



Občina Ankaran  
Comune di Ancarano

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION | AMMINISTRAZIONE  
COMUNALE

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT  
DIPARTIMENTO ATTIVITÀ ECONOMICHE

Tourism Section  
Settore turismo

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## 2022 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT FOR ANKARAN AS A DESTINATION

### THINKING AND ACTING GREEN

Aware of our responsibility to leave a preserved environment and prosperity as our legacy, Ankaran as a tourist destination has taken a green approach to promoting green thinking and green tourism. We want tourists coming to our destination to feel our sustainability/green efforts and get involved – also through our incentives.

The Ankaran peninsula, with the town of Ankaran and the Debeli Rtič Landscape Park, is one of the most important tourist centres in Slovenian Istria. For centuries, this window to the Mediterranean has enchanted visitors with its exceptional location and views, its natural coves and lush greenery descending all the way to the sea, and the tranquillity and authenticity that can be felt here.



ANKARANSKI  
POLOTOK  
PENISOLA DI  
ANCARANO

*Otok zelenih zakladov*

### OPEN YOUR HEARTS TO GREEN HABITS

*The cheapest energy is the energy you don't use.*

*It takes the same amount of water to produce a plain cotton T-shirt as a person drinks in two and a half years.*

*Tap water IS the best choice.*

*Instead of going by car, choose to walk or cycle.*

*Buy local – get Slovenian products from farmers, at the market or in shops.*



## 01 STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Guidelines for the Preparation of a Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy in the Municipality of Ankaran were adopted and the municipality has thus outlined a further development path in raising awareness of nature and culture conservation by improving the quality of the offer and the human resources.

### **A vision for tourism on the Ankaran peninsula**

- I. A LEADING DESTINATION: Achieving a high position in terms of competitiveness, quality, innovation, development and programme dynamics;
- II. ACTIVE GREEN: Emphasising outdoor activities, recreation and sport, active discovery of the town, Istria, cultural and historical heritage, events;
- III. YEAR ROUND: The Mediterranean climate with mild winters allows tourism to be developed in all seasons;
- IV. A MEDITERRANEAN DESTINATION: Developing an offer that not only includes the standard sun & beach product, but also incorporates Mediterranean traditions and can position itself alongside other destinations in Istria and Slovenia.

## 02 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Through the Slovenia Green Destination project, the destination encourages event organisers to move towards a green economy and sustainable resource management. To this end, it organises themed educational events for tourist guides, event organisers, tourist boards, caterers and other tourism stakeholders.

### **CODE OF SUSTAINABILITY-ORIENTED TOURIST GUIDES**

The code is aimed primarily at local tourist guides, who are usually the first and often the only contact visitors have with local people and have a strong influence on the creation of the image of a destination and opinions visitors have of it. The code establishes professional standards and helps to raise the quality of local tourist guides' work.

It takes into account modern trends in tourism and sustainable tourism.

It prescribes guidelines for local tourist guides' work.

It promotes the green orientation of Ankaran as a destination.

It complies with global standards for tourist guides.

## 03 WORKING WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

### **1. "Long-term development plan for the Ankaran peninsula and the Municipality of Ankaran"**

The document comprises development plans and project ideas that the Municipality of Ankaran has drawn up on the basis of 1,200 initiatives, the needs and wishes of citizens, business stakeholders and the interested public, then collected and processed in the framework of participatory budgeting and a number of development workshops.

Key Ankaran projects are built on a foundation of accountability, inclusion and respect for all stakeholders. The development document presented is probably the most important one at the moment, as the implementation of the development plan will finally transform Ankaran from a bedroom community into the fourth modern Slovenian seaside destination.

2. The Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia has **awarded the Municipal Spatial Plan of the Municipality of Ankaran the "Golden Pencil in Spatial Planning" prize for 2021, following the decision of the Chamber's expert committee.** The quality of the awarded project is reflected in the spatial planning act, which, on the basis of the clearly defined strategy of the Municipality of Ankaran, ensures a quality space for present and future generations, puts the common interests of all stakeholders before private ones,



and, on the basis of the responsible professional work of the spatial planner, defines the spatial development strategy, the intended use and the spatial implementation conditions.

### 3. Municipal Youth Programme

In the summer of 2022, the Municipal Youth Programme was implemented for the third year on Student Beach (*plaža Študent*), which was the initiative of a group of young people who wanted to set up a restaurant on this beach, with the aim of making it a place to gather, socialise and make good memories during the summer.

4. The municipality was awarded the **SUPer Caterer Commitment Award** by the Environmental Protection Department of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, with the aim of reducing Slovenia's impact on marine and other aquatic environments. SUP stands for a commitment to reduce or completely eliminate the use of single-use plastic products (S - single, U - use, P - plastic).

