

Route 10

Michiru

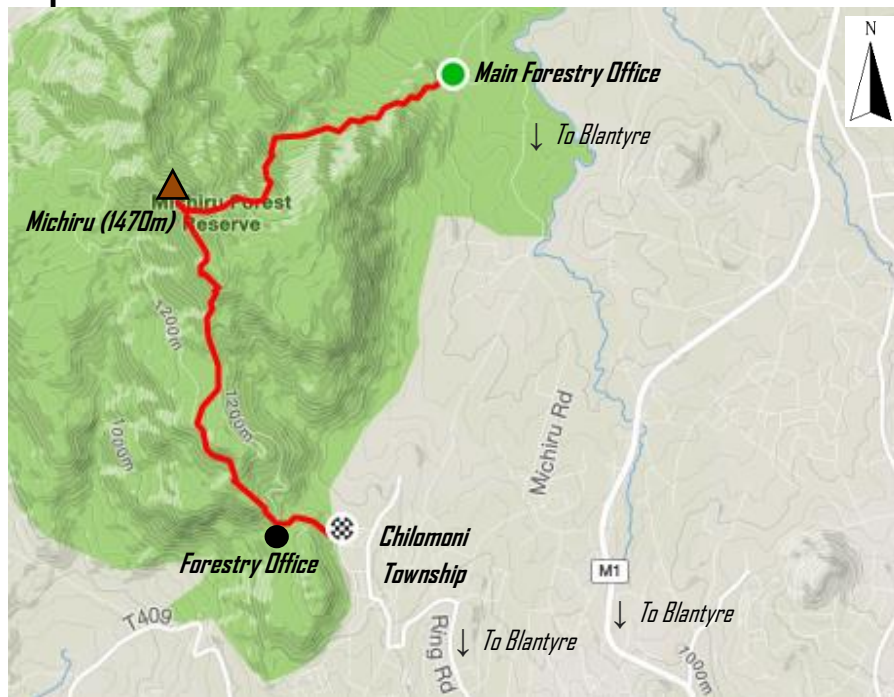
Michiru mountain reserve is a remnant area of forest to the NE of Blantyre. It catches the eye as it is topographically interesting, with lots of areas to be climbed and explored, but it is also notable because it is still covered in trees – for now. Most of the other main peaks around Blantyre have been stripped bare of trees as a result of human population growth and the rise in demand for firewood. Despite ongoing conservation efforts, it is a fragile situation with no simple solution – enjoy the forest and its abundant wildlife while you can. An outing to and from the summit of Michiru will require a good half day, but take your time; naturally occurring wildlife includes spotted hyena, vervet monkey, baboon and many different species of bird, whilst the views from the top are superb. The hike starts from the main Forestry Office: from Blantyre take the Glyn Jones Road, turn R by St. Paul's Church on Kabula Hill, turn L on to Michiru Road and continue on to a dirt road until a left fork is clearly signed to the 'Car Park & Nature Trails'. The summit is marked by a triangulation pillar and excellent views are afforded of the local area. Notable surrounding peaks include: Chiradzulu (ENE); Ndirande (ESE); Soche (SE). CPD

Start/Finish: Main Forestry Office / Chilomoni **Distance:** 9.1km **Elevation Gain:** 565m
Maximum Elevation: Michiru, 1470m **Duration:** allow 3.0-4.0 hours **Rating:** 8/10



The summit of Michiru is a pleasant spot to enjoy the views. CPD

Map

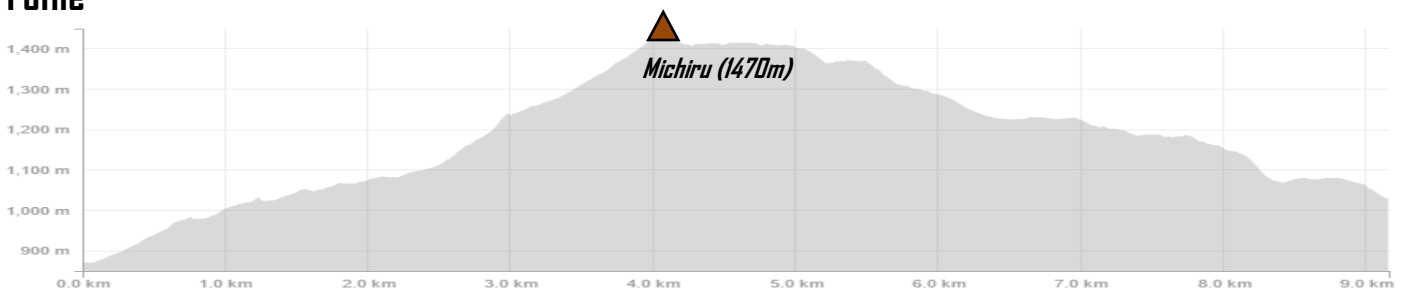


Scale unspecified.

Route details

1. The waymarked trail starts from the stone information board next to the main forestry office building.
2. Take the obvious path heading SW behind the main office building.
3. Follow the path gently upwards, eventually turning left to continue in a SW direction – the turning is marked by a yellow/green painted rock.
4. The path winds its way onwards and upwards through pleasant woodland, turning L again at a second junction. The path drops briefly into a lush river valley – a welcome spot of shade in summer!
5. The path eventually emerges from the forest onto an area of open grassland where the gradient eases temporarily. Continue westwards.
6. A final push is required up the steep flank of the summit ridge, then turn R and head NW a short distance along the ridge to the summit.
7. Retrace steps to return to the main forestry office OR head SE and follow the narrow ridge path away from the summit.
8. Dropping off the ridge to the SE a shallow col is reached – bear R and drop down and around to the SW then S, following an indistinct narrow path that is steep in places. A large Cross to the L of a small hill is visible to the S – aim towards the small hill as a navigational aid.
9. The path eventually meets a wider track – turn R, follow this track SW to another junction and then turn L.
10. Follow the obvious path as it descends, gently at first through grassland and a young coniferous plantation and then more steeply down through an eroded shallow gully.
11. The path eases again as it descends through open woodland with good views to the R as the hillside drops away.
12. The Forestry Office is soon reached – end here, or continue through the green metal gates and follow the wide dirt road into Chilomoni. CPD

Profile



Technical data and mapping from Strava iPhone App. [STRAVA www.strava.com](http://www.strava.com)

Further information: <http://www.mcm.org.mw/otherareas.php>

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