








The Great Milic Nature Trail starts from the Information Center and Museum of Slanec; crosses Highway no. 552 and thereafter at the border of the mansion's park reaches the south-eastern edge of the **Slanský hradný vrch (Castle Hill) Nature Reserve**. From there, the trail continues along the southern border of the Castle Hill in the protected area and arrives at the 1st rest place below Slanec Castle. The castle ruins are accessible on a marked tourist path. The lower Reed Lake is situated near the 1st rest place, while the upper Reed Lake or **Trstinové jazero Natural Monument** is visible on the way to the Jóni Well Rest Place (no. 2).

**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



Reed Lake (Trstinove Jazero): European white water lily



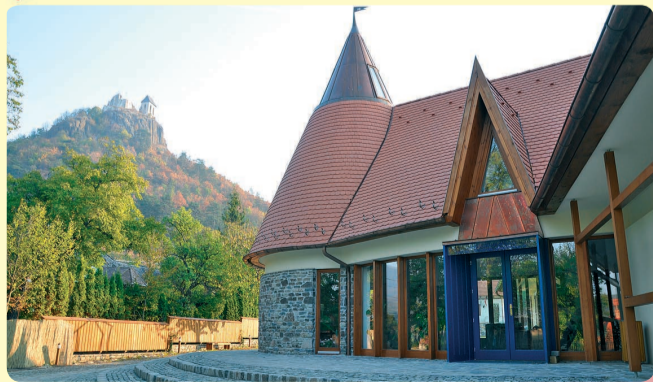
Miličská Skala (Milic Rock)

Oláh Meadow Strictly Protected Area



Forester's Lodge of Csata Meadow

Drahos Meadow Strictly Protected Area



# GREAT MILIC NATURE TRAIL

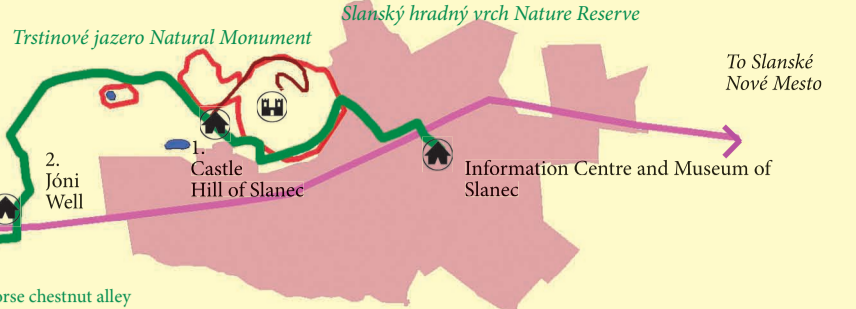
Length: 19.400 m  
Greatest change in elevation: 566 m



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



The forest is the inheritance of our grandchildren!  
ÉSZAKERDŐ PLC



View from the top of the Kis Milic (Little Milic - HU)



Route between the resting places no. 5 and no. 6



Rest place no. 6: Malý Milič (Little Milic - SK)

5. Suchá hora

Malý Milič National Nature Reserve

7. Great Milic and Milic Rock, planned viewing tower

Miličská skala Natural Monument

8. Little Milic (HU), bird observation tower



Snowdrop

9. Csata Meadow

Landing no. 5

To Bodó Meadow

Magas Hill Curve

Dosnyai Curve

Senyánszki Earth-Pit and Landing

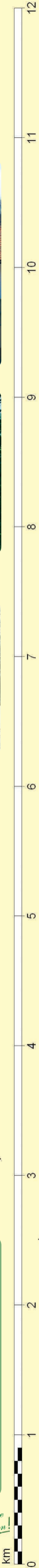
To Kanda-bérc

10. Parking Area of Füzér Castle

Castle Hill of Füzér and its Surrounding Strictly Protected Area

We cross Highway no. 552 again and passing under a horse chestnut tree line and then we continue eastwards to Izra Lake on the asphalt road to the Ortáše Rest Place (no. 18) From the Ortáše we go on a nature park tourist route and later on an asphalt road to the Suchá hora Rest Place (no. 5 or Nyerges-hegy.) Between the two rest places, there is a border of both old (age of regeneration) and young (age of purges) beech stands. From the 5th rest place there is a view of the eastern border ridge of the **Marocká hola Nature Reserve**. Further along the asphalt road we reach the 6th Malý Milič (SK) Resting Place at the southern end of the **Malý Milič (Little Milic - SK) National Nature Reserve**. After the Malý Milič Rest Place, we progress on an asphalt road and later on a profiled dirt road toward the Kis-Milic Peak (Little Milic - HU, no. 8). Leaving the road we continue on the marked nature park trail through a beech forest shelterwood regeneration area to the peak of the Kis-Milic (Little Milic - HU, no. 8).

