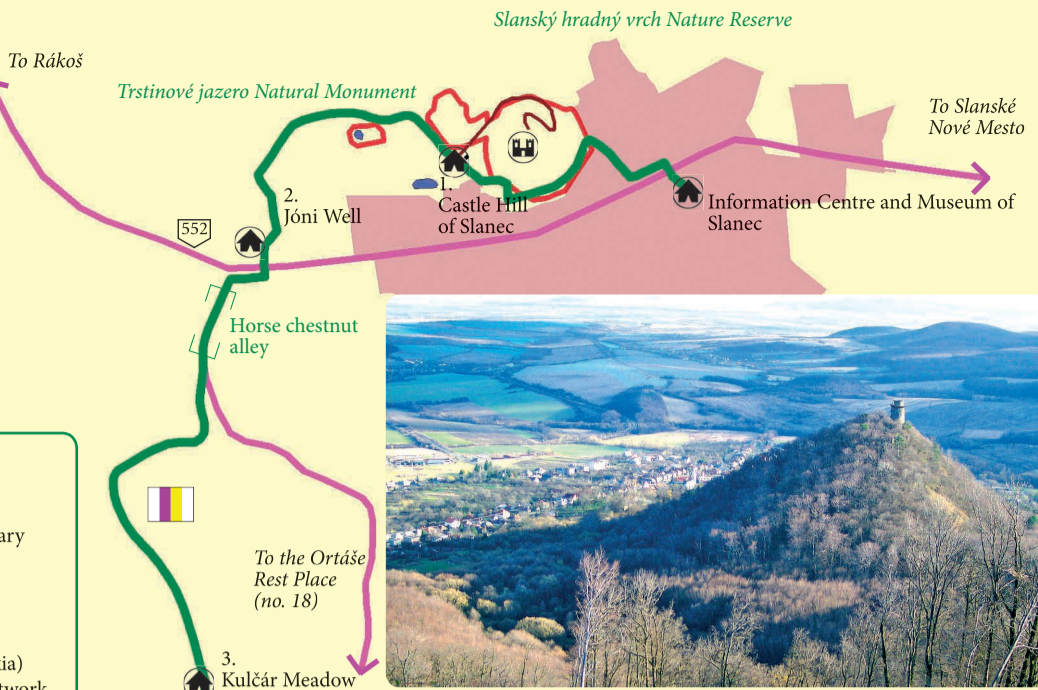


The starting point of the nature trail is situated at the Information Centre and Museum of Slanec; from there the trail crosses Highway no. 552 and follows the eastern fence of the mansion's park; then it reaches the south-eastern edge of Castle Hill. The trail continues on the southern side of the Castle Hill until the 1st resting place. From there a marked tourist road leads to the top of the hill and provides a view of the **Slanský hradný vrch (Castle Hill of Slanec) Nature Reserve**. The nature trail passes along the upper lake of the **Trstinové jazero (Reed Lake) Nature Monument** and halts again at the 2nd rest place Jóni Well (Jóniho studňa).

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



The Castle Hill of Slanec from the north

The trail crosses the Highway 552 again and continues under an alley of horse chestnut trees and turns to west to the resting place at Marocká Meadow. Then it reaches the rest place at Kulčár Meadow (no. 3). It continues on the asphalt pavement southward and has a view to the plots of the shelterwood regeneration and Slanská Huta village. The rest place (no. 4) at Marocká Meadow is situated on the top of the hill. From this point the trail goes along the St. Elisabeth route to the village of Füzér. Passing on to the national boundary, our path touches upon the **Marocká hola National Nature Reserve** and continues to the Vlačské or Oláh Meadow at the border. The Slovak side is common pasture and cleared woodland. The **Oláh Meadow** (no. 19) is a **strictly protected nature reserve** on the Hungarian side. After the forester's lodge of Oláh Meadow, the trail leaves the forestry road and passes round Lászlótanya from the east and reaches the Lászlótanya-Mokrina asphalt forestry road. Hiking on this road along the mark of the Countrywide Blue Tour the trail arrives at Bodó Meadow (no. 20). Leaving the asphalt road, the new direction leads to the Kandabérc (Kanda Crag) and continues onwards along the Blue Cross and St. Elisabeth routes.



