



Photo: archer10 (Dennis)



archer10 (Dennis)



Mate Marschalko



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Located in north-eastern Tunisia, Monastir is a major tourist resort. With its attractive marina and old fishing port, the city is an excellent base for a beach holiday and offers a wide range of physical activities such as water sports, fishing, excursions and golf. Whatever the season, you will find an ideal climate to enjoy some of Tunisia's finest sand beaches and crystalline water along with a dizzying choice of waterfront hotels and restaurants featuring both international and local cuisine. Whether you're up to a lazy day sunning on the beach or more physical type of activities, your stay will certainly be unforgettable!

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Top 5

The Ribat

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Bourguiba Mosque

The beautiful mosque was originally built in 1963. The prayer hall has 86 pink marble pillars holding up the vault. Nearby is ...

Islamic Museum

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Lamta Museum

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Cap Marina

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THE CITY



Photo: Gorik Francois

Monastir was founded in the 9th century on the ruins of the Punic-Roman city of Ruspina. Traditionally a fishing port, the city today is a largely purpose-built tourist town of pristine streets and lavish landscaping. However you will also find a well preserved old fortress, the Ribat, located right on the waterfront and restored many times. Home to a Museum of Islamic Art and Artefacts, this is the main historical attraction of Monastir, along with the impressive golden-domed Bourguiba Mosque. The combination of the Ribat's ancient atmosphere fused with a modern resort complex makes Monastir a very popular destination among travellers looking for a beach holiday with an accent on tradition.

You will enjoy great promenades along the marina in the shade of the walls, with on one side a glimpse of the bluest Mediterranean and on the other side open air terraces of hotels, coffee houses and restaurants. Most of Monastir's tourist hotels are situated 5 to 6 km (3 to 4 miles) west of the town centre at Skanes, close to the airport. The beaches are great; Skanes and Dkhila being the finest, with sand and very clean water. You will enjoy many sea sport activities such as sailing, windsurfing, underwater sightseeing and much more. If you have time, a day tour to discover ancient Roman, Arab, Berber or Phoenician sites is recommended. Or sample the cities of Sousse or Kairouan, where you will taste the real flavour of North African culture.

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DO & SEE



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The Ribat

This is probably the main attraction in Monastir and the right place to get a glimpse of ancient Tunisia. The fortress has been used several times as natural décor for international movies. The oldest part is situated around the lookout tower and houses the Museum which features a great collection of ancient Islamic writings, fabrics, pottery, astrolabes and carved roof timber.

More Info: Closed for repairs. Expected to open again in July 2014

Bourguiba Mosque

The beautiful mosque was originally built in 1963. The prayer hall has 86 pink marble pillars holding up the vault. Nearby is the huge Bourguiba Mausoleum with its three domes and the two minarets that mark the entrance of the complex. Bourguiba was the founder of modern Tunisia and its first president.

Address: Bourguiba Mosque, Al Munastir Tunisko

Opening hours: Closed to visitors on Fridays

More Info: Located in the city centre

Islamic Museum

This museum is located in the Ribat and was originally the prayer hall.

It presents a varied collection of traditional fabrics and different objects such as coins, jewellery and pottery. It also displays an astro laboratory dated all the way back to year 927.

Address: Ribat, Monastir

Lamta Museum

This archaeological site presents a unique collection from the Roman period. The museum house many different treasures and the beautiful mosaic floor has never been moved.

Address: Lamta Beach

Opening hours: Closed on Mondays

More Info: Located about ten kilometres south of the city of Monastir

Cap Marina

This is where you may head first to find out about all the beach sports such as diving, fishing, windsurfing and more. Town Beach is just in front of the Ribat, with lovely crystal clear water. Sauntering along the marina is also very enjoyable especially at sunset.

Address: Marina, Monastir

Phone: +216 73 462 305

DINING



Photo: Miroslav Krejcirik

The food in Monastir and Tunisia is largely based on olive oil and spices. The national dish is the famous Berber couscous: durum wheat steamed and soaked in a sauce. It can be made with vegetables, fish, fresh or dried octopus, beef, veal and lamb. You will find plenty of good restaurants in the old town and the marina.

