

grading system

Standard NZ grading system is used for alpine routes in normal conditions.

| | |
|---------|--|
| grade 1 | Easy scramble. Use of rope generally only for glacier travel. |
| grade 2 | Steeper trickier sections may need a rope. |
| grade 3 | Longer steeper sections generally. Use of technical equipment necessary. Ice climbs may require two tools. |
| grade 4 | Technical climbing. Knowledge of how to place ice and rock gear quickly and efficiently a must. Involves a long day. |
| grade 5 | Sustained technical climbing. May have vertical sections on ice. |
| grade 6 | Multiple crux sections. Vertical ice may not have adequate protection. Good mental attitude and solid technique necessary. May require a bivvy on route and be a long way from civilisation. |
| grade 7 | Grade 7 and beyond is possible but not yet established in the region. |
