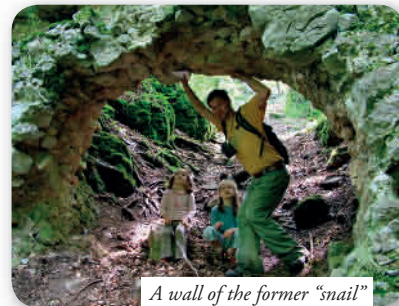


8. Planted coniferous forest

Native coniferous forests cannot be found in the area of the Aggtelek National Park since they are characteristic only to high mountains. North to the stop there used to be a planted spruce forest. However, nature conservation management supports cutting off planted coniferous forests and leaving them only as small patches or individual specimens among native tree species. Hopefully, there will be a forest of native tree species within some decades in the above mentioned area. Currently it is surrounded by a fence to prevent deers and roe-deers from eating the buds of young trees.

9. „Garden”

The relatively flat side of the Szárd Hill and the meadow opposite to it are called „garden”. It was the scene for tournaments of knights. Close to the „garden” there is a steep rocky slope where the remnant walls of the former hoist, which was called „snail”, can be observed.



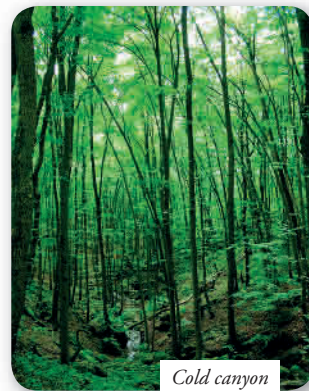
A wall of the former „snail”

10. „Lakatos” Spring

The original name was „Badger” Spring. Later it was renamed to commemorate the famous cave researcher, László Lakatos, who died in an accident during exploring the Meteor Cave in 1969. The basic lime stone type of the area is the Halstatt lime stone, the rates of flow vary between the maximum value 770 litre/minute and minimum value 5 litre/minute. Its temperature is 9,8°C.

11. Canyon

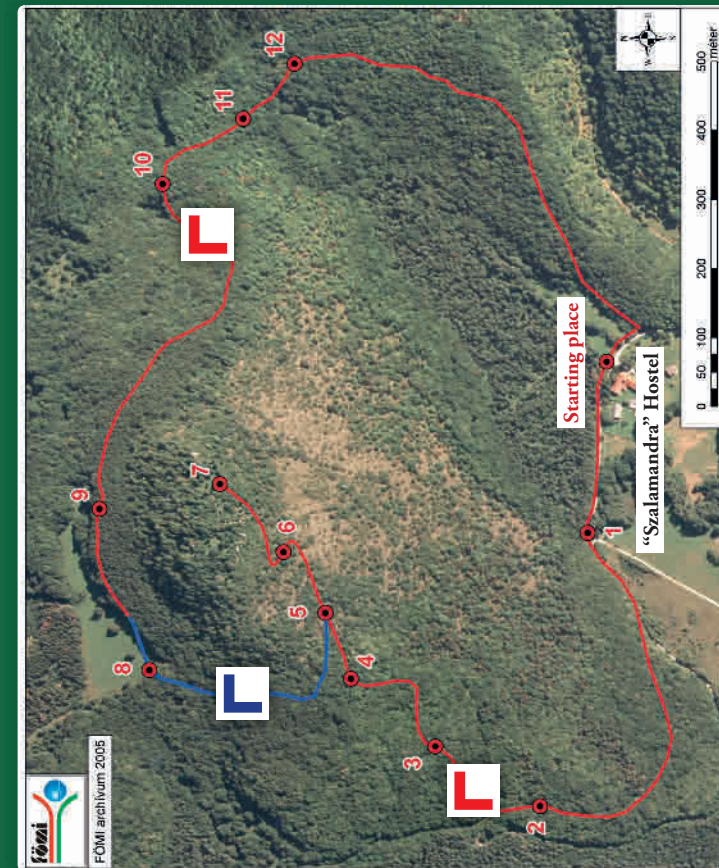
The cold, humid canyon is a special habitat with a soil rich in humus and nitrogen. Typical cold canyons with characteristic forest habitats can sparsely be found in the Aggtelek National Park, most of the time with a high number of hornbeam. The steep slopes of the valley are covered with species that can also be observed in talus slopes, while there are species preferring a thick layer of leaf-litter rich in nutrients and nitrogen at the bottom of the valley. Similar canyons can be found close to Bódvaszilas and Jósvalfő. Because of the cold microclimate, canyons are habitats of several rare alpine and relictum species originating from the glaciation period. Typical tree species: great maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Norway maple (*A. platanoides*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*) and beech.