From the bird observation point there is an excellent view to the Beskids as well. The following Nagy-Milic Peak (Great Milic, 896 m) Rest Area is accessible on the borderline (no. 7). The **Miličská skala (Milic Rock) Natural Monument** is visible from the Nagy-Milic Peak. From the Kis-Milic Peak (Little Milic HU) we reach the forester's lodge of Csata Meadow (no. 9) on the trail of the Countrywide Blue Tour in Hungary. From the lodge of Csata Meadow we go down to the Castle Spring on the unpaved forestry road. The spring belongs to the **Castle Hill of Füzér and its Surrounding Strictly Protected Area**. Leaving the fountain and going across the parking area of Füzér Castle Rest Place we reach the area of Füzér. The terminal station of the nature trail is the Great Milic Nature Park Visitor Centre and Castle Administration Centre.



## Description of the nature trail:

The Milic group has not only diverse flora and fauna, but also has remained in very natural state. This high degree of naturalness is due to distances of larger cities and unsuitable ecological conditions for viticulture; therefore, the vegetation stays relatively intact. Forest management has only slightly transformed the landscapes of forest cover because the species composition of forest associations has been modified only slightly; on the other hand, relatively small areas were afforested using non-indigenous species.

The starting point of the nature trail is located at the Information Centre and local history exhibition of Slanec. After crossing Highway no. 552, our journey progresses in the Slanec village beside of the mansion park which is being reconstructed. The special specimen of the mansion park is a protected tree, a giant sequoia (which was struck by lightning). Further along the southern boundary of Castle Hill, we see horse chestnut trees in the old oak and beech forest. Below Castle Hill, the strong crown structure of the old specimens suggests a previous freestanding situation. The **Slanský hradný vrch (Castle Hill of Slanec) Nature Reserve** became protected in 1932 because of its xerophilous flora and fauna. A marked tourist path leads from the 1st rest place to the castle ruin.

### The Trstinové jazero (Reed Lake) Natural Monument

is located just before the Jóni Well Rest Place (no. 2), which was designed for the protection of the valuable protected plants and especially endangered amphibians and reptiles. One of the endangered plants is the marsh fern (*Thelypteris palustris*). We cross Highway no. 552 and reach the horse chestnut alley;

### The donjon (living tower) of the Slanec Castle

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shortly after, we head south-east to Izra Lake. We arrive at the Ortáše Rest Place (no. 18) on this asphalt road. We follow the marked nature park path from here to the other asphalt road which leads to the hunting lodge of Malý Milič (SK, no. 6).

First, we reach the Suchá hora (or Nyerges-hegy) rest place (no. 5) among beech stands of different ages. From here, there is a view of the **Marocká hora Nature Reserve**. The object of protection is composed of valuable ancient beech forests older than 130 years – determined by the andesite bedrock makes this characteristic stand structure. After the Suchá hora Rest Place we reach the hunting lodge of Malý Milič (Little Milic, no. 6) Rest Place on an asphalt road.

The **Malý Milič (Little Milic – SK) National Nature Reserve** is situated above the 6th rest place. In this 14.05 ha area, beech forest associations are more common with mixed oak forests. Sycamore maple associations were formed in the lava flow areas, mixed with ashes and broad-leaved lime trees. Its typical rock walls provide nesting sites for birds of prey.

Continuing our trip on the asphalt road, we sometimes see sparse foliage and dieback in the beech crowns, which is associated with the drier climate of the last few decades. An excellent example of good forest management also is shown here by the individual protection of valuable noble hardwood sycamore maples by tree guards, which later will ensure the quality of the wood.

After the asphalt road we proceed along on a profiled dirt road. Leaving this we follow the nature park marks to the Kis-Milic Peak (Little Milic – HU). The marked nature trail leads across a beech forest shelter wood regeneration area to the Kis-Milic peak. Beside old beech trees also other noble hardwood admixture species are observable eg. the scale barked sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and mountain elm (*Ulmus montana*) on the shelterwood plot. There is an excellent view of the Beskids from the bird observation tower constructed on the Kis-Milic Peak (Little Milic – HU).

