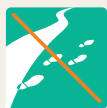


Photo: Jaka Ivančič

The salt meadow is crossed by a **577 m long raised wooden walkway**, which is part of the coastal footpath and it connects the centre of Ankaran with the Sports and recreational park St. Catherine, along the path there are directional and informative signposts. The footpath ends on St. Catherine with outdoor fitness. The path is accessible throughout the year and is suitable for families with little children.

RESPECT NATURE AND ABIDE BY THE RULES OF BEHAVIOUR

By respecting the rules of behaviour we help preserve the salt meadow.



While visiting the salt meadow, stay on the designated raised wooden walkway. That way we don't threaten the animals and we don't damage the plants.



Riding bicycles, electric vehicles, motorized vehicles, or scooters on the wooden walkway or surrounding nature is prohibited; we cross the walkway by foot.



Dogs must be on a short leash.



Most plants and animals in the salt meadow are protected and it is prohibited to pick, gather, hunt, break, and otherwise damage them. In nature we only observe and admire them, where they are the most beautiful.



Do not cause or make unnecessary noise; it not only disturbs the birds, but other visitors as well.



Do not light or use fire in this area.

Photo: Jaka Ivančič



Additional information:

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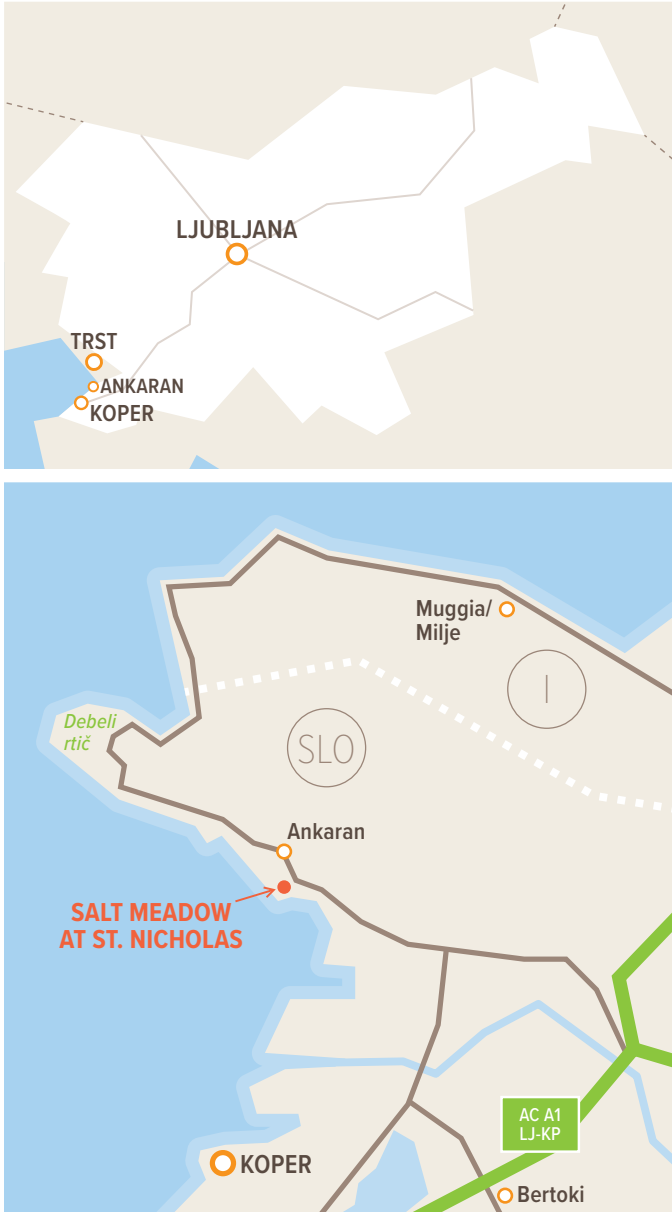


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**WELCOME
TO THE SALT MEADOW
AT ST. NICHOLAS
IN ANKARAN**

The salt meadow at St. Nicholas is located in the north-eastern part of the Koper Bay in Ankaran. It's part of the Natura 2000 network and is a natural feature of national importance, which stretches across 8,9 hectares.



The salt meadow is a coastal marsh ecosystem of exceptional value, with its muddy and shallow coastline, exposed to tides and waves, and a vast growth of **sea rush** (*Juncus maritimus*) it creates a rare habitat type – the Mediterranean salt-rich grassland. Rare and endangered salt-tolerant plants or halophytes thrive here, most notably the **seaside flax** (*Linum maritimum*) and the **spiked centaury** (*Centaureum spicatum*), the latter only thrives in this area of Slovenia. The salt meadow is surrounded by a grove of **narrow-leaved ash** (*Fraxinus angustifolia*), which is a rare type of floodplain forest.



Seaside flax
(*Linum maritimum*)

is a submediterranean species, which in Slovenia thrives only in the Slovene Littoral. This species of flax is a perennial, which blooms from June to October, reaching the peak of its bloom in July and August. It's classified on the Red Data List of Endangered Vascular Plants of Slovenia in the E category – Affected species.



Spiked centaury
(*Centaureum spicatum*)

is an annual plant that only grows in humid and salt-rich soils, reaching up to 60 cm in height and produces pink flowers. Once considered extinct in Slovenia, it can now be found only in the salt meadow at St. Nicholas.

The salt meadow at St. Nicholas is also an exceptionally important area for birds. The sandbanks and mudflats along the shore, which slope gently towards the sea, are the feeding grounds for various shorebird species, such as the **eurasian curlew** (*Numenius arquata*) with a long, downwards curved beak, the **common greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*) with grey and green legs, after which it was named, and the **common sandpiper** (*Actitis hypoleucos*) with its signature style of low above water or ground flight. Herons are frequent to the area as well, such as the **little egret** (*Egretta garzetta*) and the **grey heron** (*Ardea cinerea*).



Little egret



Common greenshank



Eurasian curlew



Common sandpiper