Val Vielia IV

Create: 2023-03-09 20:49:55	**Update:** 2023-10-14 09:16:06	**Print:** 2026-11-10 02:11:13
Country: Italia / Italy **Region:** Friuli Venezia Giulia **Subregion:** Pordenone **Town:** Tramonti di Sopra		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v3 a5 V	**Total time:** 4h20
Approachtime: 45min	**Tourtime:** 3h30	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 660m	**Altitude exit:** 470m	**Delta Altitude:** 190m
Canyon length: m	**Highest rapell:** 25m	**Amount rapells:** 19
Transport: Car required	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 4.6 (5)	**Info:** ★ 3 (3)	**Belay:** ★ 2.3 (4)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x30

Summary: (machine translated)
The 4th part of the Vielia is certainly the most demanding canyoning technically, since by the massive inflow shortly at the exit of part 3 the water flow is large and at the same time the canyon is quite narrow in some places. In addition, if you have already done Part I-III before, you will have spent at least 8 hours (including access) at the time of the entry into Part IV and still have at least 3.5 strenuous hours ahead of you in the cold water and also a long horizontal stretch overall. You must be aware that if you enter the part IV, this must also be able to pull through, because you can shorten at most the last 30min walking and swimming passages and otherwise can not leave the canyon.

Dangerous place with serious risk of accident!
A completely unspectacular pool - like 100th before - with white water. It tempts to jump or slide. Important: It is not allowed to jump or slide!
What you don't see is that there is a rock 10cm below the white water, which, if you slide in, will trap your leg. Therefore, at this point a anchor was set - at the time of our ascent with fixed ropes - to point out to use here necessarily the anchor and not to jump into the pool to avoid a serious accident. Here already happened at least one serious accident with broken leg, which due to the difficult accessibility of the part IV in an involuntary overnight stay in the canyon with a broken leg.

Attention: No cell phone reception in the whole course of the canyon.

The Vielia I - IV is the longest and one of the most beautiful tours in Friuli. However, all 4 parts in one day can be done only in high summer, when there is enough daylight. In addition, if you want to do all 4 parts in one day, you should really be physically top fit. The access alone to part 1 with 5.5 km horizontal as the crow flies and 800 Hm in high summer is quite demanding. In addition, the 4th part of all is the most demanding with a lot of water contact, long swims and canyoning technical challenges.

The good thing about the Vielia is that you can combine different parts or do not have to do all 4 parts at once, because between the parts you always come back to the path 377 and can descend via it again.
In sum, the Vielia is certainly one of the most beautiful canyons in Friuli, which makes every canyoning heart beat faster. However, it should not be underestimated, because in the sections themselves (except for part 1) there are very few escape routes and even in the event of an accident it is practically impossible to get out of the canyon.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
From the freeway exit Carnia/Tolmezzo follow the SS52 direction Forni di Sopra/Mauria Pass. After about 25 min and 23.3km turn left at km29 from the SS52 onto the SR552 towards Tramonti / Passo Rest. After 7km (about 10 min) on this road you enter the Tagliamento Valley. You continue on the SR552 over the Tagliamento bridge over the REST mountain pass for about 15km (25 min). Depending on where you want to get off in the Vielia IV part, there are different parking options for the shuttle car.
Option 1: If you want to leave the Vielia IV after the last rappel before the walk and swim section, you park the car at a gravel turnout near km21 VIII
Option 2: If you want to finish the last scenic stretch, park the shuttle car directly at the bridge over the Vielia at km 22 V.
With the rest of the vehicles, go from the bridge over the Vielia for about 1.5 km to km 24 I. It is possible to park here both to the left and to the right of the road and the marked path 377 starts directly from here.

Approach: (machine translated)
Access to the Vielia is easy to find, as you always stay on path 377, which leads through the Val Vielia. At the beginning of the trail, you climb a few meters before reaching the Val Vielia after about 20-25 minutes. From there, the path leads relatively gently uphill through beech forests.
After about 40-45 minutes, you come close to the streambed of the Vielia for the first time. This is the entry point to part IV (approx. 660m)

Alternative access from the pass road:
Near KM stone IV/17 you will find a small parking area, on the other side of the road a path begins between rockfall nets. Follow this path (clear route, cairns) to a small saddle, then descend to the ruins of Stalle Velleai. The path is usually easy to see, only in the area of wind breaks there are orientation problems, but if you keep slightly to the right on the descent you should always find the path again. In the area of Stalle Vellai, take a short, pathless path to the left past the only house still standing until a path forms again that leads down to Vielia.

