

Junction Lake Fork

Introduction

The Junction Lake Fork is a fun canyoning adventure with some really beautiful features. 4 rappels, a handful of slides, and a couple jumps all in a truly incredible setting. Don't expect long sustained deep canyons anywhere in the Junction Valley. What you will find are beautiful canyon features one after another. And for anyone not feeling overly confident, almost every feature can be avoided by simply hiking around.

If you'd like to support our efforts for bolting this canyon and for publishing detailed canyon beta, you can donate through either PayPal or Interac e-Transfer to shimonek@gmail.com. Thank you kindly. - Scott Shimonek

Approach

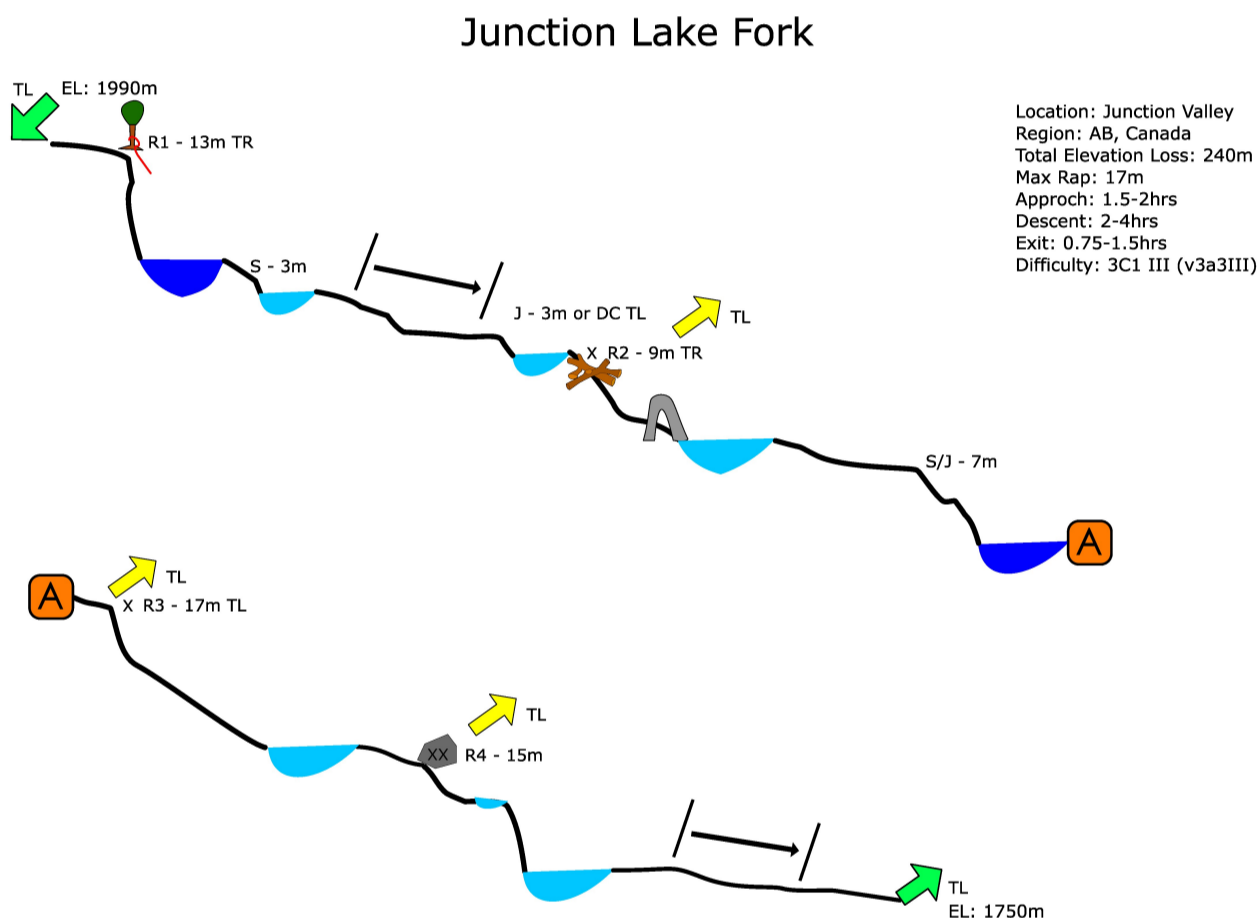
The approach from the parking lot starts off by hiking 4 km up the Junction Creek Trail until you reach the start of the Junction Lake Trail. Then follow the Junction Lake Trail for about another 3 km to reach the start of the main canyon. Since being washed away 10 years ago, this trail now seems to be improving. But still expect a 2 hour approach (without biking) because the Junction Lake Trail can be a bit slow and tedious at times.

Tip: Biking the first 3.2 km to the old sawmill site will save a bit of time and effort.

Descent

CAUTION: For much of the summer and fall this canyon will run at a v3, but expect v4 or higher in the spring and early summer.

LEGEND: TR = True Right; TL = True Left; R = Rappel; S = Slide; J = Jump; DC = Down Climb; Light Blue = Shallow; Dark Blue = Deep; Green Arrow = Enter/Exit; Yellow Arrow = Escape Options



R1 - 13 m Rappel (TR)

A beautiful 10 m drop into a deep pool. The tree anchor is already in a great spot. So we simply added some rope to back up the webbing that we placed here last year. If critters chewing on this anchor ever becomes an issue, I suggest putting a short chain around this tree rather than bolting. The pool below is quite deep, so the possibility of jumping (TL) does exist.

Slide

Immediately following the drop is a slide into a shallow pool. Be careful because the pool is quite shallow.

Technical Jump

After walking the creek bed for about 10 minutes, There's a drop with a pool below. After moving the logs away from the inlet, we realized that there was shelf just below the surface of the water that extends a little past the flow making a slide not possible. But this drop still could be jumped with proper shallow water technique.

R2 - 9 m Tunnel Rappel (TR)

A sliding rappel down the chute (under a log jam) to a shelf. Once on the shelf either rappel down (TL) into the tunnel, or slide down (TR) off rappel into the tunnel. We bolted a single rappel hanger here.

7 m Two Stage Slide

A two stage slide that can be slid in one continuous motion for those who are brave enough. The pool at the bottom is deep enough to jump as well.

R3 - 17 m Rappel (TL)

A low angle rappel through a narrow trough. We bolted a single rappel hanger here.

R4 - 15 m Slides & Rappel

Two short slides followed by a 6 m drop into a shallow pool. The first slide can be done off rope, however getting on rappel for the second slide is almost mandatory as it takes you dangerously close to the final 6 m drop. We bolted double rappel hangers here.

Optional Lower Section

About 40 minutes after the final rappel, there's a series of beautiful pools and slides that's worth checking out. There are 3 or 4 small pools that can be jumped, slid, or waded through, followed by 2 more slides and a down climb. After this short section it's only a 10 minute hike to the Junction Creek Trail.