

Ochsenschlucht (oberer Teil)

Info: The quality of this description has not been checked yet or was rated bad.

If you know this canyon, please check this description and file a report with a rating for this description using *Reports -> +New Report*. Should you notice any error, please let us know or join the community in order to fix this description yourself.

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Country: Österreich / Austria **Region:** Kärnten **Subregion:** Bezirk Spittal an der Drau **Town:** Berg im Drautal

Difficulty: a little difficult

Grading: v3 a4 III

Total time: 2h45

Approachtime: 30min

Tourtime: 2h

Returntime: 15min

Altitude entry: 1200m

Altitude exit: 850m

Delta Altitude: 350m

Canyon length: m

Highest rappel: 15m

Amount rapells: 15

Transport: Car optional

Rock type:

Drainage area: km²

Season:

Orientation:

Best Time:

Rating: ★ 3 (1)

Info: ★ 0 ()

Belay: ★ 0 ()

Specialities:

Gear:

Ropes: 40m +30m

Summary:

IMPORTANT: The access to the canyons must be announced! For contact details see approach.

The canyon can be accessed via a right and a left access (times and altitude meters in parentheses). While you can drive up the right access partly by car, you have to walk up the left access all the way to the entry on a forest road.

The right access is very scenic, but has a lot of long walking passages. The left access, on the other hand, has only one longer walking passages in between and you come to an interesting narrow part of the upper part right away.

Both inlets are worthwhile in any case. The upper part impresses with its beautiful scenic and geology, but is certainly not as demanding (except for 2 places) as the lower part of the Ochsenschlucht.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)

On the A10 exit at the Spital junction in the direction of Lienz on the B100. Follow the B100 for 34km (approx. 30 min) until you reach Berg an der Drau. At the train station Berg turn left directly over the bridge, which leads over the Drau. Here you stay on the road for about 2,5km until you reach the cycling station "Sandhof". Here you continue on the road for about 150m, crossing the stream of the Ochsenschlucht (Feistritz), before on the left - directly after the stream - the parking lot appears (picnic area). Here you can park the vehicles with the dry things. In general, the parking lot should be used to park the majority of cars there. At the upper parking lot the number of parking spaces is limited (2 cars). At the lower parking lot the equipment can already be prepared. Also the wetsuit can be put on already here (access from the upper parking lot about 15min on forest road).

IMPORTANT: Before entering the canyons you have to ask for permission (best the day before). For this call Mario Duller from Ares Canyoning (+43 676 844425280; office@bikeschule.at). Mario has leased the canyon and knows the farmer over whose land the private access road goes!

Water control:

Directly at the Sandhof, the road leads uphill to the right. After about 500m a gravel road leads downhill to the right, which is blocked by a large tree trunk. Get off here and walk to the weir of the stream for the water control. It is useless to check the water level at the lower parking lot of the stream, because the water is diverted at the weir! A reference photo of the water level of our walk can be found below, this is the "normal water level", which can be challenging at one or the other point. Alternatively, you can hike at the lower parking lot for about 15 min in the direction of the canyon, rather you are also at the weir and can control the water according to the reference photos.

Approach right inlet (red tour on topographic view)

If the water level is ok, one drives the road for approx. 3.5km uphill. After some serpentines in the forest you come out at an alp where you still keep right. You drive again briefly in the forest before you come out again at the mountain pasture and you drive directly past the farm and a red deer enclosure. The asphalt road turns into a gravel road that leads further up the slope. You drive again into the forest, at turnings you keep to the right, rather you come after 2000m to a barrier. You should park somewhere before the barrier, because after it the federal forests begin and the road may not be driven on.

Approach: (machine translated)

Access right inlet (red tour on topographic view): 30min

Follow the forest road for about 30 min before the road leads directly over the right inlet. Attention, there is about 5min before the entry still a large inflow (which is led under the forest road). This is not yet the entry but this comes only 5min later.

Access to the left inlet (blue tour on topographic view): 1.5h

If you don't want to transfer the vehicles and the long walking passages of the right tributary, you can choose the very pleasant access to the left tributary.

