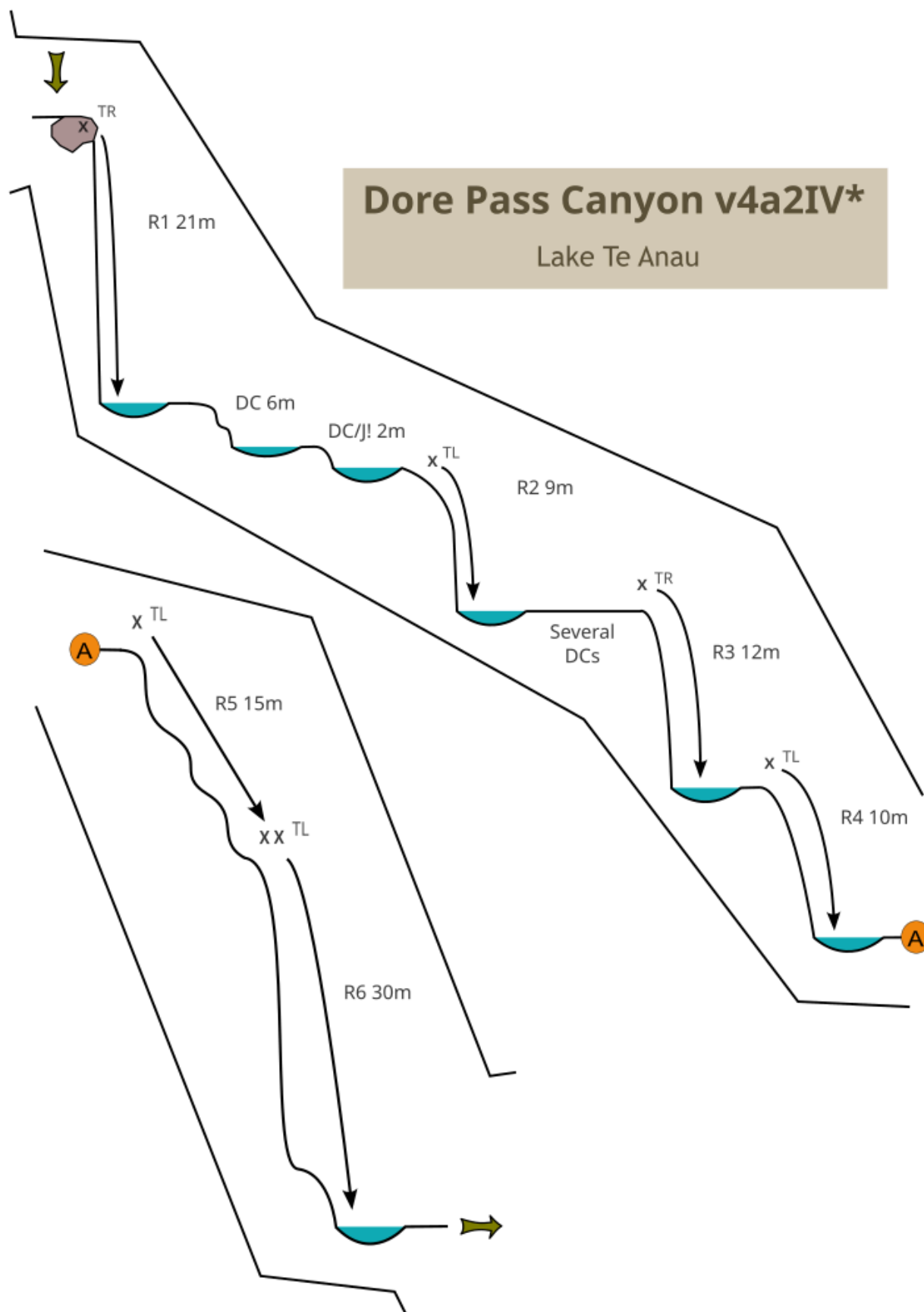
None.

Notes

First descent: Alex Motyka, Amy Burney, Ben Fletcher, Christian Miller, Conor Handley, and Patrick Timm. January 2026.

