Cugnasco (superiore)

Valle di Cugnasco med.,Riale Riavena

Create: 2023-03-09 20:55:40	**Update:** 2023-10-25 05:30:03	**Print:** 2026-11-10 02:11:19
Country: Schweiz / Switzerland **Region:** Kanton Tessin / Cantone Ticino **Subregion:** Bezirk Locarno **Town:** Cugnasco		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v5 a4 III	**Total time:** 3h50
Approachtime: 50min	**Tourtime:** 2h50	**Returntime:** 10min
Altitude entry: 600m	**Altitude exit:** 430m	**Delta Altitude:** 170m
Canyon length: 600m	**Highest rapell:** 55m	**Amount rapells:** 8
Transport: Car optional	**Rock type:** gneiss	**Drainage area:** km²
Season:	**Orientation:** South	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 3.9 (7)	**Info:** ★ 2.2 (5)	**Belay:** ★ 2.3 (6)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x 60m

Summary: (machine translated)
Watery rappel canyon

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
First as for Cugnasco inferiore: From the Locarno/Bellinzona road, turn off at the bridge over the stream in the village of Cugnasco and drive upstream on the left towards "Medoscio". 200 meters further on, in the parking lot on the left before the second bridge, you can park a car at the canyon exit if you want to add the Cugnasco superiore to the Cugnasco inferiore (450m above sea level).
The road now winds steeply up the slope in hairpin bends. After the fourth left hairpin bend and the following right-hand bend, there is a small unpaved parking lot on the right. There are two signs opposite: "Via Medoscio" and a few meters further on "Sentee Colett" (park the lower car here if you only want to walk the upper part of the Cugnasco (450m above sea level).
Continue uphill on the tarred road in the other car. After a left-hand bend and a longer straight section, there are 5 successive hairpin bends to the right and just as many to the left. At not quite 700m above sea level, we turn right after a detached house, pass the houses of the hamlet of Curogna on the north side, then keep left and park the second car about 400m after the turn-off (720m above sea level).
The approach is also possible by bus, which runs approximately every 2 hours, with slightly shorter intervals in the morning.

Approach: (machine translated)
We continue along the dirt road and after about 350m we come to the houses of Alpe Ronchi. Here we take a few steps downhill, then we see the signpost "Curogna 705" on a white background and a signpost on the right down to "Cugnasco 1h". We would come up here if we only had 1 car available.
However, we continue horizontally here, following the signs for "Monti Velloni 1h". The path leads into the forest, but after a few meters it goes uphill to the left, while we take the faint trail that continues more or less horizontally. We pass a stone house on the left and now follow the path, which is sometimes slippery and barely perceptible, then clearly recognizable again. After a ridge, we find ourselves high above the Valle di Cugnasco. We pass - somewhat exposed - a small rock overhang, then continue downhill. Where the path exits abruptly in a narrow rock chute, we climb steeply down to the right of the chute to the stream (can also be rappelled from trees). Luca Nizzola: "If you survive the approach on foot ..."

Tour: (machine translated)
The tour begins immediately with the highest and most impressive 55m waterfall (anchor left). After about 16m to the right of the watercourse (but practically in the fall line), there is a comfortable switch, from which you rappel the remaining 43m. This is followed by a small jump (S4). We jammed down the following chute a bit and then jumped. The next rappel (15m) leads left onto a wide ledge. If you want to avoid the following chute, you can take the anchor on the top left above the rock structure (approx. 20m). The following rappel from the block in the narrow chute (C8) can be unpleasant if there is a lot of water. But then you are soon at the last rappel. Here you reach the belay on the right outside the beam after about 8m (possibly with a redirection right above). From here you descend the last 25m almost dry. After about 300m we come to the entry into the Cugnasco inferiore, possibly our exit to the right and up to the parking lot at 450m above sea level. The path starts to the right of a large boulder that lies directly on the right bank.

Return: (machine translated)
Either as described above right up to the parking lot at 450m above sea level or at the exit of the lower parts right from the slide brake out to the road.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 46.1886 8.9163
Canyon End 46.1841 8.9165
Waterlevel Checkpoint 46.1774 8.9174
Parking at Exit 46.1814 8.9143
Parking at Entry 46.1849 8.9082

Reports:

2025-09-25 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ Crazy | 👎 Not done
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Cugnasco (supérieur) (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2666/observations.html)

2025-06-01 | Bina | ★ ★ ★ ½ |🕮 |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
4 rocks washed over, no problem for canyonists who know the canyon very well. (machine translated)

2025-05-31 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | |
Automatisch importiert von Schlucht.ch für Canyon Valle di Cugnasco superiore, Wasserstand: "Mittel 4 steine" Verankerungen: "Gut" Recht griffig, viel geröll in den Becken (Quelle: https://schlucht.ch/schluchten-der-schweiz-liste/1187-cugnasco-superiore)

2024-09-12 | Pepijn Hoeksema | ★ ★ ★ ★ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Good trip! Some nice abseils. Anchors are in good condition. The flow was normal today.

2024-09-11 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Cugnasco (supérieur) (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2666/observations.html)

2024-08-11 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Cugnasco (supérieur) Equipement ok. RAS. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2666/observations.html)

2024-07-15 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | |
Automatisch importiert von Schlucht.ch für Canyon Valle di Cugnasco superiore, Wasserstand: "niedrig (3 Steine)" Verankerungen: "gut (inox)" (Quelle: https://schlucht.ch/schluchten-der-schweiz-liste/1187-cugnasco-superiore)

2024-06-02 | Matthias Holzinger | ★ ★ ★ ★ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
2 x rock slide in the canyon, anchors in the Superiore bottleneck somewhat maltreated. (machine translated)

2024-05-05 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | |
Automatisch importiert von Schlucht.ch für Canyon Valle di Cugnasco superiore, Wasserstand: "hoch (6 überspülte Steine)" Verankerungen: "gut (überwiegend inox)" Superiore laut NIZZOLA Führer gemacht. Am engen Schlitz in der Schlucht mit Treibanker eine Seilbahn gebaut. (Quelle: https://schlucht.ch/?view=article&id=1187&Itemid=203)

2024-05-05 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Cugnasco (supérieur) Attenzione alla seconda cascata nel corridoio...morta bastarda...usare sacco flottante....resto ok con un po di attenzione (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2666/observations.html)

2024-04-21 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Cugnasco (supérieur) Chemin d'approche toujours bien marqué avec cordes toujours en place pour la descente jusqu'au canyon. Equipement ok. Gros débit avec seulement un rappel exposé (rappel guidé bienvenu). Un rocher entier (>200kg) a cependant basculé, sans avertir (complètement stable jusqu'alors) sous nos pieds lors du départ de la troisième cascade, heureusement il a eu la bonne idée de seulement nous "effleurer"... Restons prudent... (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2666/observations.html)

2024-04-21 | Alex Arnold | ★ ★ ★ ★ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Anchor iO (machine translated)

2023-11-08 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Cugnasco (supérieur) (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2666/observations.html)

2023-06-11 | Bubtore | ★ ★ ★ ★ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
Apart from the many ticks on access, it's a superiore tour! (machine translated)

2023-06-11 | Thorsten K. | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ |🕮 |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed

Parts:
Cugnasco (sup-sup), v6 a4 IV, ++
Cugnasco (superiore), v5 a4 III, 50min+2h50+10min
Cugnasco (inferiore), v3 a4 III, 45min+2h15+2min