Monastir

Photo: calips96

Photo: Gorik Francois

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!

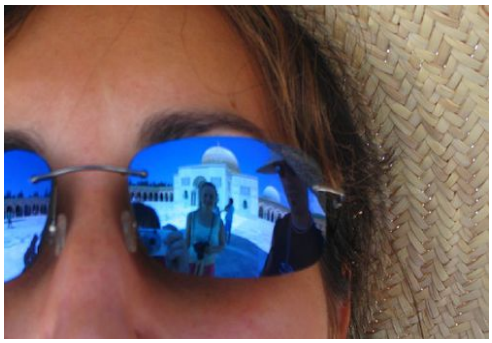

Photo: Véronique Debord-Lazaro

Photo: Miroslav Krejcirik

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Top 5

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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 6km (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'll 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.

DO & SEE

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The Ribat

This is probably the main attraction in Monastir, 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.

Address: City Centre
Phone: +216 73 461272

The Big Mosque (Bourguiba Mosque)

The beautiful Mosque was originally built in the 9th century. 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: City Centre

Monastir Museum

This other museum presents a varied collection of traditional regional clothing and costumes. You even have the opportunity buy some at the shop.

Address: Ribat
More Info: Closed on Mondays

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
Phone: +216 73 472 054

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.
Below are listed some useful numbers:

Cap Marina Monastir: +21673 462 305
Monastir Diving and Leisure: +216 73 462 509/305
Sahara Beach: +216 73 521 001

EATING

Photo: Miroslav Krejcirik

The food 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'll find plenty of good restaurants in the old town and the marina.

The Captain

Specialized in fresh seafood, this is one of the best addresses in town, ideally situated in the marina with superb views.

Address: Cap Marina

Le Grill

Carnivore's delight! Another great venue on the marina, offering well prepared local and international food. Great choice of meat!

Address: Cap Marina
Phone: +21673 462 136

King's

If you want to try outside the marina, King's Restaurant with its excellent Tunisian specialities is a good option.

Address: El Habib Complex
Phone: +216 73 463 394

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.

Address: Route de la Corniche
Phone: +216 73 460 517

El Chandelier Restaurant

At 5 m from the waterfront marina this pleasant restaurant recident. Handling both Tunisian and Mediterranean cuisine and creating superb fish and seafood: grilled, baked in sauce, and rumerous the best grilled meat of the marina! There is also a large choice of pizzas and pastas which makes it a perfekt spot for the whole family.

Address: Monastir
Phone: +216 73 462 232 / +216 98 406 828

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 adresses 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 Pach 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
Phone: +216 22 775 212

Del Castello Cafe

You really can't find a better spot to enjoy a coffee than at this cafe, it is located inside the Monastir ribat complex. You could easily spend a few hours cathing up with friends. In the summer time it is perfect for people watching.

Address: Monastir Ribat, Ave Harthoume ibn el-Aychine

Liptis

This little café offers visitors a quiet, enjoying a nice cup of coffee or tea. Do not forget to try the little, different sweets of Tunisia.

Address: Route de Khénis

Café Maure

In the Emir Palace hotel the Café Maure is located. Here you will find a lovely seating area. Enjoy the sweet tea and even sweeter pastries.

Address: Emir Palace Hotel

El Kahina

In the hotel Kuriat Palace you will find this little snack bar. Relax in the shade with a drink or coffee with a view over the pool.

Address: Skanes

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).

Cosmos

Inside the Tropicana Club Hotel, on the seafront, you will find this popular disco with great tasting cocktails!

Address: Skanes

Luna Mare

Sometimes it is nice to get out of the hotels for a drink. If you are in that mood, then this is the best venue for it.

Address: Route de l'aéroport - Skanes

Miami Club

The Miami Club you can find inside one of the best hotel complexes, the Amir Palace. Come here to enjoy yourself with the nice atmosphere and great tasting drinks.