Caution: Vielia IV is very often combined with parts II and III. It is definitely worth doing at least part III, as you reach it in another 30 minutes ascent and are in the canyon in about 1:15-1:30. Part III is one of the most beautiful canyon passages in the whole of Friuli. Description see canyoning database "Vielia I-III"

Tour: (machine translated)
Part 4 begins with a 10-minute walking passages in the open streambed before you reach the first section. During the walking passages, the water level doesn't seem that high, but by the first rappel at the latest, you can see that the Vielia has almost tripled in size compared to the entry of Part III!
After the first rappel and a small jump, you come to a shallow slide into a deep green pool, which can also be abseiled down if necessary. From here, the canyon narrows visibly. After a
3m jump and a 130m M+E+swim, you come to an 18m rappel. Here you first rappel directly into the strong water. Here you have to be careful not to get caught in the water, but to avoid it and continue rappelling on the rock band ortographic right.
This is followed by another narrow rappel, necessarily in the water - the water can be partially bypassed by spreading out between the walls - which leads ortographic right to an intermediate belay, from which you can rappel into the deep pool right next to the waterfall.
This is followed by another abseil and swimming passage before you abseil 8m into a small cave, which can then be downclimbed to the left. This is followed by a 70m M+E+swim and a 2m jump into a deep pool. Climb down about 10m and then you are faced with what is probably the most treacherous part of Part IV.

see Dangerous spot with special features

After this point, the canyon opens up again a little and you have an approx. 250m long M+E+swim ahead of you. This exits with an abseil from a large boulder followed by another 10m abseil until you reach several large boulders in the middle of the gorge after another 70m. From here you can either rappel 20m, or you can rope up to the lower boulder, from where you can jump 10m into the turquoise pool below.
From here, the Vielia 4 narrows again. After several small abseils and a jump, you come to a cave-like area with a large clamping block in the middle. There are usually always rope loops around the clamping block, which you can use to belay yourself. To get to the anchor, you have to pass the clamping block in the water and the anchor is on the clamping block. At this point, you are forced to rappel directly in the water and you will feel the concentrated water pressure, especially when you arrive from the rappel.

Another longer M+E+ swim follows, which is interrupted by an inflow of water from the left.
Now you come to a rappel point C6 ortographic right, from which you rappel into a pool with a large clamping block. After you have skillfully climbed up the clamping block, a 6m jump into a cave-like passage follows. This passage exits with a 7m rappel into a gorgeous turquoise pool, with another inlet from the left and a 100m swim in cold water. After this swimming section, the canyon opens up again visibly and after a small walking passage you come to a rock chaos. The rock chaos must be climbed ortographic left and you come to the highest rappel of the Vielia IV passage. After another M+E follows the last rappel of the tour from the tree into the pool, which can also be downclimbed if you continue ortographic right.

If you want to save yourself the last kilometers in the quite beautiful surroundings, but only with 2 jumps, you can now leave the canyon ortographic left at a small water inlet (which can also be dried out in summer). This point is about 40-50m after the last abseil point. Attention, if you plan to leave the canyon here, you should park the shuttle car at option 1 (see approach). Here you go pathless
approx. 40m through undergrowth before you reach the road.

If you do not leave the canyon here, you first have a quite long walk in the water ahead of you
(approx. 400 m), which leads into the last gorge of the Vielia Canyon. Caution: Depending on the water level, there are still a few water problems in the gorge (a baffle wall and a siphon). After a final jump, swim directly under the SR552 bridge.

Return: (machine translated)
If you walk to the exit of the canyon, it is best to stay in the streambed until about 150m after the bridge and then walk out of the canyon ortographic left, where you can walk directly back to the bridge on hiking trail 829. (Option 2 see approach).

If you leave the canyon before the last passage (option 1 see approach), then you have to walk uphill without a path for about 40-50m through the undergrowth, sometimes steeper, before you reach the road and the parking lot.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.3371 12.7815
Canyon End 46.3317 12.8022
Parking Entry and Exit 46.3218 12.7954
Parking at Entry 46.3431 12.7926

Reports:

2025-08-16 | Horst Lambauer | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | Low | Completed
All parts have been walked on. Unfortunately, the entry jump on the 4 is not working at the moment because there is too much gravel in it, otherwise everything is tip top. (machine translated)

2025-07-20 | Jason Walker | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ | Low | Completed
Today we did all the parts consecutively. It took three guides 8 hours and 30 minutes car to (shuttled) car and we tried to move efficiently. Italian topos are amazing. The whole thing was probably a 7/10 slippery! The water started very very cold at the top. Lots of the canyon is single bolt "anchors". Part one, was not really worthwhile. 3 stars at best. It has some unpleasant abseils, and maybe a jump or two. Part 4 is much better, and you want to allow time if you think it'll be a stretch for your group. Parts two and three, these are the best parts of the day. Part two just jumping nearly constantly, and part three also has some nice jumps, but less consistent. Part 4. Supposedly the money section, was not really outstanding compared to parts 2-3. In higher flows, it would certainly be quite demanding, with some tight sections, awkward abseils, and potential to be swept out of pools. The toboggan was super good. There were a few jumps that were nice. Seems like the kinda section you fire up when you're looking for some challenge in high water. Not really a fun sporty section to take your buddies down. We only took 2 hours to get from the first rap, up onto he bridge at the end. The level (no person) photo below is at the first abseil on TL of part 4.

2025-07-19 | Bina | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 | ⚓ ★ ★ | High | Completed
Parts 1-4 done. Start jump unfortunately covered in gravel. Partly a bit slippery. (machine translated)

2024-08-15 | Horst Lambauer | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | Normal | Completed
Have added missing anchors. The canyon was very beautiful, but slippery. (machine translated)

2023-03-09 | System User | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 | ⚓ | |
Daten importiert von https://www.canyoning.or.at/index.php/liste-aller-canyons/525-val-vielia-iv

Parts:
Val Vielia I-III, v4 a4 IV, 2h30+5h30+40min
Val Vielia IV, v3 a5 V, 45min+3h30+5min