To get to the left tributary, go directly from the lower parking lot or left uphill along the hiking trail/forest road 233. Unfortunately, the forest road is not passable, because it is forbidden (otherwise you could go directly to the entry). Stay on the path 233 (do not follow the forest road to the right at the barrier, but stay on the left side of the path 233 next to the barrier) before you reach a large slab at about 1100m. Then you go about 900m slightly uphill before at 1150Hm a gravel field leads towards the canyons. The access over the gravel field to the canyon is relatively easy to recognize, as this is the first way to enter the canyon. See topographic view for overview map. It is recommended to put on the canyoning equipment before the entry into the gravel field. Climb down the gravel field before arriving at the streambed of the left tributary.

Tour: (machine translated)

Tour description right inflow to confluence: approx. 1.75h

The right tributary is characterized by a very nice open canyon with a few rappels inside, which are not difficult. There are several tributaries in the right tributary of the Ochsenschlucht. The right inlet consists of relatively long walking and downclimbing passages, but is quite beautiful due to the beautiful scenic and the clear water, which gradually becomes more and more. Only in the last 500m of the right tributary, before the left tributary is added, the canyon cuts more and more narrow.

Tour description left tributary to confluence: about 0.5h

If you want to avoid the long walking passages in the open terrain of the right tributary and arrive at the first interesting part of the upper part of the Ochsenschlucht, you should choose the left tributary. We first climbed and drilled the left access in May 2020. The left access begins with a short rappel from a tree, which can also be bypassed on the right through the forest. Then you have about only 400m walking and hiking distance before the canyon cuts noticeably and you come to a small cascade. The first 3 m can still be downclimbed or carefully slid, before you come to a bolthook on the right. You rope into the 2nd pool and can slide down the last 3m steps. Then comes the right inflow to it and one stands directly before the interesting first place of the upper inflow.

Tour description from the confluence to the beginning of the lower part: approx. 1,5h

The confluence of the right and left tributaries is the first very beautiful, but technically demanding place. Due to the confluence the water volume doubles at once and one has to get into a deeper, turbulent pool and rappel orthographic left. The rappel leads through a turbulent pool, rather you have to rappel directly in the water. It is advisable to set up a closed circuit at this point, because the water pressure is quite high.

Immediately after, another cascade follows, which begins at a chain anchor or. right. After that you have to cross the stream with quite strong current before you find a bolthook or. left at the rocky ledge.

After these 2 highlights follows a relatively long walking, hiking and partly swimming passages in a canyon with impressive geology. The further you go down the Ochsenschlucht, the more springs and tributaries flow into the Ochsenschlucht, which makes it an aquatic canyon in the lower part. Therefore, certain places in the upper part of the canyon are not to be underestimated (baffle wall, currents). However, compared to the lower part, the water problems are manageable.

Towards the exit of the upper part of the canyon, it narrows again and you have to rappel into more turbulent pools or cross them. At altitude 850 m, a boulder field enters the canyon on the right. If there have already been problems with the water until then, you should get out here. This boulder field also marks the beginning of the lower part of the Ochsenschlucht (see separate description).

Of course, the lower part of the Ochsenschlucht is certainly the highlight in terms of canyoning. However, if you do the Ochsenschlucht, you should do the upper part as well. There are indeed longer walking and downclimb passages, but geologically and scenically the upper part is definitely worth it. Especially the place at the confluence of the left and right tributaries is very beautiful and also technically challenging canyoning.

Return: (machine translated)

(on foot: 45 min.)

If you don't want to walk the lower part of the canyon, you first have to walk up the boulder field at 850m or right before you come out at the forest road after about 15 - 20 min. If you have not parked your car here, you will have to walk 45 min - 1 h to the lower parking lot or 30 min to 45 min before you reach the barrier where you have to park your car for the upper part

Coordinates:

Canyon Start [46.6947 13.1162](https://www.canyoning.or.at/index.php/liste-aller-canyons/497-ochsenschlucht-oberer-teil)

Canyon End [46.7160 13.1242](https://www.canyoning.or.at/index.php/liste-aller-canyons/497-ochsenschlucht-oberer-teil)

Reports:

2023-03-09 | System User | ★★★ | 📁 | ⚓ |

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Parts:

Ochsenschlucht (oberer Teil), v3 a4 III, 30min+2h+15min

Ochsenschlucht (unterer Teil), v3 a5 IV, 0min+3h+0min