

Stop 1 THE FOREST AND THE PROTECTED NATURAL AREA

Dear tourists, *BIG* and *SMALL*,

I am a grey heron and have made my nest on top of the tallest ash trees in the middle of this oasis of greenery called the **Zăval Forest**.

I will accompany you on this hike, and if you look up attentively, or if you walk in complete silence, you will feel my presence.

Let's talk a little bit about where we are: the Zăval Forest, as the name tells (zăval = swamps united between them), is a mixed meadow forest with oak, ash and elm species.

The Jiu Corridor ROSAC (former ROSCI) 0045 protected natural area includes the Zăval Forest - nature reserve of botanical interest, a reservation established by the Government Decision no. 2151/2004 on the establishment of the conditions for new protected natural areas. The Zăval Forest Nature Reserve comprises plots 1-17 of U.P. III Jiu Meadow of Sadova Forestry and has an area of about 350 ha.

These natural riches, part of the state-owned forest fund, are managed and controlled by the National Forest Administration – Romsilva, through the Dolj Forest Directorate and the Sadova Forestry. And the foresters know how to protect these riches so that they remain intact to our descendants!

The protection and conservation of the biodiversity is guaranteed by the Dolj County Centre for Nature Protection, Tourism and Rural Development, a public institution with legal personality subordinated to Dolj County Council.

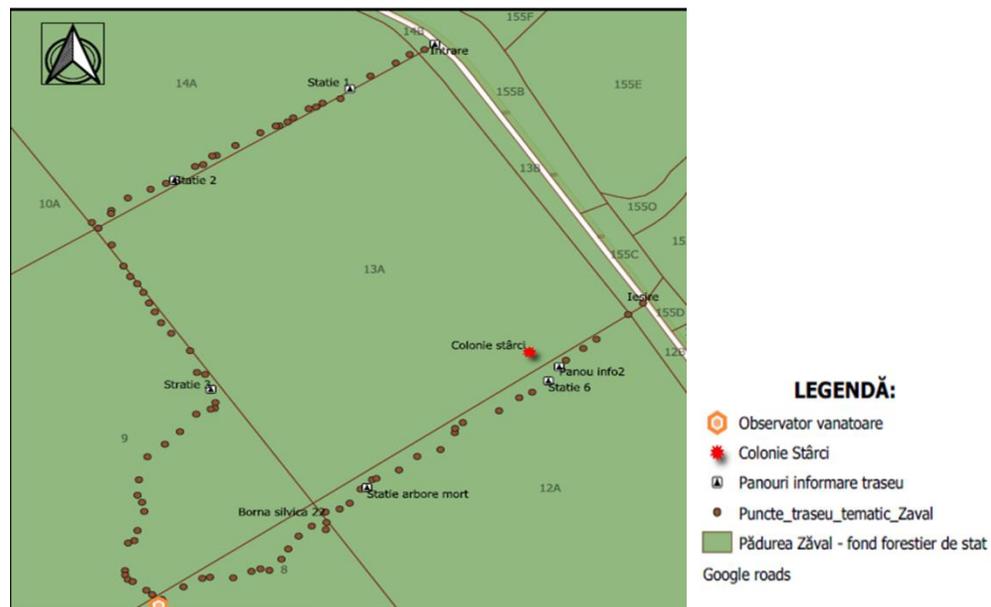


Photo 1: The thematic route in the Zăval Forest

What is a PROTECTED NATURAL AREA?

Protected natural area - terrestrial, aquatic and/or underground area.

A protected natural area is a geographically delimited, renowned, area with wild species of animals and plants, having special ecological, scientific or cultural value, which must comply with special protection and conservation conditions established according to the legal provisions.

Protected areas, by their natural value and the low degree of human intervention on their territory, are the best examples and models of natural and semi-natural ecological systems.

What is a NATURE RESERVE???

Areas under strict protection are areas of national and natural parks of great scientific importance, comprising both scientific reserves and wilderness areas where there have been no anthropogenic interventions or their level has been very low.

Zăval Forest is a nature reserve of botanical interest, an area that has preserved its wilderness of yesteryear, with gorgeous landscapes and greenery as far as the eye can see, an untouched paradise that cannot wait to be explored by foot. Here, where the noise and effervescence of the human activities do not disturb the tranquillity of natural ecosystems, **we have the opportunity to discover** species of wild plants and animals of special value or endangered.

The Dolj County Centre for Nature Protection, Tourism and Sustainable Rural Development and the Dolj Forestry Directorate invite you to explore this wild nature of impressive beauty, which must be protected for the conservation of the species of flora and fauna that give life to these oases of greenery.

Be very careful! In these areas it is forbidden to carry out any human activities, except for research, environmental education and ecotourism activities.

In the nature reserves no activity that uses the natural resources is allowed or any kind of use of the land, incompatible with the protection and/or conservation purpose.

Any construction-investment activity is prohibited, except those intended for the administration of the protected natural area and/or scientific research activities or those intended to ensure national security or the prevention of natural disasters.

Now let's fly straight to the next stop!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Oxygen is produced by photosynthesis, a process by which plants combine water and carbon dioxide to create glucose (their own food) and oxygen.

ACTIVITY:

- Gather leaves of oak or of other trees near the path and you will have the most beautiful foliage! Your colleagues will appreciate how lucky you are to have such natural wealth!

ROUTE DIRECTION

Keep walking down the path, until you get to Stop number 2.