## 04 CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

The municipality has set up an **Info Point for the Elderly**, where older people can get all the information they need to empower them to take the next steps to deal with a wide range of issues or problems, such as help with filling in applications, finding appropriate forms of home help, making medical appointments, etc.

The municipality has established a cooperation with the Sopotnik Institute to provide **free transport services for elderly people** who, for various reasons, are unable to drive themselves or otherwise get to various services or run errands.

As part of the Municipality's Care for the Elderly programme, the Municipality of Ankaran has provided space for the Ankaran Intergenerational Centre, which has **set up a Day Activity Centre for the Elderly**.



## 05 SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

### CYCLE ROUTES

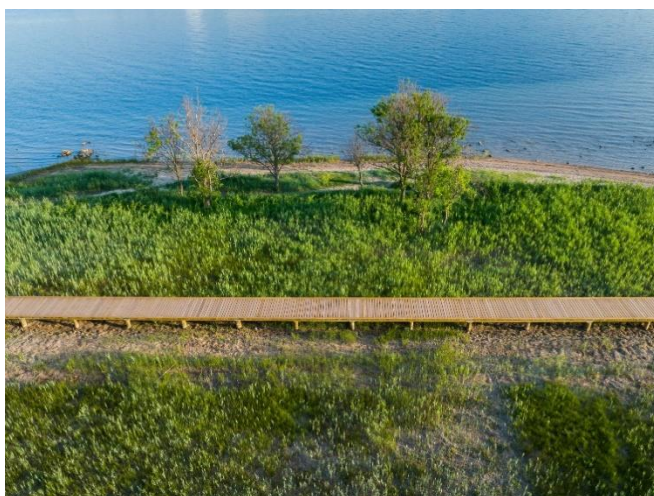
The Municipality of Ankaran is a partner in the LAS Istria project Revitalising the Countryside, co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe Invests in Rural Areas. The Municipality of Ankaran, the Municipality of Koper, the Municipality of Izola and the Cycling Network Obala have joined forces and taken an important step towards the development of



sustainable recreational tourism in the countryside of the wider Karst Edge area. In the first phase, five themed trails and 80 climbing routes have already been restored, conditions have been created for the expansion and upgrading of cycling links in the wider, also cross-border area, monitoring of the implementation of nature protection measures in the sensitive area of the Debeli Rtič Landscape Park has been increased, and many other activities have been carried out to promote recreation and cycling.

The Municipality of Ankaran has carried out coordination activities to extend the cycle links to the state roads in order to protect the Debeli Rtič Landscape Park, while at the same time providing better conditions for cycling for citizens and visitors. It has also examined various inter-municipal and cross-border link options that would connect Koper and Muggia with a regular bus passenger service, thus strengthening inter-municipal and cross-border cooperation.

Ten electric bikes can also be rented at the Ortus Residence Hotel. In the future, two bike service stands that offer the possibility of charging e-bikes are also planned as part of the LAS Istria Reviving the Countryside project.

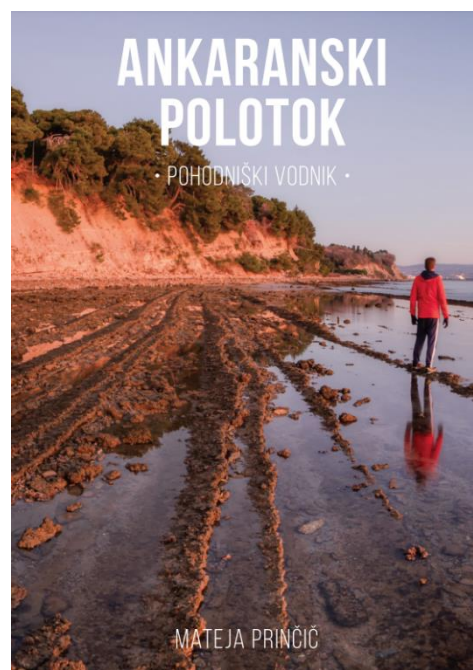


## FOOTPATHS

At the end of March 2022, the Municipality of Ankaran completed the construction of a coastal footpath connecting Ankaran to the St Katarina Sports and Recreation Park. The **Across the Salt Meadow project** also produced a promotional video titled "Across the Salt Meadow", which shows the natural beauty of the salt meadow and the functionality of the nearby outdoor gym.