The Captain

This restaurant is specialized in fresh seafood. With one of the best addresses in town, ideally situated in the marina, this is the perfect place to enjoy a dinner with superb views.

Address: Cap Marina, Monastir
Phone: +216 73 46 1449

Le Grill

Le Grill is every carnivores' delight! The venue has a good location in the marina, and offers well prepared local and international food, though the restaurant is known for its great choice of meat.

Address: Cap Marina, Monastir
Phone: +21673 462 136

El Ferik

Fast and friendly, this is a recommended venue to taste the local dishes (like goat meat!) at very reasonable prices. They also have a good selection of fish. The restaurant lies right on the water and offers its guests a beautiful sea view to accompany their meal.

Address: Route de la Corniche, Monastir

Phone: +216 73 462 220

Internet: www.elferik.com

Email: ali@elferik.com

El Chandelier Restaurant

Only a few metres from the waterfront marina you find this pleasant restaurant. It serves both Tunisian and Mediterranean cuisine and makes superb fish and seafood dishes: grilled, baked in sauce, and is also said to have the best grilled meat of the marina! There is also a large choice of pizzas and pastas which makes it a perfect spot for the whole family.

Address: Cap Marina, Monastir

Phone: +216 73 462 232

Salsa Posada

At Salsa Posada you can revel in Mexican specialities such as fajitas and burritos and wash it down with refreshing cocktails or a cold beer. The atmosphere is relaxed and the waiters are friendly.

Address: Airport Road, Monastir

Phone: +216 24 130 638

More Info: Near Sahara Beach Hotel

CAFES

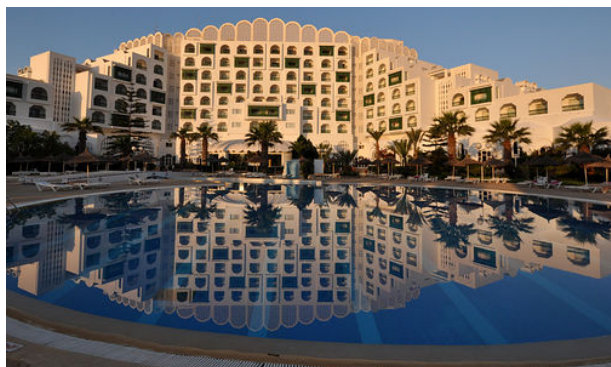


Photo: Miroslav Krejcirik

There are plenty of cafés in Monastir, almost all hotels have a café and in the bazars you'll find both coffee and the traditional menth thé. Following are a few addresses to cafés in Monastir, you will probably find your favourite hang out easily just walking down the street. Why not try some shisha to your thé?

Le Pacha

Le Pacha has been around since 1990 and offers you a wide range of Tunisian pastries. Here it is almost guaranteed to get a sugar rush. They also cater to weddings.

Address: Avenue des Martyrs, Monastir

Phone: +216 73 463 631

Café Maure

The Café Maure is located inside the Amir Palace hotel. Here you will find a lovely seating area where you can enjoy the sweet tea and the even sweeter pastries.

Address: Route Touristique, Monastir

Phone: +216 73 520 900

Internet: www.amirpalace-hotel.com

Soprano

With its location right in the city centre, Soprano is a good place to stop for lunch after some sightseeing. Students and locals come here for their mouthwatering pizzas and to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere.

Address: 29, avenue Habib Bourguiba, Monastir

Phone: +216 734 666 46

Maison de Patisserie

If you are fan of the popular pastry Macrons, this is the place to go, when in Monastir. Here you find all different flavours and colours you can imagine. Find your favourite and enjoy it together with some strong coffee.

Address: Cité Sidi Nasser, Monastir

Phone: +216 5404 4384

Espressioni

This place is not only a café but also an art gallery and cultural institution. Local artists and students play music and exhibit and sell their art works here. The café serves delicious cakes and refreshing juices in a relaxing, peaceful and friendly atmosphere.

