

Route 02

Mt. Mpingwe

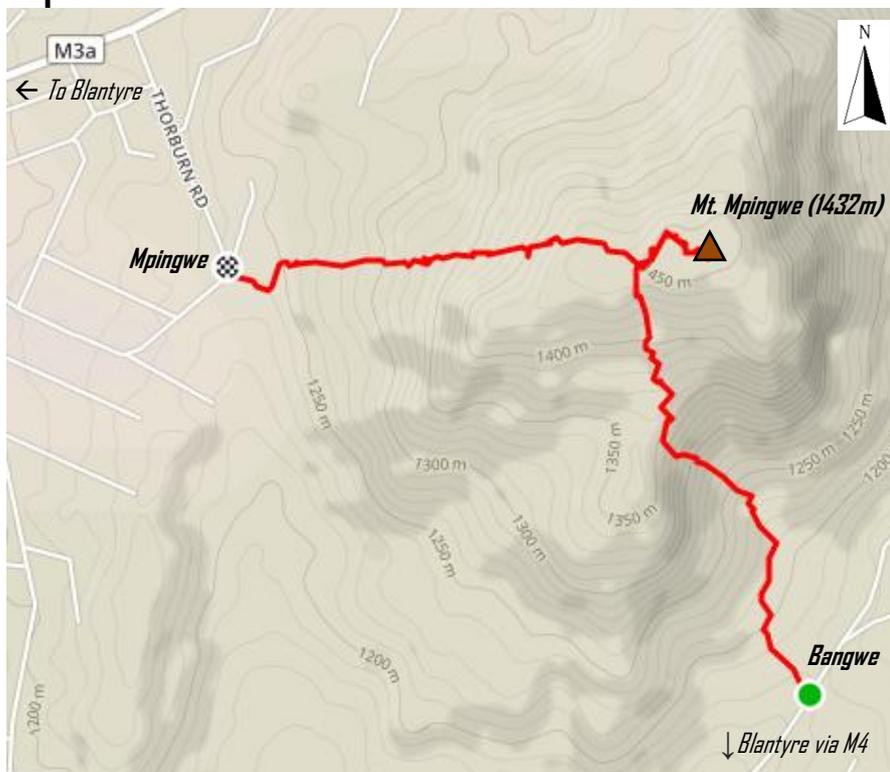
Whilst this may not be the most spectacular of hikes in the Blantyre area, the climb is certainly varied and the views looking SE back towards the heavily deforested, increasingly eroded slopes of the imposing Mt. Bangwe are thought-provoking. This is a linear hike and drop-off/pick-up transport is recommended. To reach the start take the M4 heading E from Blantyre, turn L immediately after crossing the Thuchila River and continue along the dirt road for around 2km; the route starts through a large blue metal gate on the left, across the street from a red brick-built church. Route finding is a little difficult as you climb out of Bangwe, weaving through houses along narrow paths, but the landscape soon opens up and obvious terrain features, plus the communications masts at the summit, provide excellent navigational aids. The easy descent to the W follows the route of an electricity power line and later a long brick wall. CPD

Start/Finish: Bangwe /Mpingwe neighbourhoods **Distance:** 3.5km **Elevation Gain:** 279m
Maximum Elevation: Mt. Mpingwe, 1432m **Duration:** allow 1.5-2.0 hours **Rating:** 6/10



Climbing towards the communications masts at the summit. CPD

Map

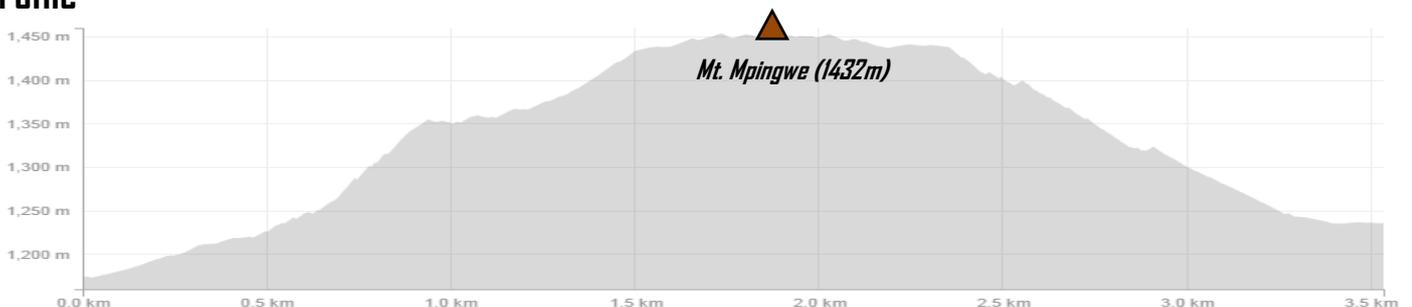


Scale unspecified.

Route details

1. Head through the large blue metal gate, heading NW towards and through a double row of white houses.
2. The path crosses scrubland and bears right, enters an area of dense housing and continues heading NE.
3. At a thin line of trees along a dry river bed turn L and climb steadily, keeping the river to the right.
4. Enter the bowl-shaped valley, clearly visible on the map, where the path swings left and now heads NW.
5. Tending to the L, the climb steepens through a narrow gully of boulders before reaching a col.
6. Turn R and continue on an obvious path through tended fields, rising again on to a gently sloping spur of land.
7. Aiming to the left of the masts, the path enters a smaller valley and rises directly to the ridge by a lone tree.
8. Turn R to meet a metalled road, head NE downhill and, after only a few hundred metres, turn R up a narrow path immediately below the tallest of the summit masts.
9. Pick a way through buildings to the unassuming summit.
10. Retrace your steps to the road, turn L and ascend briefly. An electricity power line will be visible to the right – the descent path follows the line of the wooden pylons.
11. Keep a prominent brick wall to the right and continue descending to a gravel track. Turn L then R to meet Thorburn Road. CPD

Profile



Technical data and mapping from Strava iPhone App. [STRAVA www.strava.com](http://www.strava.com)
 Additional route information: <http://www.mcm.org.mw/otherareas.php>
 S. Colliver & C. Dadd [Updated 20/10/2015] Comments to chrisdaddoutdoors@gmail.com