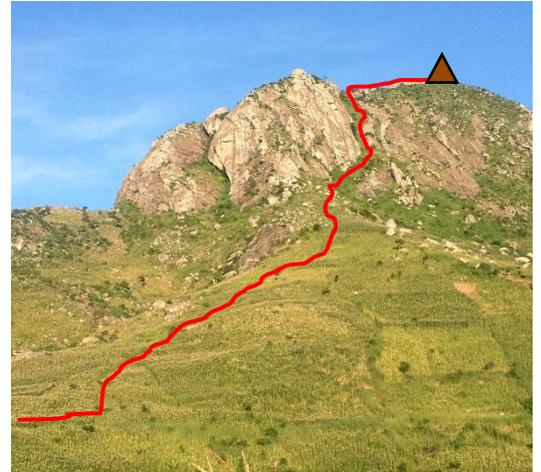


Route 12

Ndirande NW

As a mountain, Ndirande has it all: it is physically imposing, technically challenging and aesthetically pleasing. The crags of the striking SW face are just crying out to be climbed or scrambled; the ascent of the peak from the NW end of the mountain picks a perfect line to the summit with Δ short sections of steep, exposed scrambling on solid rock. It is a classic climb and one of the very best in the area: what are you waiting for? The route described here starts and finishes at the rear entrance to St. Andrew's High School, passing through the edge of the Ndirande township, but it is possible to drive closer to the base of the mountain if you wish. 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 minor peaks can also be explored. Rapid deforestation has stripped away the indigenous forest and left the mountain almost completely exposed to the elements - it is advisable to be fully prepared for the hike. The summit is marked with a triangulation pillar, and the 360° views from the top are breath-taking. Prominent peaks visible from the summit include: Mt. Soche (SSE); Michiru (W); Mpingwe-Bangwe-Malabvi (SE); Mulanje Massif (SE). CPD

Start/Finish: Rear entrance of SAIntS, Ndirande **Distance:** 10.9km **Elevation Gain:** 480m
Maximum Elevation: Ndirande, 1609m **Duration:** allow 3.0-4.0 hours **Rating:** 10/10



This is one of the finest ascent routes in the Blantyre area. CPD

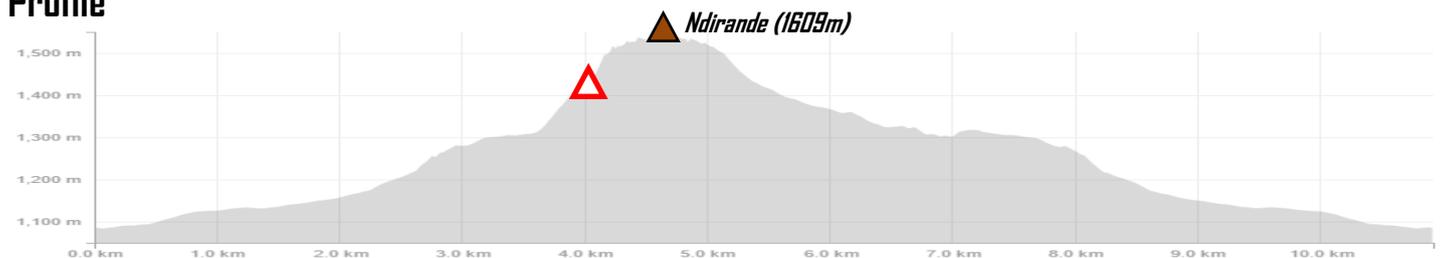
Map



Route details

1. From the start at the rear entrance to SAIntS, head NE on the surfaced Ndirande Ring Road.
2. After passing a petrol station on the left, turn L onto a straight road.
3. Continue along this bustling high street as it begins to climb.
4. After approximately 1.8km the tar road ends and splits into two dirt roads/tracks - continue straight on onto the smaller of the two.
5. Follow the track as it winds its way upwards, turning R to follow an obvious smaller path NE as a shortcut when the track bears left.
6. After two short sections of concrete surfacing the track eases in gradient and a scenic col is reached - this provides a first glimpse of the landscape beyond the north side of the mountain.
7. From the col the track bears round to the right; very soon after a small red marker stone on the left indicates the start of the narrow, poorly defined path heading E up a prominent spur.
8. Climb steeply upwards and rightwards towards an obvious grassy cleft (see photograph, above); through this cleft are some short sections of steep, exposed scrambling on solid rock, eventually exiting onto the summit ridge. Enjoy - but be careful!
9. Turn R and head SE along the ridge to the summit.
10. From the summit continue SE for a short time then look carefully for a small path descending off to the R through bands of good rock.
11. Heading downwards and leftwards, requiring scrambling in places, the path passes beneath an imposing face of rock and reaches an open col.
12. The path splits, but keep R and continue descending SW back towards the track - communication masts are visible on a smaller peak to the E.
13. At the track turn R; follow the track as it descends. Retrace steps to return to SAIntS. 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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