Oláh Meadow Rest Place (no. 19)



Changle (Ramaria flava)



Trstinové jazero Natural Monument



4. Marocká Meadow

MAROVKA

Marocká hola Nature Reserve



The Siberian iris is a protected plant of the cleared woodland meadow in the Zemplén.

Drahos Meadow Strictly Protected Area

19. Oláh Meadow

Oláh Meadow Strictly Protected Area

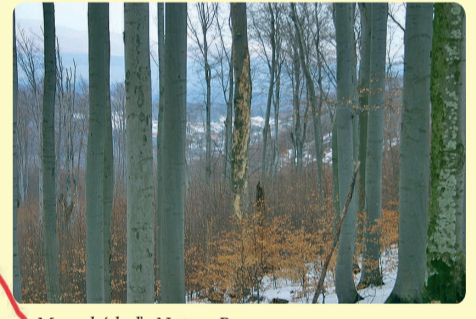
Forester's Lodge of Oláh Meadow

To Suchá hora Rest Place (no. 5)

Malý Milič National Nature Reserve

Miličská skala Natural Monument

Planned viewing tower



Marocká hola Nature Reserve



Wild boar

Velký Milič National Nature Reserve

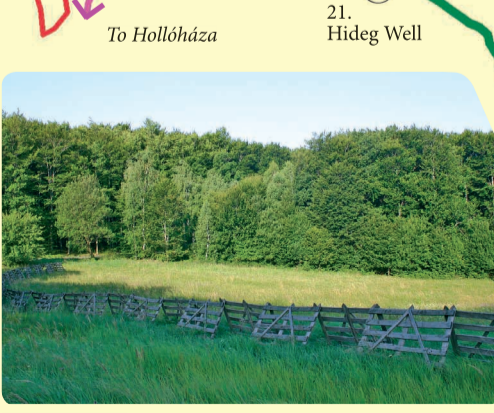
Malá Izra Nature Reserve

Izra Lake

20. Bodó Meadow

Earl's Road

Pauper's Road

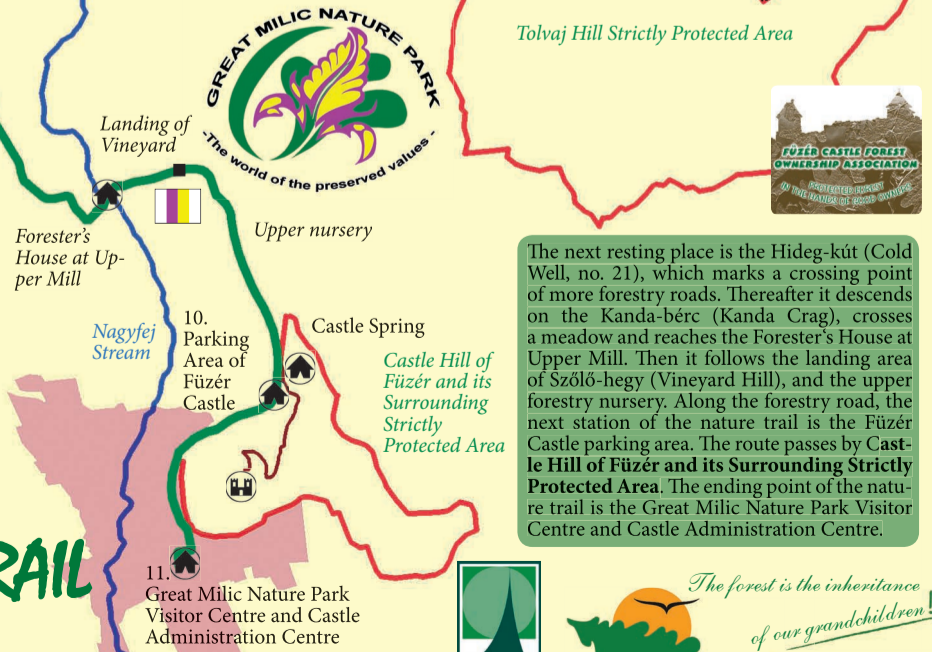


Bodó Meadow

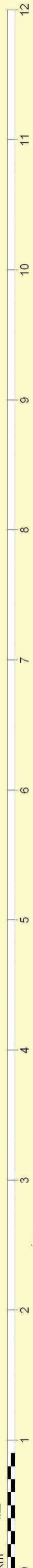
MAROVKA - BODÓ MEADOW NATURE TRAIL

Length: 17.069 m
Greatest change in elevation: 377 m

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



The next resting place is the Hideg-kút (Cold Well, no. 21), which marks a crossing point of more forestry roads. Thereafter it descends on the Kanda-bérc (Kanda Crag), crosses a meadow and reaches the Forester's House at Upper Mill. Then it follows the landing area of Szőlő-hegy (Vineyard Hill), and the upper forestry nursery. Along the forestry road, the next station of the nature trail is the Füzér Castle parking area. The route passes by **Castle Hill of Füzér and its Surrounding Strictly Protected Area**. The ending point of the nature trail is the Great Milic Nature Park Visitor Centre and Castle Administration Centre.



Description of the nature trail:

The **Marovka – Bodó Meadow Nature Trail** starts at the Information Centre and Museum of Slanec. Crossing Highway no. 552 and passing by the mansion's park which is under reconstruction, it continues on the southern border of Castle Hill. The particular tree is a giant sequoia in the mansion's garden, which is protected. We reach the 1st resting point on the southern border of Castle Hill, whence the tourist path leads to the ruined castle of Slanec. The Castle Hill of Slanec is a tongue of the Slanec Mountains and determines the scenery over the village. The **Slanský hradný vrch (Castle Hill of Slanec) Nature Reserve** covers an area of 15.81 ha. It was categorized into the important and protectable areas of xerophilous flora and fauna.

