

The Nature Trail along the Border starts from the Slovak-Hungarian boundary, from the 19th rest place. The Oláh Meadow is on the Hungarian side of the strictly protected area. The trail crosses the Slovak side of the meadow: the Vlašské lúky, which is a common pasture dotted with ancient trees, former cleared woodland; afterwards the route passes through the **Marocká hora Nature Reserve**. Below the Suchá hora, the trail reaches the Sucha hora or Nyerges Hill Rest Place (no. 5) From here it follows an asphalt road to the 6th Malý Milič (Little Milic – SK) Rest Area. The **Malý Milič (Little Milic) National Nature Reserve** is situated to the north. From the 6th rest place optionally, the nature trail crosses a shelter wood regeneration plot and reaches the Kis-Milic Peak (Little Milic HU), bird observation tower (no. 8). It leads to the 7th rest place and the **Miličská skála (Milic Rock) Natural Monument** crossing the national border.

Back to Slovak territory, the trail passes through the **Velký Milič (Great Milic) National Nature Reserve** and reaches the hunting lodge of Kopaszka. From the Kopaszka Lodge we go down the asphalt bicycle road leading to Izra Lake. After 680 m we leave the asphalt road and follow the red marks of the nature park, to reach the **Malá Izra (Little Izra) Nature Reserve** afterwards the trail arrives at the Bodnár Well Rest Area (no. 15). Crossing the border and passing by the cyclist's rest area, the **Tolvaj-hegy (Thief Hill) Strictly Protected Area** and the Solyom Crag is from the 14th Tilalmas (Forbidden Area) Rest Place. The Tilalmas (Forbidden Area) Rest Place is the end point of the nature trail.



To the Marocká Meadow Rest Place (no. 4)

Marocká hora Nature Reserve



Bielzia coeruleus



Sucha hora (Nyerges-hegy) Resting Place

19. Oláh Meadow

Oláh Meadow Strictly Protected Area



Green woodpecker

To the Ortáše Rest Place (no. 18)

5. Suchá hora

Malý Milič (Little Milic) National Nature Reserve

Miličská skála (Milic Rock) Natural Monument

6. Malý Milič (SK)

To Slanská Huta (Szalánchuta)

To the "Big Tree" Rest Place (no. 17)

7. Great Milic and Milic Rock, planned viewing tower

8. Little Milic (HU), bird observation tower



The upper, rocky part of the Malý Milič (Little Milic – SK) at the 6th resting place

Velký Milič (Great Milic) National Nature Reserve

Malá Izra (Little Izra) Nature Reserve



Cowslip

Izra Lake

To the Izra Lake Rest Place (no. 16)

15. Bodnár Well



Velký Milič (Great Milic) National Nature Reserve



Marocká hora Nature Reserve



Bodnár Well Rest Place (no. 15)



Castle Hill of Füzér and its Surrounding Strictly Protected Area

Legenda:

- rest place
- nature trail
- Strictly protected areas in Hungary and the national nature reserves in Slovakia
- asphalt road
- stabilized road, dirt road
- State boundary (Hungary-Slovakia)
- Nature trail and hiking route network in Great Milic Nature Park



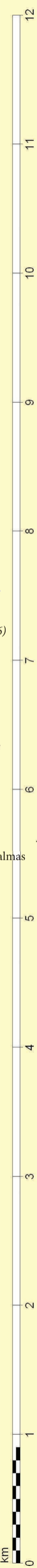
NATURE TRAIL ALONG THE BORDER

Length: 11.014 m
Greatest change in elevation: 506 m

The basis of the ecotourism development program is the creation plan (2004) of the Great Milic Nature Park founded in 2003.



The Solyom-bérc (Solyom Crag) and the Tolvaj-hegy (Tolvaj Hill)



Description of the nature trail:

The starting point of the trail is located at the 19th Hungarian rest point, where the **Oláh Meadow** is a strictly protected area. These meadows were mowed regularly in the first part of July during the historic landscape management practice. This created the reed fescue mowed meadows similar to the “polyanas” of the Eastern Carpathian Mountains. Their botany is characterized by dicotyledonous flowering botanical rarities, and orchids. The fauna was also characterized by occurrences of diurnal butterflies and flower longhorn beetles. The once rich flora and fauna have been critically diminished.

We continue our journey in the **Marocká hola Nature Reserve**. The 64 ha area is situated on the southern tongue of the Szalánci (Slanec) Mountains at elevations of 605-805 m spreading up the western slopes of the Suchá Hora (Szar-hegy). It is predominantly a remnant beech forest association mixed with common ash. On the northern rocky ridge, the main tree species is the sessile oak. There are beech-oak associations in excellent condition. There are geomorphological forms of stone flows. The forest vegetation of the area involves all the characteristics of the virgin forest like associations. The diameter and height structure of the undisturbed forests indicate a continuous

distribution. The volume of the standing and fallen dead wood and live wood is also correct for a nature reserve.

We arrive at the 6th rest place on an asphalt road. The **Malý Milič (Little Milic – SK) National Nature Reserve** is situated above and behind the hunting lodge. Beech associations grow on the lower, stone flow part of the 14.05 ha area. The mixed dry oak woods are typical of the peak area (759 m a.s.l.). Sycamore maple associations were formed in the lava flow areas, mixed with ashes and large-leaved lime trees. Its typical rock walls provide an important nesting site for birds of prey.

