

Viewing Tower near Budapest

Nagy-Kopasz mountain

by Péter Basa and Péter Czér

for Pilis Forestry (József Keszléri, chief forester)

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A small country, Hungary also has small mountains. But in the vicinity of Budapest, this is the very highest peak, the one called *Nagy-Kopasz* (Big-Baldy). Here, we erected a hidden gazebo: while approaching the top of the mountain, you see absolutely nothing – you only recognize the viewing tower when standing directly in front of it. There is nothing here, just the trees, the birds and the wind. No roads, no electricity, no water, even mobile phones do not work here.

The ground level of the tower is made of reinforced concrete and serves as an entrance as well as a shelter for hikers. If you continue up the stairs of the gazebo, on the intermediate levels it offers mysterious spaces, full of light and secrets. Here, all that can be seen are fragments of the view between the slats cladding the tower – but you feel that there must be something up there, making it worthwhile to climb to the top of this strange building. And during this climb, you can find benches on each level, where you can rest, think, and enjoy the silence of nature. Reaching the highest level of the tower, you have a wonderful panorama all around, as a reward for your persistence.

Except for the ground level, the lookout tower is made of larch wood, and the structural beams are connected by specially designed and made steel joints. All the heavy wooden elements were assembled by hand, because there was no chance of using any machinery. Now the gazebo is ready. People and birds seem to enjoy it.



