Turnigla

Val Turnigla

Create: 2023-03-09 20:53:26	**Update:** 2025-11-16 13:06:33	**Print:** 2026-11-10 02:11:02
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton Graubünden **Subregion:** Region Imboden **Town:** (Trin-)Mulin		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v4 a5 V	**Total time:** 4h45
Approachtime: 35min	**Tourtime:** 4h	**Returntime:** 10min
Altitude entry: 1055m	**Altitude exit:** 800m	**Delta Altitude:** 255m
Canyon length: 600m	**Highest rapell:** 27m	**Amount rapells:** 28
Transport: on Foot	**Rock type:** limestone	**Drainage area:** 28.00km²
Season: August - November	**Orientation:** South	**Best Time:** 8-18 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 4.8 (25)	**Info:** ★ 2.8 (16)	**Belay:** ★ 2.5 (21)

Specialities:
Dam, § Regulated,

Gear:
Ropes: 2x30m

Summary: (machine translated)
Two very different parts due to water drainage. Watery in the upper parts, blue-grey shale and blue-green coloring of the pools in the lower part.

Hydrology: (machine translated)
The danger of an unpredictable water supply hangs like the sword of Damocles over the lower parts, which would actually be suitable for beginners. The author was surprised by a water supply line once in 2007 and once in 2008, the second time due to deficiencies in the electricity supply at the Mulin small power station (left at the exit).

However, a verbal inquiry with employees at the Mulin small power plant on site revealed that the water reservoir is not only fed by the discharge from the Turnigla, but also by an additional spring directly from inside the mountain. Its flow rate is said to be up to 200 ltr/sec. The water discharge from the Turnigla adds at least 70 ltr/sec (at "low water"). If this entire volume of water is added to the lower parts - or even flushed out - everyone can imagine the consequences for those parts of the gorge that are surprised by the flood. Although there are always areas where you can climb up to slightly higher platforms, there is no escape route in either the upper or lower parts - only the emergency exit option when the water drains away.

Access: (machine translated)
On the Swiss A 13 from Lake Constance southward to Chur. Continue in the direction of San Bernardino. 7 km after Chur-West leave the A 13 in the direction of Flims. 5 km after leaving the A 13 we pass through a tunnel. Immediately after its western exit turn right in the direction of "Trin-Mulin". Above the tunnel we go back about 100m and then turn right to Mulin. Immediately after this turnoff we see on the left below an area where we can park the vehicle.

Approach: (machine translated)
From the parking lot back across the road "Trin-Mulin" and beyond in the direction NNW up the forest road. We pass the turnoff to the water reservoir (entry lower part), later the mostly dry streambed of the Trimosa and finally reach the bridge over the Turnigla. A few meters above the bridge we climb from the orographic left bank.

Tour: (machine translated)
Powerful stream in the upper part, which is generally easy to stay out of (see also above under "Characteristics"). Plenty of opportunity to jump.
If you want to risk the lower parts, the ambience is impressive.
Since mid-2009, the operators of the E-Werk with water tank have demanded that their facilities may no longer be entered in any way. This also applies to an integral inspection. Recently (Feb. 2010) there has also been talk of an allegedly imminent ban on accessing the gorge below the water catchment without any details being known (see: http://www.descente-canyon.com/forums/viewtopic.php?id=12092).
In the meantime, the ban on access and exit has become a reality.