The **Trstínové jazero (Reed lake) Natural Monument** is situated at the base of Castle Hill. This is a nature created formation with an area of 0.83 ha. It has two lakes; the lower lake is partially dug up for reconstruction. The area has an important role as amphibian habitat – with uniquely high number of species in one habitat. The most important reptile species are the grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) and slow worm (*Anguiss fragilis*). The most typical plant communities are the hygropilous and on the shores, represented by species as common bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), narrow leaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) and the yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*).

The upper protected lake is situated near the Jóni Well Rest Place (no. 2). Crossing Highway no. 552 again, the nature trail goes under an alley of horse chestnut trees. Shortly afterwards it turns west to the Marovka. The Kulčár Meadow Rest Place (no. 3) was planted in a young beech stand.

Continuing the tour from Slanec to the Marovka, we clearly see the different stages of shelter wood forest regeneration system and its greater final cuts. We pass the village of Slanská Huta, a cleared woodland settlement in the Milic and a former glass foundry. The next station is the Marocká Meadow Rest Place (no. 4) which is a typical cleared woodland meadow dotted with some remnant trees. Specimens of

Information Centre and Museum of Slanec

330

200

400

500

600

700

800

900

1000

1100

1200

1300

1400

1500

1600

1700

1800

1900

2000

2100

2200

2300

2400

2500

2600

2700

2800

2900

3000

3100

3200

3300

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4900

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5100

5200

5300

5400

5500

5600

5700

5800

5900

6000

6100

6200

6300

6400

6500

6600

6700

6800

6900

7000

7100



Animal keeping for conservation grazing



Alpine newt

3. Kulčár Meadow



Grey cattle

4. Marocká Meadow



Porcino or penny bun

19. Oláh Meadow



Flowering wild pear tree on the Bodó Meadow

landscape management practice, by the local people who cultivated them. After leaving the forester's lodge of Oláh Meadow and rounding the Lászlótanya from the east, we reach the asphalt road towards the Bodó Meadow. The construction of the asphalt road which crosses the Bodó Meadow started in the 19th century. In the 1890s, the "Torok-Lászlótanya" road was constructed which became a "stone base macadam road" after the completion the mansion in Lászlótanya. The "Hrabó-Drahos" profiled dirt road was built during the conjuncture after the economic depression of the 1870s. In the later time the Mokrina or Hrabó (above Hollóháza) and Drahos Meadow route and the Bodó Meadow - Lászlótanya route were paved with asphalt.

