

Hiking Terrain Matrix (2010-05-04)

Risk Factor	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Distance to additional resources at road or lodge	No more than 3 hrs to trailhead.	Multiple days, but 8 hr hike to base.	No Limit
Fall Exposure	Easily managed or avoidable	Fall hazard exists but manageable with moderate consequence.	short sections with unavoidable & serious consequence, but can be managed without a rope
Technical Difficulty	Smooth & Easy. Sections of unstable footing are short & isolated	Talus and loose footing, some rough sections, trails may be poorly maintained	Use of hands may be required. Fixed hand lines or chains may be present. May be sustained sections of unstable footing.
Fresh Water	25cm deep for stationary/slow moving and 15cm for fast moving with no down-water hazards	25-50cm deep for slow moving and 15-30cm for fast moving with no down-water hazards	50cm + deep for slow moving and 30cm + for fast moving with down-water hazards
Tidal Water	Gently sloping and non-slippery intertidal zone. No surge.	Surge Channels and tidal entrapment easily avoided. Moderate wave hazard may exist. Moderately sloping. Some slipping hazard	Surge channels, tidal entrapment and wave hazards may be present. Steeply sloping, rocky, and slippery intertidal zone
Weather Exposure	Generally sheltered, or easy retreat to shelter	May be exposed but can retreat to shelter within 45 minutes	Exposed areas with difficult or no retreat.
Navigation	On trails, or untracked with natural boundaries and/or hand rails.	Simple route choices. May require a compass and/or GPS	Complicated navigation difficult route finding or lack of or minimal landmarks