Access issues: You're not allowed to camp within 500m of the Milford track, and the water taxis may check where you're planning to stay if getting picked up the next day. Near the hillside at the end of the canyon is outside this range.

Other: Expect a LOT of sandflies near the wharf and campsite (if staying).



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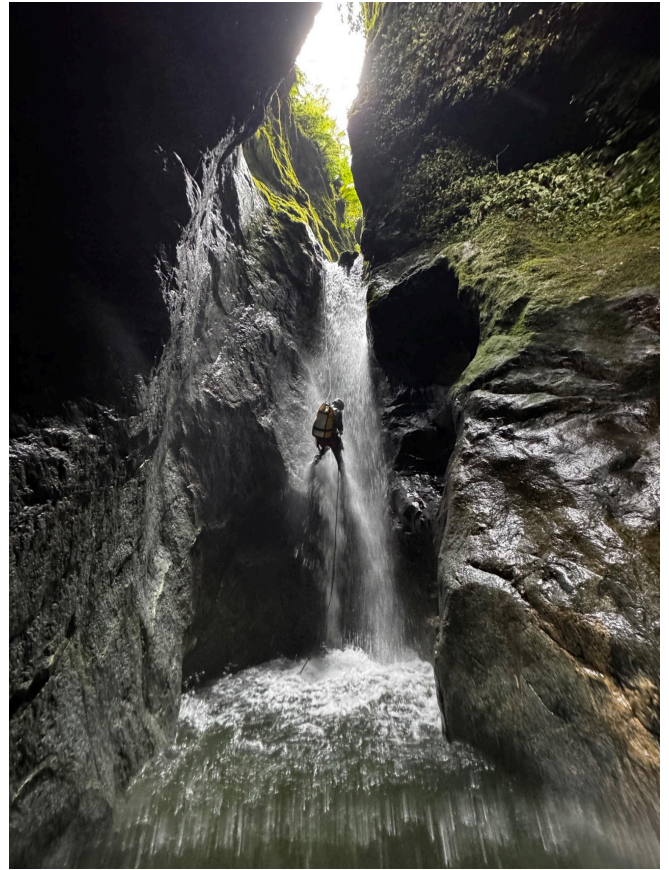
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Topo by Christian Miller
www.kiwicanyons.org

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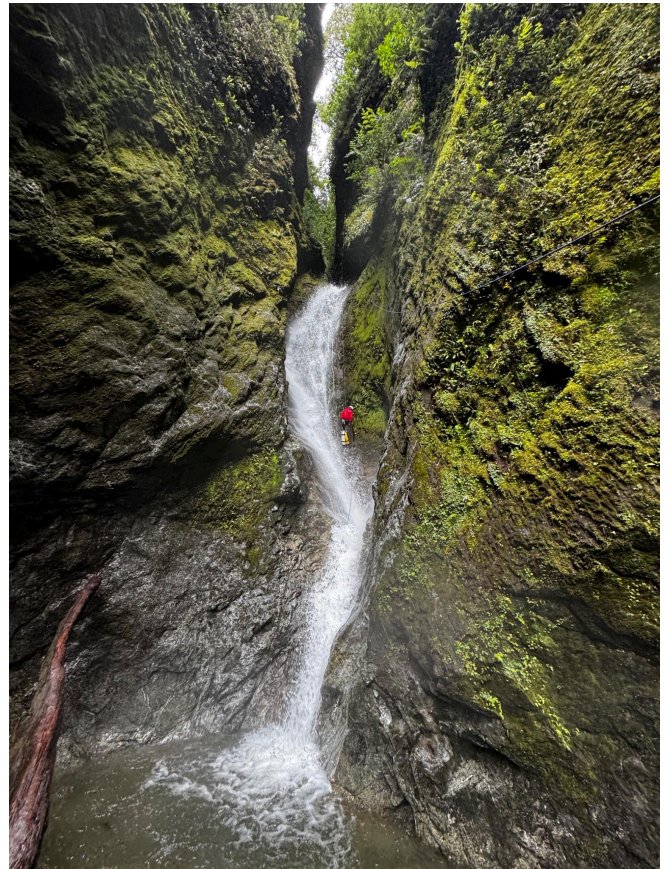
R1



R3



A downclimb



R6

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