The managed and close to nature stocks of hill meadows (e.g. Drahos Meadow and Bodó Meadow) have typical mountainous grassland species (*Gladiolus imbricatus*, *Gentian sp. Siberian iris*). The Bodó Meadow has a mountainous character and originated from forest clearing. The main part becomes dry by summer and is characterized by purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*). Typical patches can be observed below the asphalt road. The other part belongs to the mesophile mountainous grassland. Beside the vegetation, the butterfly fauna is also unique; here there are two species of gossamer-winged butterflies (*Lycaenidae*), whose life cycles represent the necessary interaction of life forms.

The nature park landscape management and the protecting of nature values are responsible for preserving these former landscape utilization methods and contribute to protection of nature values which are definitively linked to the former and historical landscape management strategies. This aim is to involve the local communities and develop a partnership. Our aim is to give an example for sustainable landscape utilization in the frame of nature park cooperation. After reaching the 20th resting place, we continue our journey in the direction of Kanda-bérc (Kanda Crag). The Hideg-forrás (Cold Spring, no. 21) above the Kanda-bérc is a famous resting place and meeting points of several local roads.

Our road leads beside the Scotch pine afforestation of Kanda-bérc. In the artificially planted Pinus stand, the succession process is remarkable. Some broadleaved species, e.g. lime trees, and light demanding wild cherry grow under the Pinus canopy. Our route is flanked by valuable common pasture areas, where there are good examples of fenced pastures.

Arriving at the meadow below the Kanda-bérc, we can see the "Kövecses" Hill river stone formation. External forces modified the volcanic formations into a variety of surface forms. The most pronounced are the periglacial forms which

were developed during the ice ages by fragmentation. The most beautiful sightings are the rock walls, debris shields, stone rivers and stone seas etc. They emerged above 500 m elevation, where the effect of frost was stronger.

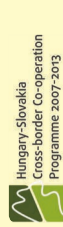
Passing the Nagyfej Stream, our way leads beside former a forester's house. The water powered lumber mill, or upper mill on the creek operated beside the forester's house. The upper forestry nursery is a development of former "circular shade" nursery. The barren land became slowly self-afforested over the Szőlő-hegyi Landing. The area of Szőlő-hegy (Vineyard Hill) was used for grape cultivation from the Middle Ages until the appearance of the phylloxera disease.

The Castle Hill and the castle itself have been inhabited since the Bronze Age. Human impact has been constant from the Middle Ages to modern times. The inventory of 1620 wrote about enclosure; the "Urbarium" in 1667 also listed a fishpond among the objects below the castle. The enclosure was on the north side of Castle Hill but there are no traces of the fishpond. Our way leads into a hornbeam mixed submontane beech forest, later in hornbeam mixed sessile oak stand where bird cherry and small-leaved lime are also represented. The relics of former cultivation (narrow strips of land) can be observed on the outer parts of the foothill.

The nature trail passes Castle Hill which is a lonely volcanic formation striking from its surroundings. The upper third of the steep slopes forms dacite blocks. To the south, the south-west and north-west side there is an almost vertical rock wall, forming a natural defensive line for castle building on the top of the hill. Only the gentler terrain in the north-eastern part offers a better approach by the Párkány access road and from here through the rock-cut stairs. The nature trail ends in Füžér at the building of the Great Milic Nature Park Visitor Centre and Castle Administration Centre.

Published in frame of cross border nature park cooperation
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Fire salamander

10. Parking Area of Füžér Castle
Junction to the Füžér Castle
Castle Springs

11. Great Milic Nature Park Visitor Centre and Castle Administration Centre

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