Val d'Efra

Create: 2023-04-17 14:53:18	**Update:** 2024-08-05 20:02:16	**Print:** 2026-11-10 02:11:53
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton Tessin / Cantone Ticino **Subregion:** Bezirk Locarno **Town:** Frasco		
Difficulty: a little difficult	**Grading:** v3 a4 III	**Total time:** 7h30
Approachtime: 1h30	**Tourtime:** 6h	**Returntime:** 0min
Altitude entry: 1350m	**Altitude exit:** 880m	**Delta Altitude:** 470m
Canyon length: 2500m	**Highest rapell:** 35m	**Amount rapells:** 22
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season: July - September	**Orientation:** West	**Best Time:** 10-13 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 3.3 (4)	**Info:** ★ 2.2 (5)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (4)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 40m

Summary: (machine translated)
Long river walk interrupted by some charming passages.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
Coming from the highway exit Bellinzona Süd, cross the river Ticino, pass Locarno airport and then straight on at the traffic circle to the T-junction. Turn left here and follow the signs into the Verzasca Valley via Gordola, past the dam, along the reservoir to Vogorno (11.3 km from the crossing of the Ticino). From Vogorno we continue along the reservoir to Lavertezzo and from there towards Brione. Here continue towards Gerra and then Frasco as far as the bridge over the Riale d'Efra.

Approach: (machine translated)
From the bridge, follow the road for approx. 50 m. A path goes uphill to the right between the houses. Follow this and turn right when it reaches the exit of a road. At the next junction, take the path on the right, which is less steep and enters the valley. Follow the path for a good 90 minutes until you reach Chignö/Chignolo (1360 m).

Alternative start a little earlier at approx. 1260m before the steep ascent directly into the river bed.

Tour: (machine translated)
Very long tour with some interesting sections, some of which are slippery. The lower parts are also partly slippery at higher abseiling points. Check out well. Very open character. Emergency exit possible at almost any time, except in the last section where it is cut in.

Return: (machine translated)
Get off at the bridge. You are directly at the car.

Coordinates:
Alternative Canyon Start 46.3428 8.8329
Canyon Start 46.3427 8.8371
Waterlevel Checkpoint 46.3378 8.8061
Canyon End 46.3378 8.8061
Parking Entry and Exit 46.3376 8.8061

Reports:

2025-08-02 | Urs K. | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Everything was okay, rather grippy at the beginning, increasingly slippery towards the exit. (machine translated)

2025-07-18 | Stephan Gehringer | ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
All the necessary anchors were there and in order... Sometimes you had to look for them... We got in at 1500m... (machine translated)

2024-08-14 | Simone Steffke | ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Water level high at the CP after the thunderstorm the evening before, but falling during the ascent. Entry at 1280 hM. Access to there 50 min. Anchor ok, partly something to look for. Relatively long walking passages, but good grip. Nice jumps and slides (after checking). There is a charge for parking, but almost all payment systems are possible (Twint, Easypark, Parkingpay, Verzasca ParkingCard). (machine translated)

2024-08-04 | Urs K. | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
The official parking lot was full, about 500m further you can drive down at the church to a paid parking lot (7h costs about CHF 15.-). We were 5 people, 6h for access and ascent. At the beginning very grippy and not slippery, towards the exit where the canyon is cut more slippery. If you have a practiced eye, you will also find some jumps (2 to approx. 10m). Once you have parked at the bottom, you can return to the car at the exit to the left of the stream. (machine translated)

2023-09-28 | Daniel Sturm | |🕮 |⚓ | |
Basic data taken with kind permission by Matthias Holzinger from "Swiss Alps Canyoning VOL. 2.0" (machine translated)

2023-04-17 | Daniel Sturm | |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ | | 👎 Not done
Canyon created. (machine translated)