Address: Avenue Khalij Al Arbi, Al Munastir

Phone: +216 21 941 970 / +216 93 08 52 18

Internet: www.espressionigallery.com

Email: galleryespressioni@gmail.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE

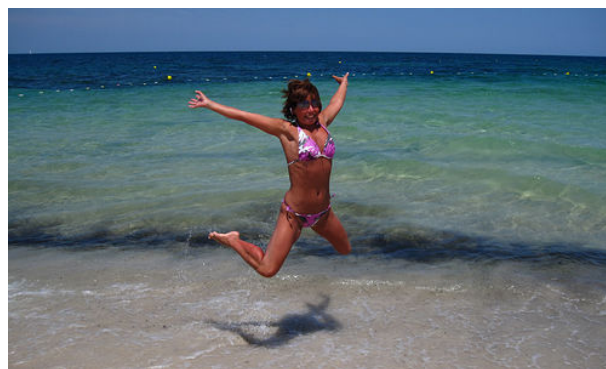


Photo: Miroslav Krejcirik

In Monastir, most of the entertainment is hotel-based. You will find a wide range of western style bars and discos to have a good time, including Arabian feasts and floorshows; they're about all the same. The real hub of nightlife is in the neighbouring resorts of Sousse (Skanes area).

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Miami Club

You find the Miami Club inside one of the hotel complexes, the Amir Palace. Come here to enjoy the nice atmosphere, great tasting drinks and music and dancing. The Amir Palace also offers more relaxed bars for the ones not wanting to dance.

Address: Route touristique, Skanes
Phone: +216 73 520 900
Internet: www.amirpalace-hotel.com

Bar 51

This bar is located at a pirate ship at the beach of Sahara Beach hotel. Not only do they have nice tasting drinks but they are accompanied with a lovely view over the ocean.

Address: Skanes
Opening hours: 10:00 to 00:00
Phone: +216 73 521 088
Internet: www.saharabeach.com.tn
Email: hotel@saharabeach.com.tn

Safari Centre

This house of fun does not only offer shopping and daily activities. In the evenings you find everything you need for a fun night out. The bar and nightclub here will satisfy every nightbird.

Address: Zone Touristique, Al Munastir
Phone: +216 73 524 110

7SKY Nightclub

This club has been around since 1997 and features theme nights and DJ's playing the latest tunes. This place

attracts a young crowd so come here for a fun night out with drinking and dancing.

Address: Hotel Delphin El Habib, Monastir
Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 23.00-04.00
Phone: +216 26 779 069
More Info: Located in Hotel Delphin El Habib

Ali Bar

This bar serves delicious cocktails and cooled drinks in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Ali, the owner, often sits down to chat with the guests and make them feel extra welcome. They also offer free WiFi.

Address: Zone Touristique Dkhila, Skanes, Monastir
Phone: +216 73 467 800

SHOPPING



Photo: Miroslav Krejcirik

If you like haggling, you will enjoy shopping in Monastir! Start by cutting the offer in half, and then work your way up to a compromise if you are really interested. The best place to go is the souk in the old part of Monastir, open daily, just outside the Ribat's walls along the boulevard all the way to the cliff top. Here you will find many shops and artisans selling a large selection of carpets, ceramics, silver jewellery, brass and copper, leather work, wall hangings, antiques and fun stuff.

Typical souvenirs are pointed "babouche" slippers and embroidered gowns that can double up as evening wear. The hand carved olive wood items (salad bowls, kitchen articles, vases, lamps) are also popular items and original

gifts from the Mediterranean to bring back home! If you prefer fixed prices at the controlled handicrafts shops, try just outside the medina or if you have time the large Soula Centre in Sousse.

ACCOMMODATIONS



Photo: Miroslav Krejcirik

In Monastir you will have a range of choices of everything between luxury hotels and simple hostels. To get the best price possible make sure to book in time.

Sahara Beach Hotel

This is a huge complex with several restaurants, bars and swimming pools located on the beach. You will find good food at the hotel and a very nice staff. The 1,042 rooms are spread over three buildings and include all necessary details.