Cold canyon

12. „Csurgó” Spring

This layer spring is very interesting from the point of view of karst hydrology. Depending on the season and the amount of precipitation, water comes to the surface at 5-6 places close to each other. The average flow rate is about 10 litre/minute, the temperature of water is 10,5°C. The basic lime stone type of the area is the Gutenstein lime stone.



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English

Szádvár Education Trail



Building
partnership

European Union
European Regional Development Fund

Mark: red and blue ruin marking



Length: 4,5 km

Duration: about 3 hours

Difference in elevation: about 260 m

Due to the unique karst surface, extreme microclimates and the biogeographical location of the area, habitats are mosaic-like and very variable in the Aggtelek National Park. Since the Carpathian Mountains are close to this region, several species characteristic to high mountains can be found here as well as mediterranean species on steep, rocky, southern slopes alternating with continental wooded steppe species on gentle slopes. This phenomena can be well observed by hiking the education trail on the Szárd Hill. The trail is about 4,5 km long with about 260 m difference in elevation. The ruins of the once magnificent Szádvár Fortress, which is one of the most important cultural heritages of the region, can still be seen on the top of the hill. Enjoy yourself while learning a lot about nature!

1. „Tettes” Spring

The spring can be found at 201 m elevation, it is a so called karstic layer spring coming to the surface from the basic lime stone type of the area, the Halstatt lime stone. The measured rates of flow vary between the maximum value 100 litre/minute and minimum value 20 litre/minute. Its temperature is 11,5°C. The origin of its name is unknown, however, in the old times it was supposed to have a healing effect.

2. Coach rout to the Szádvár Fortress

Troughs can be observed at both sides of the trail. These are prints of the former coach route that lead up to the fortress and had been used for several



Former coach route

hundreds of years. They support the fact that in the old times the owner of the Szádvár Fortress and the belonging properties had a considerable power and influence on the region.

3. Hornbeam-oak forest

It is the most common forest community in the Aggtelek National Park which usually situates at 400-600 m elevation. Besides durmast oak (*Quercus petraea*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) can also be found in the forest forming the second tree stratum. Because of the thick foliage, only a very little light is able to reach the bottom of the forest. That is the reason for the lack of shrubs. However, plenty of bulbous plants burst into bloom early in the spring.



Yellow Anemone

4. Sub-montaneous beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) forest

This habitat can be found only in small extrazonal patches on the cold northern slopes of hills in the Aggtelek Karst. Most of the trees are about 60-70 years old but sometimes 100 years old specimens can also be seen. The foliage is very thick, that is why there are no shrubs in the forest.



Beech forest



Mezeonium

This forest is a valuable habitat characteristic to mostly the Carpathian Mountains,

thus mountainous species can be observed in it like the glandular toothwort (*Dentaria glandulosa*), great masterwort (*Astrantia major*), mezeonium (*Daphne mezereum*) etc. Because of the low number, small area and richness in mountainous species of these kind of forests, they are protected habitats.

5. Warm preferring oak forest

This type of forest situates on southern slopes that are not too steep. Since the foliage is relatively open, several shrub species in large numbers can be found in the forest. Bigger patches of them are close to Aggtelek, Jósfa, Szin and Szögliget. If the soil is thinner and rocky, white oak (*Quercus pubescens*) forests in smaller patches alternate with warm preferring oak forests.



Bloody Geranium

6. Karst scrub forest

The most characteristic landscape elements are the scrub forests in the Aggtelek Karst. These mediterranean communities can be found on rocky southern slopes, the southern edges of high plateaus where the soil layer is rather thin. Among the sparse low trees (white oak in the largest number), several shrubs and herbs preferring warm, dry habitats can be observed. By providing habitats for many endangered plant and animal species, karst scrub forests are very important from the point of view of nature protection.



Sand Lizard

7. Szádvár Fortress

One after the other several fortresses were built in northeastern Hungary (just like in other parts of Hungary) in the second part of the 13th century. After the tartar invasion, King Béla IV. gave an order to build the Szádvár Fortress in the 1250's to be able to protect the Torna region. Later it became the centre of Torna County as well as the most significant fortress with the largest area in north Hungary. The most dangerous and memorable siege of it took place in 1656 when the fortress was defended by Zsófia Patócsy, the heroic wife of the property owner. According to the order of Lipót Habsburg, it was exploded and demolished in 1685.



Szádvár Fortress



View from the Szádvár