The Debeli Rtič Landscape Park offers educational and recreational trails where visitors can learn about the protected natural features of the destination. The Municipality of Ankaran has also recently completed a project to create two circular themed trails in the Debeli Rtič Landscape Park: a marine trail and a panoramic trail. Seven interpretive panels have been erected, presenting the attractions and natural features of the protected area, the biodiversity of the marine environment and the traditional human activities that have shaped the landscape of the park through history. Residents and visitors will be able to get to know the special features and attractions of the park, as well as the plant and animal species protected in the area, in an active and different way. This will make the trails even more appealing and educational for schoolchildren, walkers and nature lovers in general.

In 2022, the "Ankaran Peninsula" hiking guide was published. The purpose of the guide is to promote the natural features of the Ankaran peninsula and its rich cultural heritage. Over 44 pages the 15 attractions located on the *Island of Green Treasures*.





## TOURIST BUS

During the summer months, a free bus runs around the Ankaran peninsula, connecting all the beaches, car parks and the town centre.

## 06 ACCESSIBILITY, CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ELDERLY

**The following activities have been carried out to improve accessibility:**

- **Accessibility for people with disabilities:** There are several accommodation and service providers in the destination that are specially adapted for people with disabilities or reduced mobility.  
Some beaches are accessible to people with disabilities: Adria Ankaran (including the swimming pool), Youth Health Resort Debeli Rtič and Debeli Rtič Beach. The shop, bank, post office and pharmacy in the centre of Ankaran also have disabled access.
- **In December 2022, the Municipality of Ankaran received the "Municipality tailored to people with disabilities" charter from the Association of Disabled Workers of Slovenia.**
- **Defibrillators** have a special place in the destination and are therefore a special focus for all the municipal administrations involved. A total of 8 defibrillators are installed in different locations. Training events on how to use defibrillators were also held.

## 07 CARE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cultural heritage is part of who we are, part of the environment and society we live in. It is everywhere: in our homes, in the buildings of our villages and towns, in the rich heritage that awaits us in public libraries, museums and galleries, and even archaeological sites. Heritage is not just archaeological findings, boring walls and dusty art, but it emanates from traditional skills, crafts and other intangible heritage, from the stories and songs of our grandfathers and grandmothers, from the traditional dishes we eat and the films we watch.

Physical heritage – the immovable cultural heritage in the municipality is divided into:

*Archaeological sites – 7*  
*Cultural landscape units – 2*  
*Profane built heritage – 9*  
*Profane built heritage – 4*  
*Garden architectural heritage – 3*

Intangible heritage – in the Register of Intangible Heritage is registered:

*The game of pandolo*  
*Istro-Venetian languages in Slovenian Istria*  
*Making olive bundle Easter decorations*  
*Dry-wall construction* (inscribed on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage)



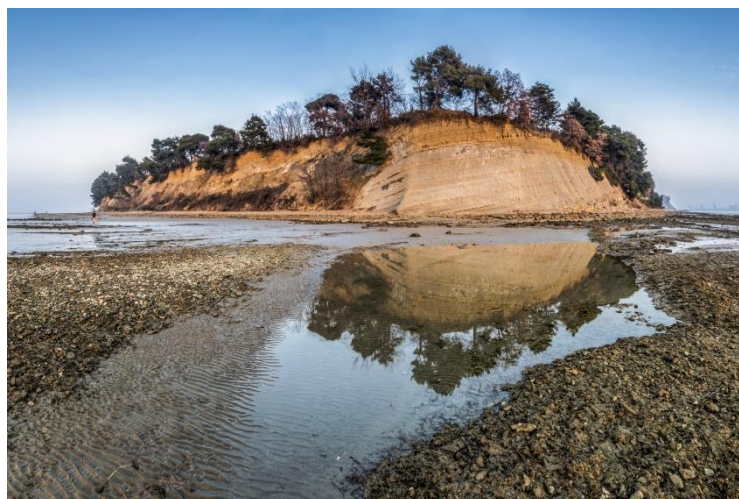
The *pandolo* game



Dry-wall construction

## 08 CARE FOR NATURAL HERITAGE

From among 13 Mediterranean nature areas, the INHERIT Project Committee **awarded the INHERITURA Sustainable Label to the Debeli Rtič Landscape Park**. The initiative brings together nature parks committed to valuing natural and cultural heritage and developing sustainable tourism through shared tourist routes.



Management of **the natural value of the Salt Meadow**: In the area of protection of other natural values, maintenance of the boardwalk at the St Nicholas Salt Meadow, mowing of the meadow in the protected area, waste removal and removal of invasive non-native plants were carried out.