Our trip leads on the boundary line between the Kis-Milic (Little Milic, no. 7) onward to a bird observation tower and the Nagy-Milic Peak (Great Milic – HU, 896 m a.s.l.). Looking toward Slovakia on the Nagy-Milic Peak, we see the **Milichská skála (Milic Rock) Natural Monument** which is difficult to climb. The Milic was established along a fault line, where there are easily observable remains of pseudo-



Fire salamander

Suchá hora

volcanoes and their lava flows, which formed the tops of the mountains long ago. The 11.6 ha protected area aims to preserve the morphologically distinct rock formations which are remnants of dacite flows and were shaped into their current forms through the fragmentation of the originally lava block.

The predecessor of the Countrywide Blue Tour in Hungary was the “St. Stephens Hiking Trail” evolved in the 1930s and its eastern endpoint was on the Tolvaj Hill. In that time a lookout tower stood on the Great Milic Peak. The memoirs of Countess Károlyi noted, “We saw the peaks of the Tátra, Fátra and Mátra from the lookout tower using the inserted binoculars”. After various modifications the Countrywide Blue Tour was developed until 1952, which ended at the Great Milic Peak. Based on this, construction of the Árpád Lookout Tower is planned on the Hungarian side and will be built on the Great Milic Peak.

Returning to the Kis-Milic (Little Milic, no. 8) bird observation tower we go down marked Countrywide Blue Tour (CBT) nature park trail to the Hungarian side. The forester's lodge of Csata Meadow (no. 9) has been a rest place, tourist and worker accommodation and hunting lodge. Old spruces were planted in the surroundings, like those planted from the Kis-Milic (Little Milic – HU, no. 8; 891 m a.s.l.) bird observation tower along the CBT marks, which now are mostly standing dead wood.

The Csata Meadow Road – which is used for the nature trail – was built in the 1950s and leads to the parking area of Füzér Castle. The landing no. 5 was built at the junction of Csata Meadow Road and the Pauper's Road (Ínséges út.) It is still in use for timber handling, preparation and stockholding. The stone wall construction on one side simplifies loading of logs. The origin of the Pauper's Road dates back to the economic crisis of the 1870s. The road was constructed in two parts after 1880, when the Károlyi Estate built the profiled dirt road to Bodó Meadow. The focus was not on the structure of the road (sub-base – base – pavement) but to secure the

work for family retainers in the surrounding villages.

The existing infrastructure elements of the landscape, such as forest and field roads, small bridges provide the traffic arteries of the adaptive land management. These roads provide the implementation of “More ownership – Multiple purpose – Close to nature” (MMC) forest management in forest areas. Forestry road construction of the Milic region has solid traditions. The base of the first structured roads was dry laid with larger stones between two rows of curbs. This was covered by a gravel or macadam pavement layer and then compressed. The dry laid rubble base and the curb rows are easily recognizable at the Sényánszki Earth-Hut.

Change of the dominant forest associations is observable on the nature trail. The nature trail progresses through beech associations in the area of the Castle Spring. The first pedunculate oak stand are visible southward from the Magas Hill Curve to the Dosnyai Curve, afterwards beech associations determine the forest character. The Solyom Crag of the **Tolvaj-hegy (Tolvaj Hill) Strictly Protected Area** can be well observed from the Magas Hill Curve.

During the road construction, a significant amount of rock had to be cut in the Dosnyai Curve which was carried out by the people from Pusztafalu. The leader of the team was an experienced forestry worker named Dosnyai, hence the origin of the name.

Reaching the castle spring, we arrive at the **Castle Hill of Füzér and its Surrounding Strictly Protected Area**. Going across the parking area of Füzér Castle, we cross the border of the strictly protected area which was protected in 1941. We reach the last station of the nature trail is at the Great Milic Nature Park Visitor Centre and Castle Administration Centre.

8. Little Milic (HU) Bird Observation Tower

7. Great Milic and Milic tower

6. Malý Milič (SK)

5. Suchá hora

4. Csata Meadow

3. Junction to Bodó Meadow

2. Jóni Well

1. Castle Hill of Slanec

Junction to Rákoss

Horse Chestnut alley

Junction to the Kálvár Meadow

Rest Place (no. 3)

2. Jóni Well

1. Castle Hill of Slanec

Junction to the Castle Hill of Slanec

Information Centre and Museum of Slanec

340

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