



Guests

Map of the Breite Reserve

[Map](#) ^[1]

The following map will help you discover the beauties of the reserve, pointing out certain special features and certain potential dangers that menace the biodiversity of the reserve. For this purpose, we will use 13 interest points marked on the map. If you come from Hula Dane?, you will reach point 1 on the map.

Many species of plants and animals ? woodpeckers, songbirds, lizards, bats and butterflies ? can be observed during a trip in the reserve depending on the season and time of the day. Please do not disturb, harm, or capture them.

- Entrance on the Breite plateau. This forest bearing a cultural print comprises over 600 veteran oaks, being the largest collection of multi-secular trees in Eastern Europe. As you follow the road, you will see on the right a ?support belt? installed by the MET in order to prevent the fall of an ancient oak.
- Some tens of meters ahead, on the left side of the road, you will see two oaks fallen to the ground and another on the verge of collapse. Ancient oaks, and even dead oaks, host entire universes of organisms: from algae, lichens and insects to woodpeckers, bats and dormice. It is hence important that they should be left where they fell.
- Board with the visiting rules of the reserve. Please read it carefully. In this open area most of the trees were cut down after World War II. The dominating vegetation here is the hairgrass, which is a good habitat for the sand lizard and for the praying mantis (in autumn). You will also see here a football field.
- The rangers? hut hosts an interesting information center.
- This ancient oak collapsed in June 2009. Its trunk was scarred by ignorant or malicious people. Unfortunately, over 80% of the ancient trees of the reserve bear marks of burning.
- At the edge of the forest, to your left, you will see an oak tree that is probably the oldest in the reserve. Its trunk is 710 cm in circumference, and its estimated age is over 700 years! Around it you can observe the remaining of the hornbeam invasion. The MET cut down 65 hectares of hornbeam and introduced controlled grazing in the reserve, as to stop the expansion of the hornbeam into the territory of the oaks.
- ?The wolves? crossing?. The plateau becomes narrower here creating a passage area for wolves and bears to cross from one side of the forest into the other. Here you can also encounter the yellow-bellied toad, an amphibian protected by the law.
- You are now in the strictly protected part of the reserve (outlined in red on the map). This is the end of a drainage ditch, one of the 15 ditches dug in the 80?s to dewater the area. Along it, you will see the dams built by the MET to stop water loss. In spring ditches hold water and host up to 8

species of amphibians, amongst which the great crested newt, the agile frog and the European tree frog.

- Here you will find one of the few wetlands remaining on the Breite. In the past the humidity of the plateau was much higher, but the drainage ditches altered its hydric regime affecting the vegetation and the health of the oaks.
- The marsh gentian and the devil's-bit scabious are protected flowers that bloom in August-September and can be seen only in this part of the reserve. This is one of the reasons why the Southern part of the plateau is strictly protected and visitors are kindly asked not to enter by car and not to pick up plants.
- Here you can observe the young hornbeam that was recently cut down as a conservation measure. In order to prevent its regeneration, controlled grazing with sheep and goats is also necessary.
- You are now in the most interesting part of the reserve in terms of biodiversity and rare species of plants and animals. Here grow the great burnet which is used as habitat by the protected butterfly *Maculinea teleius*, and the common bistort which colors the pasture pink in May-June. Sometimes the bear pays a visit in this area, leaving traces in the mud or snow, or on the trunks of the trees. The slow-worm and the grass snake feel at home in this wet part of the plateau.
- A brief walk in the nearby forest (up to 100 meters into the woods) will lead you to the 'oak cemetery'. This area used to be an open space that was later on invaded by the forest, causing the ancient oaks which grew here to die standing. This area proves that in the past the Breite plateau was wider than it is now.

You can print the map and the presentation of the interest points by clicking the links below.

Attachment	Size
13 checkpoints in Breite Reserve ^[2]	2.91 MB
Map of the Breite Reserve ^[3]	7.65 MB

Visiting rules

Access to the Breite Plateau is charge-free. The inhabitants of Sighișoara and the visitors are encouraged to take part in leisure and educational activities that do not affect the natural heritage, the landscape and the atmosphere of the reserve.

We recommend that you first visit the information point at the rangers' hut, where you will find information boards about the plateau and you will obtain information from the rangers.

Visitors can enjoy numerous natural wonders ? from 800 year-old trees to rare species of plants and animals. In order to protect these unique wonders, we kindly ask you to observe the following visiting rules:

- Follow the directions given by the rangers; they are there to make sure you enjoy your visit.
- Do not make fire in any other place than in the stone hearths specially arranged near the football field.
- Do not cut trees or wood from the plateau or from the surrounding forest. Do not pick up the wood fallen to the ground ? it plays an important role in preserving the biodiversity of the plateau.
- Visit the Breite Reserve on foot, by bicycle or on horseback. The road that goes through the reserve is a forest path, and the Forestry Office of Sighișoara does not allow access of motor

vehicles.

- Any motorsport (car, motorbike or ATV races etc.) is completely forbidden in the reserve and in the surrounding forest.
- Do not leave litter in the reserve or in the forest. Take it to the litter bins near the rangers' hut.
- Do not make loud noises in this protected area. Listening to loud music will cause you to miss the sounds of nature, to disturb the animals and to prevent other visitors from enjoying nature.
- Hunting and poaching are illegal and will be punished according to the law. The Community Police frequently patrol the reserve.

The impact of human activity on the environment has become stronger and stronger over the recent years, affecting the natural heritage of the Breite Reserve. That is why the reserve now includes areas under strict protection, for the conservation of rare species of plants and animals. In these areas wild boars, wolves and bears can be observed, along with other mammals, insects, birds, amphibians and plants that are strictly protected at European level.

The areas under strict protection are outlined in red on the map of the reserve. The destination of these areas is mainly biodiversity conservation and scientific research; hence visiting rules are stricter:

- Visitor access is allowed only on foot;
- Any loud noise is prohibited;
- Groups of visitors are restricted to 10 people;
- Picking up plants and catching animals are strictly forbidden.

Warnings

It is important to know the risks that you are exposed to when visiting the Breite Reserve:

- Branches falling to the ground or trees collapsing
Every year, tens of branches fall down and two or three trees collapse entirely in the reserve. That is why we recommend that you do not place your tent or picnic under the oaks. In case of storm, do not get under the oaks on the plateau because they attract lightning.
- Boreliosis caused by tick bite
Boreliosis or Lyme disease is an infectious disease that affects the joints, the nervous system and the heart, and is transmitted through tick bite. We recommend visitors to carefully examine their bodies as soon as they arrive home and, if ticks are observed, to go immediately to the hospital or address medical personnel for removing them correctly. Please learn about the symptoms, prevention and treatment of this disease.

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Links:

[1] <http://rezervatia-breite.ro/sites/default/files/rezervatia-breite-harta-turistica.jpg>

[2] <http://rezervatia-breite.ro/sites/default/files/pliant-breite-in-13-puncte.pdf>

[3] <http://rezervatia-breite.ro/sites/default/files/rezervatia-breite-harta-turistica.pdf>