

Oules de Freissinieres

Oules de Freissinières, Torrent des Oules, Oules

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Country: France Region: Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur / Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur Subregion: Hautes-Alpes		
Town: Freissinières		
Difficulty: very difficult	Grading: v5 a6 IV	Total time: 6h5
Approach time: 1h	Tour time: 5h	Return time: 5min
Altitude entry: 1750m	Altitude exit: 1440m	Delta Altitude: 310m
Canyon length: 850m	Highest rappel: 33m	Amount rappels: 19
Transport: on Foot	Rock type: slate	Drainage area: 19.00km ²
Season: August - October	Orientation: North	Best Time: 10-15 o'clock
Rating: ★ 5 (5)	Info: ★ 2.3 (4)	Belay: ★ 3 (4)
Specialities: Glacier in drainage area,		
Gear: Ropes: 3x 35m		
Summary: (machine translated) Extremely watery rappel canyon, accessible from mid-August due to glacier water		
Hydrology: (machine translated) Glacier water. Before you set off, check the water level at the wooden bridge at the start of the Dormillouse trail. -1.: Observe the oval pool under the bridge, 3 m downstream. The foam must not take up more than 1/3 of the pool! Otherwise it is "almost insurmountable" and only for experts who know the route. To find this famous 1/3, make a line running from the small ledge RG towards the RD. -2. find the 50 cm long scale to the right of the main overflow of the same pool, which has 6 rows of holes with an arrow; - If the waves fluctuate at the level of the 2-hole row, the canyon poses no particular danger. - From 3 to 4 holes, the water movements become more and more pronounced and the canyon becomes increasingly sporty and impressive without being really dangerous. - Beyond the 4/4.5 hole level, the canyon is aimed at very experienced practitioners who know the course (some passages can prove to be very technical).		
Access: (machine translated) From L'Argentière-la-Bessée, drive up to Freissinières and follow the D238 to the exit of the valley and park at the end of the road in the public parking lot.		
Approach: (machine translated) On the left bank of the Biaysse / Chichin, first follow the path towards Dormillouse. The path then climbs steeply in several bends. This is followed by a longer grade in a north-westerly direction, a leftward hairpin bend and a fork at the next hairpin bend. Continue along the gradient (no further to Dormillouse). Continue along the path and follow the forks in a southerly direction (towards Gletcher, not Dormillouse). As soon as the path runs parallel to the Oules with little difference in altitude, you have reached the entry point.		

Tour: (machine translated)

Cracks: The oules become greased and degreased over the years. Some pools can be very deep in some years and completely fatty in the following years and vice versa. It is therefore necessary to check the depth of each pool before jumping.

Equipment completely revised and updated in 2013.

IMPORTANT INFO: The names of the obstacles used in this description (slides/cascades/protrusions...) do not correspond exactly to the names in the topos Canyons des Hautes-Alpes (Henri Vincens) / Tour d'Europe des Canyon (Caracal). For the sake of "clarity", the names used by these authors for the main obstacles are specified in the following lines and added to the names of this description; example: for the first T5: "T5/dc", "T8/hv", "T6/c", which means in the order Descente-Canyon, Henri Vincens, Caracal (Tour de l'Europe).

The first part of 1.5 to 2 hours consists of ledges and small slides (T5, T10, T3, C5, C20, C12, and C6) where you have to be careful of the water movements. If you are strongly agitated in the slide "T5/dc", "T8/hv", "T6/c" (foaming tub and violent drop to the left), you can still escape to the right via a steep grassy scree just before "T10/dc", "T14/hv", "T10/c" (RD relay) (violent drop due to large current at the finish). This is followed by a small 2/3m slide and then a 4/5m jump/waterfall (RD relay/knot rope/required 4m jump/left bank drop). The 20m waterfall slide: "C20/dc", "T18/hv", "TC17/c" can be dangerous (handrail + RG relay). It can be lowered easily if the foaming jet does not touch the opposite bank (otherwise dangerous drop). Otherwise, you can save yourself via the RG (easy climb/3 m, at the height of the MC start) and then rappel 20 m from a relay on the ledge next to the rechapper. The next waterfall is no problem, RG relay (2 points), 10m rappel + slippery jump. The next obstacle requires a 6m jump into a pool (+/- depth/years).

From the (old) menhir (very large boulders in the canyon bed) things get serious (incidentally, this is the last easy escape route in the RG before... many worries....).

The second, very sporty part takes about 3 hours and requires great attention.

You string together abseiling sections and a nice S-slide, you negotiate de-escalations that are sometimes "hot", and you reach the "climax", the famous "cannon shot" (geyser); a water fountain shoots up horizontally and forms a beautiful ponytail.

On to the technical aspects; after "le Menhir" the 5 m high waterfall is jumped. The following "C8/dc", "C10/hv", "C8/c" can also be jumped, but the start is technical and slippery and you have to jump far to avoid falling onto an edge at a lower depth. It is better to rappel from the RD relay (2 points) (beware of the hanging tub, if the current is strong, it is better for the first person to rappel to reach the relay to avoid being washed away).

The relay of the S-slide, "T3+6/hv", "T5,T8/c", is more difficult to find. One meter before the first slide, climb over the RD jump (it's slippery!... short ladder more or less mandatory) to find two points, sometimes under the vegetation, two meters further (violent water movements and second part to be avoided when active/ ankle bise...). The next ledge offers a small waterfall (1 m, strongly reminiscent when the water flow is strong) and leads into a hanging pool. The next waterfall is an RD waterfall that de-escalates behind a group of trees.

