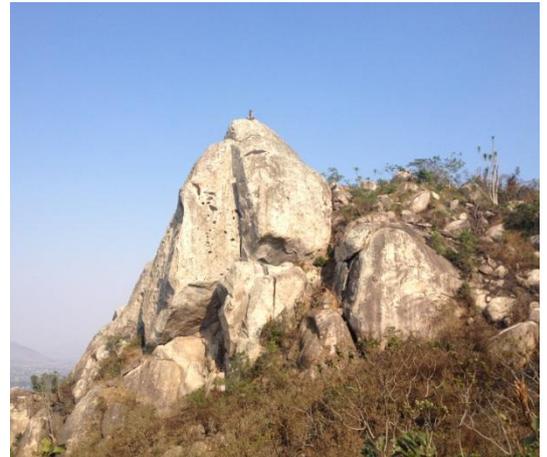


Route 04

Mt. Soche NE

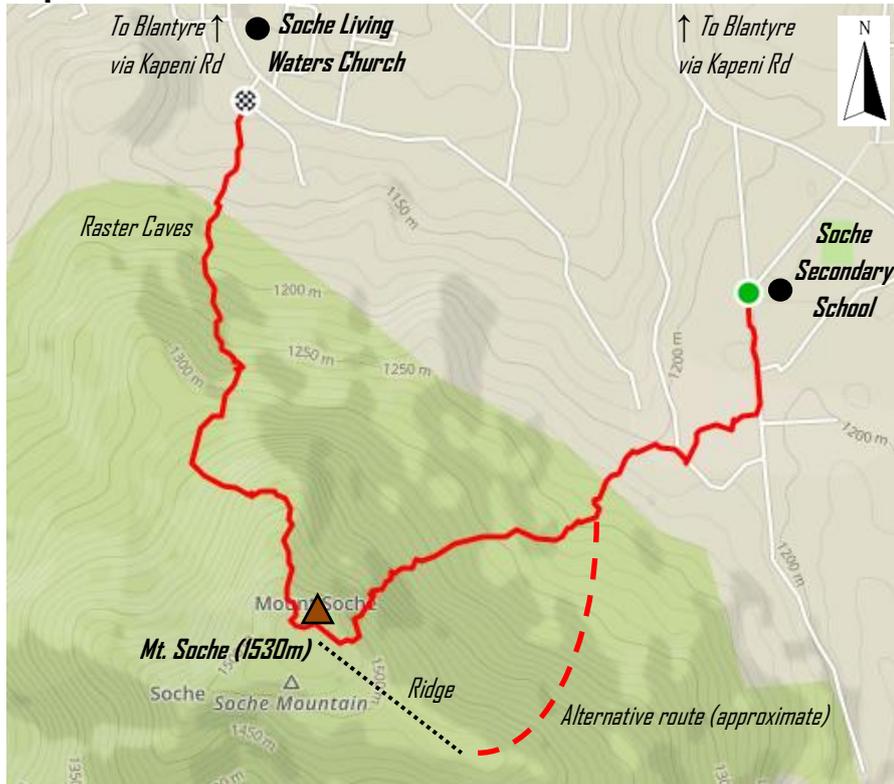
This is undisputedly one of Blantyre's most iconic mountain peaks. Irrespective of which one of the numerous routes up one chooses to take, the final few metres to the summit are some of the most exhilarating on any mountain in the area: Δ an easy but exposed scramble to the triangulation pillar perched high above the valley adds the finishing touches to a beautiful climb. This particular route approaches the mountain from the NE. After leaving the Soche township behind, the climb begins steadily by traversing across open scrubland before heading steeply up through the remains of native forest to the ridge. There is an alternative route up to the ridge to the south, visible from the township below - bear left through the scrubland and follow an obvious path up. A pleasant walk along the ridge brings you to the final (optional) summit scramble. Surrounding peaks visible include: Mt. Ndirande (NNE); Mt. Michiru (NNW); Mt. Mpingwe, Mt. Bangwe and Mt. Malabvi (E, from L-R). The way down is steep in places but steady, passing by the well-known 'Raster Caves' to the left. A circular route is possible. CPD

Start/Finish: Secondary Sch/nr Living Waters Chch **Distance:** 4.1km **Elevation Gain:** 318m
Maximum Elevation: Mt. Soche, 1530m **Duration:** allow 1.5-2.0 hours **Rating:** 8/10



Looking back up towards the imposing summit of Mt. Soche. CPD

Map

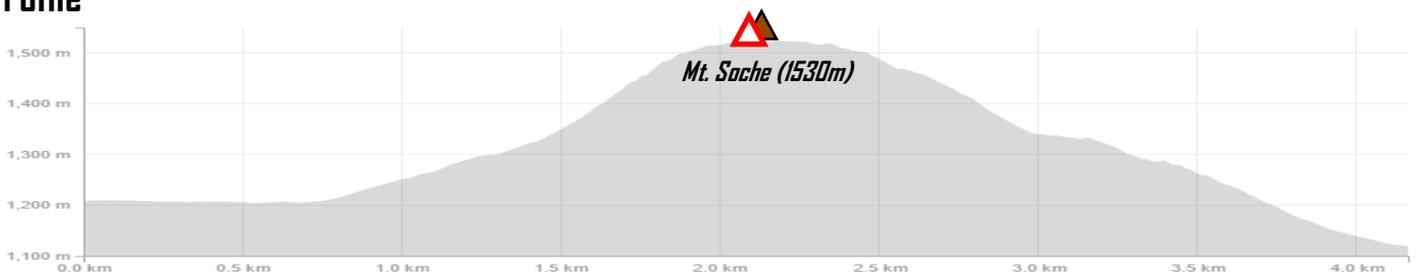


Scale unspecified.

Route details

1. From the start outside the secondary school in the Soche township walk S for around 300m along the dirt road.
2. At a brick wall on your right, turn R and weave your way through the houses. Don't panic - follow your nose towards the mountain... You will drop down in to a (dry) river valley and then be able to pick up an obvious path.
3. Follow the main path as it bears right and traverses due SW then W across the lower slopes of the mountain.
4. Pass prominent large boulders, the first to your left and the second to your right, and head up into a boulder field.
5. The path bears left and starts to climb steeply into the forest (what remains of it) immediately below the peak.
6. The climb steepens and passes up through the trees, over rocks and roots - the path is very loose in places.
7. The path eventually flattens as it approaches the ridge. Turn R and head up on to the crest of the ridge, bearing right and following the obvious path to the summit.
8. Δ Take great care if attempting the summit scramble.
9. From the summit, briefly retrace your steps before bearing right, heading N, with impressive views back up towards the rocky peak. Soon bear L and head NW.
10. As you descend towards a flatter area of scrubland two smaller peaks are visible to the right; bear R and keep right of the nearest peak, finally head N to finish. 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. Dodd (Updated 29/10/2015) Comments to chrisdoddoutdoors@gmail.com

