

**BE CAREFUL! IT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.**



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## CANYONING IN SAFETY

The Ticino has plenty of streams that are ideal for canyoning. **The cantonal authorities and hydroelectric companies ask that you follow these safety instructions in order to prevent an exciting adventure from ending in tragedy.**

Canyoners must remember that they, and they alone, are responsible for their own actions and decisions. Any risk warnings provided by hydroelectric power plant operators do not exempt canyoning guides or individual canyoners from their duty to carefully evaluate the situation on the ground and assess the risks.

## 1. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

### Careful planning reduces the risk of accidents.

- Seek advice from local experts and choose your route according to your ability.
- Collect up-to-date information on your route (hydroelectric plants located upstream of your route, maps, check-points, escape routes etc.).
- Check the weather forecast and keep an eye on the water level at all times.
- If you are downstream of hydroelectric plants, carefully follow the instructions provided by the hydroelectric companies.
- Take emergency equipment with you (telephon, first-aid kit etc.).
- Before setting out, tell a trusted person your intended destination so they can alert the rescue services if you fail to arrive.

## 2. RESPECT NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Canyoning should be avoided between early November and late March so as not to compromise trout reproduction as trout lay their eggs in gravel.
- Take all your litter with you.

- Respect the vegetation and pools with sand and gravel banks.

## 3. POLICE INFORMATION

- The cantonal police carry out checks on commercial canyoning activities and the necessary permits. To speed up checks, have your licences and permits close at hand.
- Foreign canyoning guides may exercise their professional activities in the Ticino for up to a maximum of 90 days per calendar year providing they are EU/EFTA nationals with a canyoning instructor's licence recognised in their own country.
- Canyoning guides must obtain a cantonal permit and be registered on the website [www.ti.ch/attivita-a-rischio](http://www.ti.ch/attivita-a-rischio).
- Failure to comply with the provisions above may result in a fine of up to CHF 10,000, subject to the provisions of legislation on foreign nationals.
- Unnecessary shouting and noise are to be avoided as they could be interpreted as calls for help.

## 4. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY HYDROELECTRIC COMPANIES

### • Sign CAUTION: WATER RELEASES

This warning sign announces the presence of hydroelectric plants upstream that may release water: it warns of the danger of sudden water surges even in good weather.

### Sign CANYONING INFOLINE (located downstream of hydroelectric plants)

This sign provides the infoline number to call and indicates that all high-risk activities are forbidden after dusk and, in any case, between 10 pm and 8 am.

### • TELEPHONE INFOLINE (daily traffic light)

Before going canyoning downstream of any hydroelectric plants, you must call the infoline to find out whether any water releases are scheduled. The infoline will tell you the danger level for the following hours in the form of a traffic light.

<a href="http://www.ofima.ch">www.ofima.ch</a>	+41 91 756 66 15
<a href="http://www.ofible.ch">www.ofible.ch</a>	+41 91 756 66 15
<a href="http://www.aet.ch">www.aet.ch</a>	+41 91 822 26 66
<a href="http://www.ses.ch/canyoning">www.ses.ch/canyoning</a>	+41 91 756 93 01

### • Sign CANYONING PROHIBITED (at all times)

This sign indicates the presence of hydroelectric plants that may release large amounts of water automatically and without warning. It draws attention to the danger of sudden and violent water surges, even in good weather.

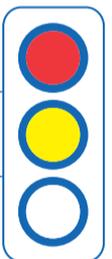
Consequently, all activities along the beds of the following streams **are strictly prohibited at all times:**



High danger of sudden water surges today. **Forbidden!**

Considerable danger of sudden water surges today. **Not recommended!**

No hydroelectric operations today: no water releases scheduled.



- 1 Chironico, **Ticinetto inferiore**
- 2 Loco/Intragna, **Isorno inferiore**
- 3 Motto/Blenio, **Dongia inferiore**
- 4 Personico/Val D'Ambra, **Rierna Inferiore**