After this, you finally reach the big abseils. A slide sends you directly into a new hanging basin (belay possible / 2 points above the slide / slippery access) towards the first MC with RG cable + RG relay: "C22/hv", "C23/c", rappel 22m or 10m + jump 12m.

Here is the last possible escape route in the RG (fixed ropes 80m), in case you are tired, frozen or scared...

You then reach the second MC with rope RG at the height of the overflow of the large hanging pool (have yourself secured if there is a lot of water to avoid a fall from 60m...).

The "cannon shot" takes place in a C60. Not too much space and a wonderful photo to take.

The wired MC leads you to the RG relay of "C21/hv", "C27/c" for a first rappel (slightly pendular) of 27m to reach the RG relay of "C25/hv", "C32/c" (right at the geyser, 10m under a larch), rappel of 30m. Then, at the exit of this fabulous waterfall (in pouring rain), do not descend to the pool, but reach a first micro-terrace RD by swinging, then find a relay (monopoint) in a small niche 1.5m below this first terrace.

From here we rappel into the basin (still in pouring rain) to bypass an RD jump and reach a 2nd RD terrace (in less pouring rain). Start the abseilable MC "MC10m/hv", "MC D technical/c", (2 points), lay the abseilable MC (12m) to reach a micro-relay RD (4 quick links/2 points), then cross the C18 which follows above water.

Via a slippery climb you reach the third wired MC, then an RD relay for a rappelling routes of 17m or 10m + 7m jump. This is followed by the slides "T15/hv", "TC4,TC6/c", dry to the right (2 points + 1 point + 1 point), or aquatic to the left + jump, leading into a large pool, then a 3m jump (rappel possible) into a narrow pool leading to an RG relay (+ MC rappelable).

Return: (machine translated)

After the 2nd bridge turn right to the car.

Coordinates:

Canyon Start [44.7250 6.4452](#)

Parking Entry and Exit [44.7334 6.4496](#)

Canyon End [44.7336 6.4493](#)

Reports:

2025-09-01 | Christian Balla | | 📄 | ⚓ | ⚠️ Crazy | 🚫 Not done

Current flooding in Chichin and Oules (machine translated)

2025-08-31 | System User | | 📄 | ⚓ | ⚠️ Crazy | 🚫 Not done

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres Probablement légèrement au dessus de la limite de la praticabilité, plus du tiers connu et l'eau atteint la rangée de 5 trous. (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2025-08-29 | System User | | 📄 | ⚓ | ⚠️ Crazy | 🚫 Not done

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres L'écume prenait quasiment toute la vasque après les pluies de jeudi (cf. Photo) (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2025-08-26 | System User | | 📄 | ⚓ | ⚠️ Normal | 🌟 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres Dans la partie supérieure, nous nous sommes beaucoup amusés sur divers toboggans et sauts, mais il y a tout de même quelques passages critiques où le courant pousse vers des creux profonds. Mais d'un point de vue purement technique, le canyon est nettement plus facile qu'il y a quelques années avec ce niveau d'eau. Après le geyser, il était possible de descendre en rappel dans l'eau, il n'était pas nécessaire d'installer la main courante. (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2025-08-26 | System User | | 📄 | ⚓ | ⚠️ Normal | 🌟 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres DC - fais en 3h10 voiture voitureenchaîné après Chichin, les conditions actuelles de ces canyons ne correspondent pas aux conditions normalesQuelques petites modifications sur certains obstacles mais aucun sur les obstacles majeurs, la façon de passer certains peuvent être envisageable dans l'actif alors qu'en général on y va pas (dans la 2eme partie) (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2025-08-26 | Christian Balla | ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ | 📄 ⭐⭐⭐ | ⚓ ⭐⭐⭐ | ⚠️ Normal | 🌟 Completed

Never been in the Oules with so little water. Scale from the bridge: Just below the first borehole. It is an easily manageable amount of water, only in a few places can the water pressure become dangerous. The Geyser was almost tiny, but still impressive. At most of the waterfalls today it was not critical to get into the main stream and the flow of the pools is also very low for this canyon - caution, for those who do not know this canyon but still potentially dangerous! The canyon is well equipped. As always, absolutely worthwhile, especially in sunny weather. Currently very busy in the Oules - you will almost certainly come across another group these days, as long as the weather is stable. (machine translated)

2025-08-25 | System User | | 📄 | ⚓ | ⚠️ Normal | 🌟 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres Dc- pour freissinieres, GD critère dc, ras, toujours aussi beau mais il manque de l'eau par rapport à d'habitude, c'est triste que ça passe avec si peu d'eau en août. Cela reste les oules. Pour la mc sous le geyser, c'est plus simple de la tresser dans les points pour le rappel de corde (qui frotte beaucoup). (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2025-08-24 | System User | | 📄 | ⚓ | ⚠️ Normal | 🌟 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2025-08-24 | System User | | 📄 | ⚓ | ⚠️ Normal | 🌟 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres Très beau canyon, à l'ombre jusqu'à midi le soleil et plus que bienvenu pour supporter la température de l'eau. (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2025-08-24 | System User | | 📄 | ⚓ | ⚠️ Normal | 🌟 Completed

Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Oules de Freissinieres Je note 1 étoile car l'eau était froide et le soleil arrive trop tard. Sinon les tobs du début sont ok. De beaux sauts, de belles verticales. Un regard (Quelle: <https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/2266/observations.html>)

2025-08-23 | System User | | 📄 | ⚓ | ⚠️ Normal | 🌟 Completed