

The Nature Trail along the Border starts from the Slovak-Hungarian boundary, from the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> Malý Milič (Little Milic – SK) Rest Area. The **Malý Milič (Little Milic) National Nature Reserve** is situated to the north.

From the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.)

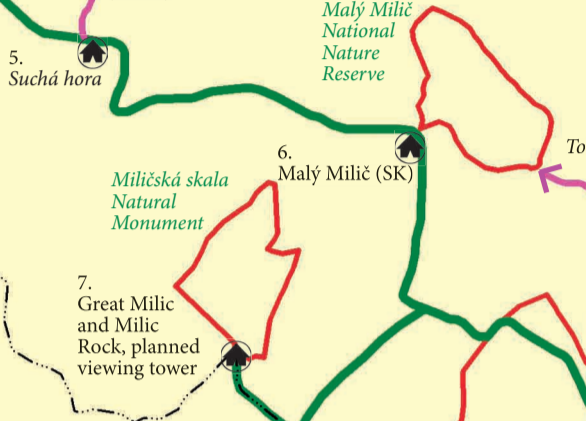


*Bielzia coerulea*



Sucha hora (Nyerges-hegy) Resting Place

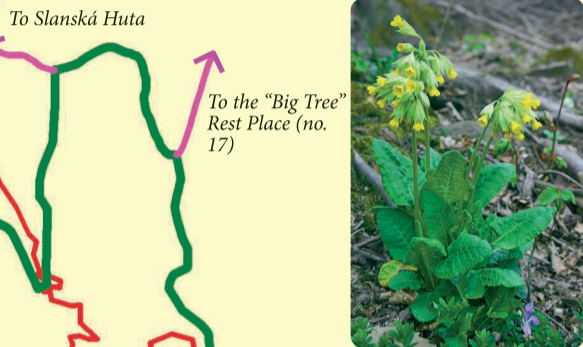
To the Ortáše Rest Place (no. 18)



Green woodpecker



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



Cowslip



Izra Lake

To the Izra Lake Rest Place (no. 16)



Velký Milič (Great Milic) National Nature Reserve



Marocká hora Nature Reserve



Bodnár Well Rest Place (no. 15)



**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



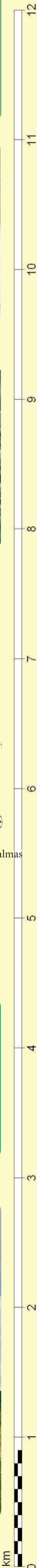
# NATURE TRAIL ALONG THE BORDER

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 Slanec Mountains at elevations of 605-805 m spreading up the western slopes of the Suchá Hora. 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 Milič – 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 Milič – SK) National Nature Reserve** an alternative bypass is offered to the Great Milič Peak (896 m a.s.l.). Going across a beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.) shelterwood regeneration plot we reach the top of Kis-Milič (Little Milič - HU). The shelterwood method uses a larger area for natural regeneration but is better for gene conservation. The whole stands gene pool is regenerated in large quantities and the entire genetic diversity is pre-



Panorama to the saddle of Slanec

- 8. Little Milič (HU), Bird Observation Tower
- 7. Great Milič and Milič Rock, Planned viewing tower

on this, construction of the Árpád Viewing Tower is planned on the Hungarian side and will be built on the Great Milič 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 Milič) National Nature Reserve**. The base of the massif is made up of andesites and dacite, which form the southern part of the 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 Kopaska. Here there is a view to the eastern slopes of the Slanec Mountains. From the Kopaska Lodge, we go down to the asphalt bicycle road toward Lake Izra. 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 Milič, 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 Milič.

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 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 Bodnár Well Rest Place (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 Tílalmas (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 Pusztafalu Basin is the steep sided lava dome habitat. A typical example is Solyom-bérc (Hawk Crag) at Tolvaj-hegy (Thief Hill). Due of the 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)

15. Well

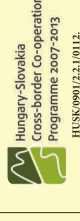
14. Tílalmas

Junction to Pusztafalu

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Young wild boar



Junction to Slanská Huta

"Big Tree" Rest Place (no. 17)

The Lynx occurs in the forests of the Zemplén



Junction to the Velký Milič (HU)

6. Malý Milič (SK)

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