Kirchlbach

Create: 2023-04-19 10:10:30	**Update:** 2024-10-20 15:55:19	**Print:** 2026-11-10 02:11:48
Country: Österreich / Austria **Region:** Tirol **Subregion:** Bezirk Innsbruck-Land **Town:** Scharnitz		
Difficulty: not as difficult	**Grading:** v3 a2 IV	**Total time:** 4h5
Approachtime: 1h	**Tourtime:** 3h	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 1460m	**Altitude exit:** 1165m	**Delta Altitude:** 295m
Canyon length: 800m	**Highest rapell:** 26m	**Amount rapells:** 16
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:** East	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 4 (3)	**Info:** ★ 1.5 (2)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (3)

Warnings:
Snowfields
Typically there will be persistent, large snowremains in the canyon (escape left bank, not verified). Alpine techniques are a must and great caution should be applied when evaluating the impacted/absent anchors and state of the rock. In certain years there may also be a second avalanche at the exit of the canyon = can be checked on foot before going up. Often when passing by Kirchlbach, one may even notice an increasing cold.

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x30m

Summary: (machine translated)
Alpine tour in an increasingly narrow and deep gorge. It includes traversing on large snowremains, possible damaged anchors and should only be tackled by experienced teams with the appropriate gear.

Hydrology: (machine translated)
Snowremains, rainfall and karstic sources at start of the canyon.

Access: (machine translated)
From Scharnitz, cycle into the Karwendel valley towards the Karwendelhaus.
After the Isar bridge, turn left and cycle steeply up into the Karwendel valley.
6.1 km after this turn-off we cross the Kirchlbach. We park our bikes here.

Approach: (machine translated)
About 400m further along the road, we turn left onto a dirt track. We leave this later and follow the path that leads us uphill until there is an access into the open streambed here.

Tour: (machine translated)
Updated tour Oct. 2024
2 bolts L 20m
1 bolt R 10m
2 bolts R 20m (original anchor on bad rock!)
1 bolt L 10m
1 bolt R 20m
2 bolts L 25m
1 bolt L 6m
1 bolt L 8m
Snowfield to traverse for 100-200m: emergency bolt L 20m (if snow still reaches the bend in the canyon), if the exit of the snow is in sight before the bend in the canyon (a wall that stops the snow) descend with alpine techniques and find 1 bolt L 15m
Narrow part, high chances of rockfall, 2 different bolts R 8-10m
Stuck boulder, 1 bolt R 10m (damaged quicklink backed up with carabiner)
2 bolts R 16m
1 bolt R 18m
Grand finale 1 bolt L 24m (the other anchors are, at present, unreachable)
Possible second snowremains (building a higher wall than the first) possible emergency exit L
1 bolt L 10m
Downclimb and exit

Return: (machine translated)
After we are out of the gorge, about 100m in the wide gravel bed to the road bridge.

Coordinates:
Parking Entry and Exit 47.4135 11.3169
Waypoint 47.4165 11.3198
Canyon Start 47.4190 11.3064
Canyon End 47.4148 11.3145

Reports:

2024-10-16 | Jeroen Kirchner | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | Normal | Completed
Also this year, very late (October), large snowremains halfway and (this is new) also at the exit of the canyon, both impossible to go below. Alpine techniques are a must! Anchors: some of the single anchors deemed 'ok' by previous teams, are actually on hollow, fractured rock!! These are now doubled but should be evaluated carefully, possibly equalized or even relocated. I have taken out much of the non-stainless steel anchors and replaced with inox. Doubled or renewed others. At the end of the large snowfield halfway the canyon, there is an emergency anchor (high!) and a damaged anchor (low), both on the left. The snow seems to end at this location every year (i.e. just before the narrow part, where the canyon makes a bend and stops the snow), this emergency anchor may be useful for reentering the canyon. From this point onwards, high chances of rockfall, until the impressive grand finale with unreachable anchors (i added in 2023 a single M10 on the left, with exposed access but well-protected). I post the sequence here, for copying it to the file on Opencanyon: 2 bolts L 20m 1 bolt R 10m 2 bolts R 20m (original anchor on bad rock!) 1 bolt L 10m 1 bolt R 20m 2 bolts L 25m 1 bolt L 6m 1 bolt L 8m Emergency exit L Snowfield to traverse for 100-200m: emergency bolt L 20m (if snow still reaches the bend in the canyon), if the end of the snow is in sight before the bend in the canyon (a wall that stops the snow) descend with alpine techniques and find 1 bolt L 15m Narrow part, high chances of rockfall, 2 different bolts R 8-10m Stuck boulder, 1 bolt R 10m (damaged quicklink backed up with carabiner) 2 bolts R 16m 1 bolt R 18m Grand finale 1 bolt L 24m (the other anchors are, at present, unreachable) Possible second snowremains (building a higher wall than the first) possible emergency exit L 1 bolt L 10m Downclimb and exit

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2024-07-11 | yuc | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | Normal | Completed
Only the first anchor has two points; all the rest are single points. The anchors are mixed with M8 aluminum (or non-stainless steel?) and M10 stainless steel. The oldest anchors are M8 Aluminum Petzl Hanger (look like this https://vintageclimbing.com/products/hanger). - We replaced two rusty maillons with 8mm galvanized steel one. - We took down one worn-out orange rope, because there is another well-bolted anchor nearby. - We rappeled with the existing bolts and didn't feel unsafe, but use them at your own risk. - We met some snow in the middle of the riverbed, but walking beneath/around it was easy and fun. Be sure to come to this canyon after the snow has mostly melted, because the snow can literally block the passage. - Approach trails are not obvious in the middle, but it is not hard to find the correct direction. - Rocks are mostly not slippery.

2023-10-07 | Gregor Bernsteiner | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ ★ ★ | Low | Completed
All stands OK (machine translated)