The Turnigla has 2 very different parts, as there is a water drainage into a water reservoir in the middle of the entire section.
The upper part (highest rappel approx. 15m) has a relatively high water flow rate, which is where its specific difficulty lies.
At one point, you have to leave the pool into which you abseil (10m) through a narrow chute into which all the water pours in a fairly concentrated manner from a height of around 9m - an unpleasant back massage even at "low water". There is a handrail in the vertical wall (to the left) as a workaround, but this must be equipped with the necessary rope independently (2008). A few jumps are possible in the upper section.
After the water is drained (at about 960m above sea level), only a small amount of residual water usually remains in the streambed. Here, the ambience - blue-grey slate and blue-green coloration of the pools - is the focus of enjoyment.
However, the danger of an unpredictable water supply hangs like the sword of Damocles over the lower parts, which would actually be suitable for beginners. Once each in 2007 and 2008, the author was surprised by a water supply, the second time due to faults in the electricity supply at the Mulin small power station (left at the exit). As both malfunctions could be rectified relatively quickly, we were only exposed to the swelling water for a relatively short time (10 - 20 minutes) and apparently only to the extent that the water drainage from the Turnigla itself no longer took place, i.e. we did not have more water than in the upper part. This would put the danger into perspective. However, a verbal inquiry with employees at the Mulin small power station on site revealed that the water reservoir is not only fed by the discharge from the Turnigla, but also by an additional spring directly from inside the mountain. Its flow rate is said to be up to 200 ltr/sec. The water discharge from the Turnigla adds at least 70 ltr/sec (at "low water"). If this entire volume of water is added to the lower parts - or even flushed out - everyone can imagine the consequences for those parts of the gorge that are surprised by the flood. Although there are always areas where you can climb up to slightly higher platforms, there is no escape route in either the upper or lower parts - only the possibility to get out when the water is drained.

Return: (machine translated)
On exit at the water tank: via steel pins and wire rope handrail onto the concrete footbridge (rappeling left past the water intake directly to the concrete footbridge is also possible), shimmy around the metal grating, over the external water tank and down along the field path to the ascent path. Return to the vehicle along this path.
On exit after the 2nd part: Exit left at the E-Werk, head south across the parking lot and then down the road in an easterly direction ("Trin") to the parked vehicle.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.8388 9.3410
Canyon End 46.8335 9.3401
Parking Entry and Exit 46.8321 9.3456
Waypoint 46.8362 9.3404

Reports:

2026-02-23 | Patrik | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
In the upper part, the water is rather murky due to the warm temperature. No ice but rather slippery :-) (machine translated)

2026-01-31 | Matthias Holzinger | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
Perfect conditions. No ice, which was a bit surprising for this time of year. (machine translated)

2025-12-12 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Turnigla Fairly low flow, did the integrale. All anchors in good condition. Some dodgy tree trunks hanging above the canyon that are likely to fall in this winter. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21997/observations.html)

2025-11-06 | Patrik | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Everything ok. Fantastic conditions... (machine translated)

2025-10-20 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Turnigla Comme toujours, une descentr de rêve. Même si la vasque avec la main courante fixe, semble inoffensive vue d'en haut, il faut en sortir sous le jet, ce qui est difficile, sauf si le niveau d'eau est très bas. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21997/observations.html)

2025-10-20 | Christian Balla | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Always great. Note: Parking fee 6 CHF/day, payable by app or in coins, no credit card (machine translated)

2025-10-20 | Timothé Zen-Ruffinen | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Beautiful clear water. Playful canyon with great jumps and some slides. Always fun! Good grip on the rocks and no ice, yet. Some siphons you can dive through. We had a blast □□□□□□

2025-10-19 | Adrian Roth | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Rock with a good grip, beautiful shapes and turquoise blue water. Some pools could be jumped. The passage of the Hexenkessel was easy to do. (machine translated)

2025-10-19 | AlexS | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Always beautiful! Be careful, the Gländerseili RG in the sup are rancid! Otherwise: RAS (machine translated)

2025-10-03 | Sascha Schäfer | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
3 or 4 anchors the bolt sticks out very far and the nut was loose-suspect that it is slowly working its way out of the wall-look closely! (machine translated)

2025-09-21 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Turnigla Dernier jour de l'été, fortes pluies et froid annoncés dès demain, alors turnigla by night, exceptionnel! (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21997/observations.html)

2025-09-21 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Turnigla Marche retour : on passe sur un terrain privé avec des moutons et un gros chien blanc qui a failli nous croquer le cul. Attention (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21997/observations.html)

2025-09-21 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Turnigla (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/21997/observations.html)

2025-09-21 | Betschart Stefan | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
All stands io. The first few meters after the frame are quite muddy and dirty at the moment. Unfortunately you have to check if you can jump as many pools are covered in gravel. (machine translated)

2025-09-19 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Turnigla Fait après Aua dil Mer. Superbe, ludique, et court. À faire et refaire... (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-