Moving towards to the **Velký Milič (Great Milic – SK) National Nature Reserve** an alternative bypass is offered to the Great Milic Peak (896 m a.s.l.). Going across a beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.) shelterwood regeneration plot we reach the top of Kis-Milic (Little Milic – HU). The shelterwood method uses a larger area for natural regeneration but is better for gene conservation. The whole stand's gene pool is regenerated in large quantities and the entire genetic diversity is preserved. Take into consideration that beech is receding



Panorama to the saddle of Slanec

Junction to the Nagy Milic (Great Milic) – HU



The Lynx occurs in the forests of the Zemplén

in the lower parts of the Carpathian Basin, the shelterwood regeneration greatly aids the preservation of locally adapted gene pools.

From the bird observation point which is situated on the peak of Kis-Milic (Little Milic – HU) there is an excellent view to the Trebisov Plain and to the Beskids. The 11.6 ha Miličská skala (Milic Rock) (accessible from the Great Milic Peak) was declared a natural monument in 1990. The rock formations are remnants of dacite flows and were shaped into their current forms through the fragmentation of the originally lava block. The special and undisturbed habitats provide very good living conditions for numerous bird species – mostly for birds of prey, owls and songbirds. We can see dynamic forest processes like natural gaps and conical regeneration groups on the northern exposures of the Milic Rock.

Until the 1950s a lookout tower stood on the Great Milic Peak. According to the memoirs of Countess Károlyi from the 1930s: “We saw the tops of the Tátra, Fátra and Mátra from the viewing tower using the fixed binoculars.” Based on

this, construction of the Árpád Viewing Tower is planned on the Hungarian side and will be built on the Great Milic Peak.

Returning back to the Slovak side, the most remarkable blocks of forest habitat types are present in the nearly 68 hectares area of the **Velký Milič (Great Milic) National Nature Reserve**. The base of the massif is made up of andesites and dacite, which form the southern part of the Szalánc (Slanec) Mountains. The lime-acorn associations are typical in this oak-beech forest zone beside the zonal associations. The characteristic plant communities have been created on rocky cliffs, including maple forests on lava flows which are the southernmost occurrences of such habitat type within Slovakia.

We leave this territory at the hunting lodge of Kopaszka. Here there is a view to the eastern slopes of the Szalánc (Slanec) Mountains. From the Kopaszka Lodge, we go down to the asphalt bicycle road toward the Izra Lake. After 680 m we leave the asphalt road and follow the red marks of the nature park arriving at the **Malá Izra (Little Izra) Nature Reserve**.

The Malá Izra and Izra Lakes are situated on the slopes of the Milic, which were formed by depressions in the terrain surrounded by the continuous forest vegetation. Visitors often mistake the Malá Izra (Little Izra) Lake with the nearby marsh, which lies at the junction of the yellow and red marked tourist routes. Despite the fact that the wooden sign here points toward Malá Izra, the reserve is about 300 meters away along the red marked tourist path leading to the Milic.

The spring of the stream flowing eastward to the **Malá Izra (Little Izra) Nature Reserve** is located 560 m a.s.l. in the Slanec Mountains. Stream blockage and landslides have created the Malá Izra (Little Izra) Lake in the upper section of the stream, in the administrative area of Slanská Huta. It was classified as a nature reserve in 1988 and is currently protected. It covers 0.77 hectares and the water surface is not directly exposed to the sun because it is located in a forest depression. Due of the continuous filling, the lake is going to become a swamp.

In spite of the high altitude (530 m) of the Malá Izra (Little Izra) Lake, we find a lowland-like alder stand around it. More valuable species that are typical of marsh habitats occur on the plot. Due to these conditions, many species of moisture-loving fauna have settled around the lake. Passing eastward following the red marks we reach beech associations at the Bodnar Well Rest Place

Junction to the “Big Tree” Rest Place (no. 17)

(Slanská Huta)



Young wild boar

(Pramen Bodnár, no. 14). The springs emerge to the surface at the foot of the hill. The young black alder regeneration group indicates impermeable clay layers, because the black alder's occurrence denotes subsurface water course in mountainous areas.

We walk towards of the Tíhalmas (Forbidden Area) Resting Place (no. 14). The **Tolvaj-hegy (Thief Hill) Strictly Protected Area** and the Solyom Crag on the southern part of the area can be seen from there. The dominant volcanic form of the Pusztatalu Basin is the steep sided lava dome habitat. A typical example is Solyom-bérc (Hawk Crag) at Tolvaj-hegy (Thief Hill). Due of the gap-volcanism thick liquefied material coming up from the magma chamber, reached the surface, without creating any lava flows and pushed into the surrounding sediments and tuff stones, lifted them and congealed.

On the steeper slopes, there is a habitat-complex composed by closed forest stands like the hornbeam-oak forests, beech forests and mixed relic forests on soil formed from rocks. As they recede, there is a transition to acidophilous oak forests growing on the highly acidic bedrock formed in the region. Thus, acidity and drought-tolerant species are typical on the warmer south facing slopes, while acidophilous and hygrophilous indicator species are dominant on the north side. The relic rock forest (*Sorbo-Quercetum*) is a unique plant association in Hungary on these uplifted silicate rocks. Other populations of the forest association are typical of the north and north-eastern volcanic highlands and to south facing rocks of the Carpathians



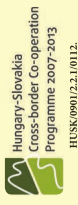
Junction to the Izra Lake Rest Place (no. 16) Well Bodnár

Junction to Pusztafalu

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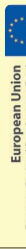


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