Address: Route touristique - Skanes

L'Aquarius

L'Aquarius is located inside the Kuriat Palace Hotel. It has good reputation among the visitors.

Address: Skanes

Bar 51

This bar is located at Sahara Beach hotel, not only do they have nice tasting drinks but they are accompanied with a lovely view over the ocean.

Address: Skanes

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. You'll find many shops and artisans selling a large selection of carpets, ceramics, silver jewellery, brass and copper, leatherwork, wall hangings, antiques and fun stuff. Typical souvenirs are pointed "babouche" slippers and embroidered gowns that can double up as eveningwear. 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.

SLEEPING

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.

Iberostar Sahara Beach

This is a huge complex with several restaurants, bars and swimming pools located on the beach and comes well recommended. You will find good food at the hotel and a very nice staff.

Address: Skanes
Phone: +216 73 521 088 / 001
Internet: www.iberostar.com

Amir Palace

Welcome to one of the most exclusive hotels in Monastir, located right on the beach and offering excellent comfort at good prices during the low season!

Address: Route touristique - Skanes
Phone: +216 73 520 900

Neptunia Beach

Neptunia is nicely situated on the sea front. It is one of the best places in this category.

Address: Skanès
Phone: +216 73 521 818

Corniche Monastir

Want a hotel right at the water, the Corniche is an excellent choice for such a price. They offer great seafood at the restaurant!

Address: City Centre
Phone: +216 73 461 451

El Faouz

El Faouz is a small, quiet and recommended hotel. Perfect if you do not want to spend half of your budget on accommodation.

Address: Place 7 Novembre
Phone: +216 73 448 280/281

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Photo: Gorik Francois

Airport

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

You can take a bus, journey time: approx. 30 minutes or a taxi,journey time: approx. 15 minutes. You can also use the metro, which leaves the airports every 15-20 minutes and takes you to Monastir in just 15 minutes.

Phone: + 216 73 520 000 / 521 300
Internet: www.oaca.nat.tn

Taxi

Yellow taxis are the best way to explore Monastir although all the main points of interest can be done by foot. You'll find them anywhere and it's an efficient and fast way of transport. If you need a booking back to the

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airport, it's 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.

Gare Routière
+216 73 461 059

Doctor
Hôpital Universitaire Fattouma Bourguiba

Address: Ave du 1er Juin
Phone: +216 73 46 11 41/44

Dentist
It is advisable to call the Hospital or check at the hotel.

Pharmacy
It is advisable to call the Hospital or check at the hotel.

Telephone
Country Code: +216
Area Code: 73

Electricity
220 Volts, 50 Hertz

A
B
C
D
1
2
3
4
Mer Méditerranée
Port de Plaisance
Route de la Falaise
Rue du Maroc
ESSOUANI
EL MOURABITINE
Mausolée Bourguiba
Ribat Musée
Rue d'Alger
Park Zoologique
Rue de Tunis
Monastir Musée
Avenue de la République
MEDINA
R des Tripolitains
Avenue Habib Bourguiba
Palais des Congres
Rue Chedly Kallala
Avenue Farhat Hached
Avenue 7 Novembre
EL OUNS
Avenue du Combattant Suprême
ETTAWBA
Rue Ibn Sina
EL KARRAYA
Avenue Ali Ibn Abi Taleb
Rue Mohamed Abdou
R Chedly Khaznadar
Rue de Béja
Rue de Kasserine
R de Gafsa
R Sakiet sidi Youssef
R du Kef
Rue de Ksar Hellal
Rue Remada
ENNAHDHA
ESSALEM
Rue de Riadh
Rue de Somaa
Rue d'Oran
Rue du Caire
Rue de Baghdad
Rue de Damas
Rue de Beyrout
Rue Royan
ENNACIM
R de Samarkand
Rue El Koufa
Rue de Tabran
Rue de Tachkand
Rue d'Islamabad
R de Bakka
Route de la Corniche
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250 m