

Route 03

Way of the Cross

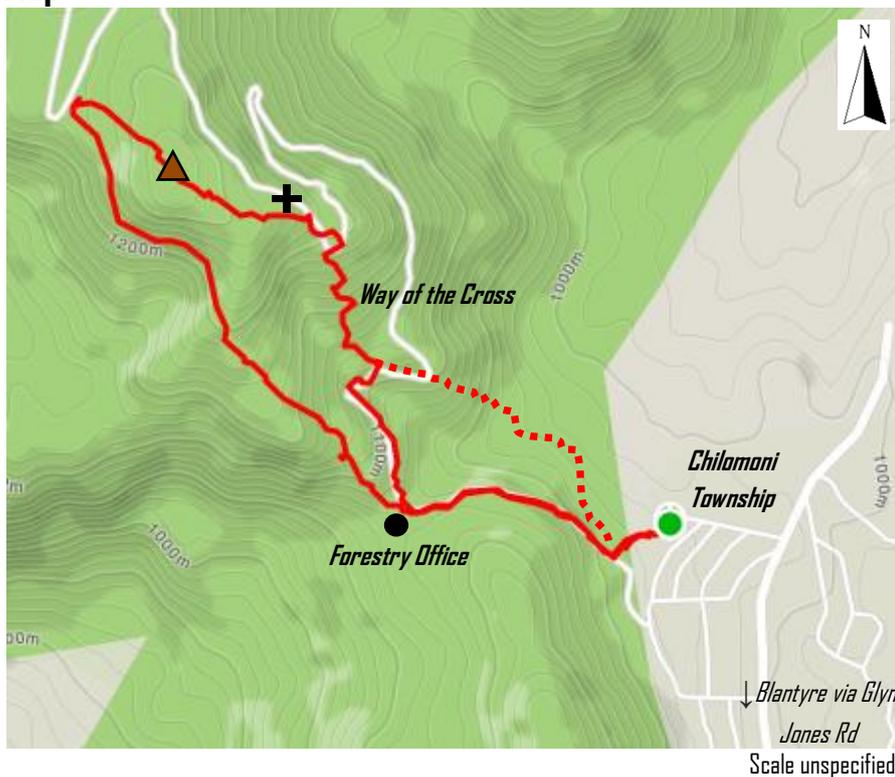
This pleasing route does not reach a major summit but provides for a delightful excursion that finishes with a descent of the well-known Way of the Cross. Route finding is generally not particularly difficult, although there are a couple of turns that are potentially easy to miss: the path leading away from the Forestry Office is not easily visible, and the right turn to dog-leg back towards the high point of the route is not immediately obvious. This particular route starts and finishes from the township, although car parking may also be available at the Forestry Office for a small fee. The Way of the Cross is a 4km trail that culminates with the huge concrete cross that is an exact replica of a Catholic shrine at Medjugorje in Hercegovina, former Yugoslavia; along the winding route are 15 stations, each marked by a smaller cross and a bronze mural depicting a scene from Jesus' walk to Calvary. Pause for a while at the summit cross and enjoy the expansive views over the surrounding urban areas of Blantyre and Limbe (SE), and the neighbouring mountain peaks of Ndirande (E) and Mt. Soche (SSE). CPD

Start/Finish: Chilomani township or Forestry Office **Distance:** 4.7km **Elevation Gain:** 250m
Maximum Elevation: Minor peak (1255m) **Duration:** allow 1.5-2.0 hours **Rating:** 8/10



The distinct summit of the well-known 'Way of the Cross'. CPD

Map



Route details

1. From the Chilomani township, head L up behind a newly built church along an obvious path beside a brick wall.
2. A yellow 'The Way of the Cross' sign is soon reached; bear R onto a wide dirt road that climbs steadily up to big green metal gates at the entrance to the Forestry Office (FO).
3. Through the gates the main track bears around to the right and forks. At the fork the path required splits the fork in two, heading approximately NE through trees.
4. Follow a good path as it rises gently through woodland with good views to the left as the hillside drops away.
5. Pass through an eroded shallow gully before entering a coniferous plantation, still heading approximately NE; keep right when the path splits, continuing upwards and widening.
6. The path eventually flattens out and reaches a shallow col. Turn R at the col and almost immediately R again off the path, doubling back to head SE towards the summit of the more distant and slightly larger of two small peaks.
7. From this minor summit head SE down to the prominent concrete cross below - the 'high point' of the route.
8. From the cross, follow the obvious Way of the Cross as it switchbacks down the hillside; after a short flight of man-made concrete steps turn immediately R and follow an obvious track around the W side of a river valley back to the FO. (Continuing down the Way of the Cross brings you to Chilomani - see map).
9. Finish at the FO or retrace your steps to Chilomani. 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 08/03/2016] Comments to chrisdoddoutdoors@gmail.com