### Fauna

The rich underwater world of Debeli Rtič is home to nearly 700 species of fauna, including at least a third of all fish species in the Slovenian sea. Endangered and internationally protected marine fauna include the noble pen shell, long-snouted seahorse, lesser spider crab, date shell and common piddock, honeycomb bath sponge, cushion coral, loggerhead sea turtle and European shag.

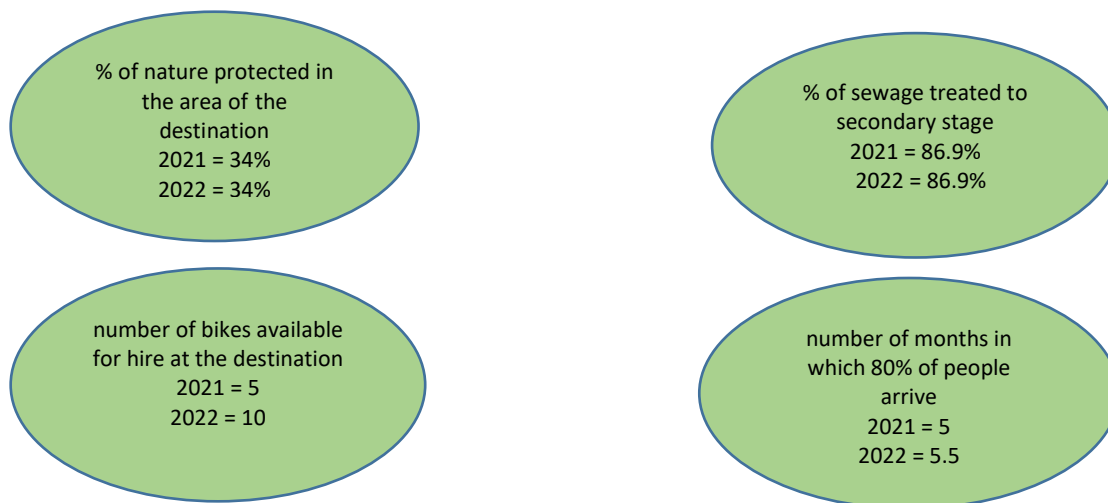
### Flora

The flora that developed on the Slovenian Istria's flysch parent material is linked to the sub-Mediterranean climate. A special growing area within the Debeli Rtič Landscape Park is the cliff faces



in the immediate vicinity of the sea. The cliff is overgrown by warmth-loving shrubs, especially *Spartium junceum* and *Coronilla emerus* on the less steep parts of the cliffs. Along its upper edge is a border of dense forest vegetation, dominated by maritime pine and indigenous tree species: oak, European hop-hornbeam and South European flowering ash.

### ***SOME KEY DESTINATION INDICATORS***

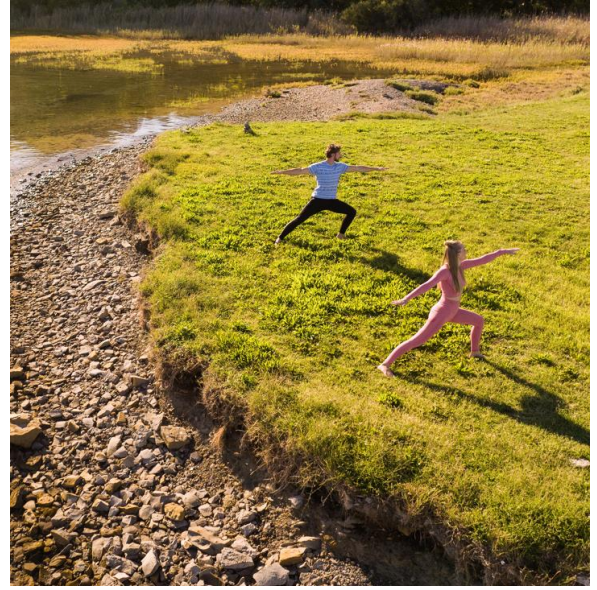


**NOTE:**

\* The project called Clean for Koper and Ankaran (construction of a sewerage network in the settlement areas of Bertoki, Škofije and Hrvatini) is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023. In the Municipality of Ankaran, works will be carried out in the Kolombini settlements, on the Cesta na Prisojo road and on part of the Jadranska road, where, in addition to a faecal sewer, a storm water sewer will be completely laid. In addition, the missing part of the sewerage network will be built in the area of the Pot na Brido area and part of the Razgledna pot path. The project will connect 55 buildings and 170 inhabitants to the sewerage network in the Municipality of Ankaran, so we expect the percentage of sewage treated to secondary level to increase significantly after 2023 – by around 6%, according to our calculations.



## WE ARE PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE



Recreational green spaces



Drinking fountain





Ankaran Memorial Park



Camper Stop Adria Ankaran