

# Route 08

## Ndirande SE

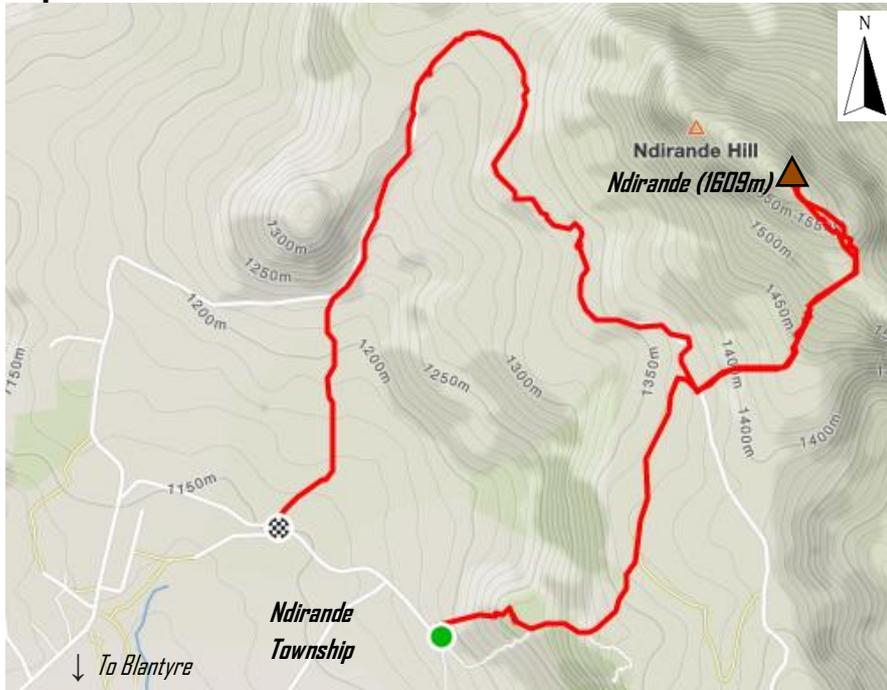
This is it, the 'big one': the imposing mass of rock that is Ndirande mountain. Whilst Chiradzulu mountain to the NE is higher (1772m) and arguably more difficult, this is the highest peak immediately surrounding Blantyre. The main routes up the mountain start from the SE side, from the edge of the Ndirande township, and the peak can be accessed from either the NW flank (steep with short, exposed sections of scrambling) or the slightly less committing but equally demanding SE flank. The mountain offers considerable variety of terrain and superb views across the surrounding region, extending as far as the Mulanje Massif and the Zomba plateau on a clear day, and a number of other minor peaks can also be explored. Rapid deforestation has left the mountain almost completely exposed to the sun and it is advisable to be fully prepared for a long, hot day out. The summit is marked with a triangulation pillar, and outstanding views are afforded in all directions. Prominent peaks visible from the summit include: Mt. Soche (SSE); Michiru (W); Mpingwe-Bangwe-Malabvi (SE) and the Mulanje Massif (SE). CPD

**Start/Finish:** Main dirt road N of Ndirande township **Distance:** 6.5km **Elevation Gain:** 408m  
**Maximum Elevation:** Ndirande, 1609m **Duration:** allow 2.0-2.5 hours **Rating:** 9/10



The steady descent affords impressive views of the mountain. CPD

### Map

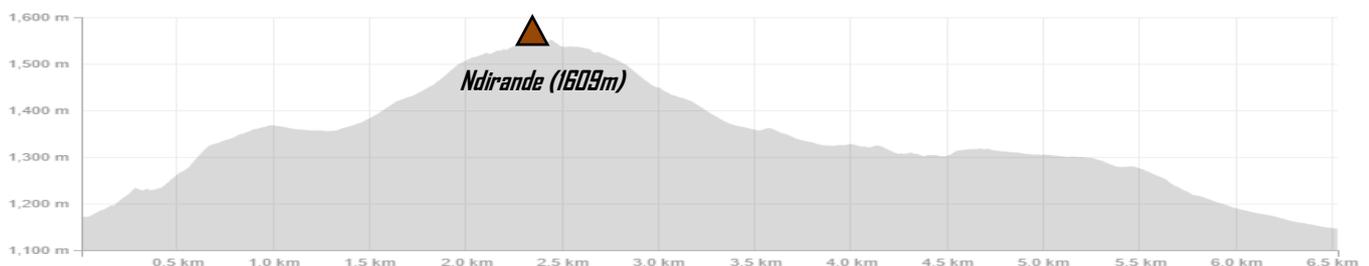


Scale unspecified.

### Route details

1. From the start outside Ndirande School, head near enough due E straight up a steep rib, via some lovely sections of exposed rock, to a prominent minor peak.
2. Drop down briefly from the peak before climbing steeply again, once again on a mixture of dirt and good rock, and follow the obvious path as it bears to the left.
3. The path now heads NNE, following an obvious route up to the lower plateau where it meets the main dirt road up to the transmitter masts.
4. Turn R and almost immediately L off the dirt road, onto a loose, dusty trail that rises through tended agricultural plots and a scattering of trees to an obvious col.
5. At the col turn L and head NW, passing beneath a prominent cliff face; the path climbs through a band of rock, hands may be required, and a final exposed climb on a narrow, loose path to the summit ridge requires concentration.
6. Return to the dirt road and turn R; follow the road as it descends, looping around and heading SSW. When the road turns to head westwards, take a smaller path that descends through fields to the dirt road from which you started. Visibility is good and route finding is easy. 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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