Address: Skanes, Monastir
Phone: +216 73 521 088
Internet: www.saharabeach.com.tn
Email: hotel@saharabeach.com.tn

Amir Palace

This is one of the most exclusive hotels in Monastir, located right on the beach. Guests here can take part of the many sport activities, swim in the pool or just relax in the beautiful surroundings. It offers excellent comfort at good prices during low season.

Address: Route touristique, Skanes, Monastir
Phone: +216 73 520 900
Internet: www.amirpalace-hotel.com
Email: sales@amirpalace-hotel.com

Corniche Monastir

This small hotel is located right at the water and only ten minutes walk from the city centre. The rooms are basic and the hotel features a restaurant and a snack bar where you can enjoy your meal at a terrace with lovely view.

Address: Route La Corniche, Monastir
Phone: +216 73 461 451

Hotel Regency

Hotel Regency is a four star hotel located next to the beach. The rooms are spacious and have a balcony. Some of the amenities of the hotel are two swimming pools, a fitness room and free WiFi. The hotel restaurant serves a daily breakfast and both local and international dishes.

Address: Cap Marina, Monastir

Hotel Mezri

Hotel Mezri is a classic hotel close to the Monastir marina. All rooms have air-condition and private bathrooms and some of the rooms offer views over the old harbour. On the panoramic terrace you can enjoy a light snack accompanied by a beautiful sea view.

Address: Route De La Corniche Bp 162, Monastir
Phone: +216 73 468 400
Internet: www.hotelmezri.com.tn
Email: reservation.hmezri@planet.tn

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Photo: Gorik Francois

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Skanes-Monastir International Airport

Skanes-Monastir International Airport (Habib Bourguiba Airport) is located just 10 km from the city centre.

You can take a bus and the journey time is approx. 30 minute. Buses leave every hour. If you rather take a taxi it takes approx. 15 minutes. The price for the taxi starts from TND 30.

You can also take the train that passes just outside the airport.

Address: Skanes-Monastir International Airport

Phone: + 216 73 520 000

Internet: www.habibbourguibaairport.com

More Info: Prices updated March 2014

Taxi

Yellow taxis are the best way to explore Monastir although all the main points of interest can be done by foot. You

will find them anywhere and it is an efficient and fast way of transport. If you need to make a booking for your way back to the airport, it is better to ask your hotel.

The "taxis collectifs" with a blue tag are the best option to explore the region, e.g. a day trip to Sousse. There is no specific schedule; you must go to the Gare Routière to find one. They leave only once they're full.

Address: Gare Routière, Monastir

Phone: +216 73 461 059

Post

The post office is located in the city centre and is open Monday to Saturday. You can also buy stamps in kiosks or at the hotels.

Opening hours: Mon - Fri: 8.00 - 12.00 and 15.00 - 18.00, Saturday: 8.00 - 12.00

Phone: +216 73 504 909

Pharmacy

There are a few pharmacies located in the city centre. Pharmacie Saidi Ali and Pharmacie Souani are two of them. To find information on opening hours ask at the hotel. You find the Pharmacie Souani at:

Address: Avenue De La Terre, Souani, Monastir

Telephone

Country Code: +216

Area Code: 73

Electricity

220 Volts, 50 Hertz

Population

92 000

Currency

TND (Tunisian Dinar) = 1000 millimes

Opening hours

In general public services, banks, museums and shops are open from 8.00 to 12.00 noon and from 14.00 to 17.00. During the summer, afternoons may run from 15.00 to 18.00. Some banks may be open non-stop from 8.00 to 16.15 from Monday to Friday. Museums are closed on

Monday. Shops are closed on Sunday.

Newspapers

Le Renouveau
Le Quotidien
Essahafa

Emergency numbers

Police: 197
Fire Brigade: 190
Ambulance: 71 725 555 or 599 900

Tourist information

Commissariat Régional au tourisme de Monastir
Skanes Monastir
Zone touristique -Skanès

+216 73 520 894

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