



Monastir

Photo: Natalia Sidorova/shutterstock



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lkpro/shutterstock

What started out as a busy fishing port on the central Tunisian coast is now a popular touristic destination showcasing some of the finest beaches in Northern Africa. Monastir offers a vast array of activities such as water sports, fishing and horse riding along with a long list of impressive hotels and restaurants. This culturally rich and enchanting city surrounded by Bedouin architecture is great to visit year-round due to the blissful Mediterranean climate and there is plenty to do and see for all ages.

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THE CITY



Kekyalyaynen/shutterstock

Monastir was founded in the 9th century on the ruins of the Punic-Roman city of Ruspina. The Ribat is the best preserved example of the architecture from this period and remains the main historical attraction of Monastir today. The Ribat is also home to the Museum of Islamic Art and Artefacts, where visitors can take a peek at some trinkets dating back over one thousand years. Get a glimpse of how the quarrels between the Fatimids and the people of Ifriqiya led to the golden age of Monastir during the Ziri era when Maliki jurisprudence was being ushered in as the bedrock of Islamic law. The Zirid Dynasty spread messages of spirituality and religion as far as Southern Europe which are recognisable even in today's interpretations of the Quran.

Perhaps the second golden era of Monastir took place just seventy years ago, when the Tunisian Monarchy was dissolved and Habib Bourguiba was named the first president of Tunisia. Bourguiba played a pivotal role in Tunisia's evolution into an independent state, passing reforms in healthcare and women's liberation amongst many others. Bourguiba features heavily throughout the city of Monastir, from road names to life-sized cardboard cutouts in the street. He is everywhere. The golden-domed Bourguiba Mausoleum is another standout

example of Tunisian architecture, demonstrating elements of Maliki heritage and typical features of the Magreb.

Although Monastir started life as a fishing port and defensive stronghold, today the city is more of a purpose-built tourist town connected by a network of pristine streets and lavish landscaping. Most of Monastir's tourist hotels are situated five or six kilometres west of the town centre near Skanes, which is conveniently close to the airport. Pay a visit to the neighbouring cities of Sousse or Kairouan and the magnificent El Jem to get a taste of real, ancient and untouched North African culture.

DO & SEE



Lizavetta/shutterstock

The marriage between historically significant architecture and modern touristic facilities makes Monastir a great destination amongst travellers seeking a relaxing and fun beach holiday with a side serving of tradition and culture. Perched on the waterfront lies the main historical attraction of Monastir, The Ribat. The impressive golden-topped Bourguiba Mosque is just a stone's throw away, surrounded by meticulously designed parks and several important landmarks. Head out of the city to experience the desert in all its glory or stroll down the seemingly endless beach to get a sense of the city when it was emerging as a fishing

port during the collapse of the Roman Empire.

Ribat



Considered the main attraction in Monastir and the best place to get a glimpse of ancient Tunisia, the Ribat built in 796 has been periodically renovated and reinforced to maintain its integrity and striking appearance. The oldest part of this defensive stronghold is situated around the lookout tower, which was built to locate enemy ships on the horizon. Visitors can climb the old watchtower for some expansive views over the city and visit some of the other more recent structures, such as prayer rooms that were added during the centuries following its inception.

Film buffs might be interested to know that the Ribat has been used several times as a set for international movies such as Monty Python's 'Life of Brian' and 'Jesus of Nazareth'. Admittance to the fortress as well as the museum where some ancient artefacts are displayed is fairly inexpensive and well worth it.

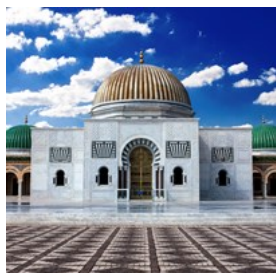
Photo: Natalia Sidorova/shutterstock

Address: Ribat, Monastir

Opening hours: Daily 8:30am-5:30pm

Phone: +216 42 223 476

Bourguiba Mausoleum



This majestic mausoleum dedicated to the 'Father of Modern Tunisia' Habib Bourguiba is decked out from top to bottom with white marble and decorative touches of emerald green, making it gleam in the hot sun of Monastir. The two towers

poised on either side of the entrance to the tomb resemble the minarets of a typical Maghreb mosque. Indeed, most of the architecture that was designed by French architect Olivier Clement Cacoub bears a strong resemblance to traditional Islamic places of worship.

Inside the mausoleum lies the Tunisian president of the 1960s, encased in an ornate marble sarcophagus which can be viewed up close on the ground floor or from above by accessing the balcony through an unassuming door to the right of the main entrance. Although it is free to enter the mausoleum, some may prefer to gain further insight into the history of the building by booking a tour from one of the licensed tour operators in the main city. It is inadvisable to hire the services of those guides operating within or beside the grounds of the mausoleum as most are unqualified. Opening times may vary and if the main entrance is closed, visitors can enter through a separate entrance on the other side of the building.

Photo: Lyubov Timofeyeva/shutterstock

Address: Mausoleum of Habib Bourguiba, Monastir

Opening hours: April through October: daily 9am-5:30pm.

November through March: daily 9am-4pm

Tickets: Free Entry

Bourguiba Mosque



Built in 1963 to commemorate Tunisia's first president Habib Bourguiba, this colourful mosque demonstrates typical Tunisian religious architecture complete with pink marble pillars and golden mosaics which are exquisitely preserved. The impressive prayer room which is the focal point of the mosque can take up to one thousand visitors and is often busy with locals

and tourists meandering through. It is worth noting that, although admittance to the mosque is free of charge, opening times may vary. To get the most out of the experience a guided tour from one of the private tour operators in the area might be helpful.

Photo: Romas_Photo/shutterstock
Address: Bourguiba Mosque, Monastir

Sousse



In case there wasn't enough to do in Monastir, the next port up has plenty to offer in the way of rare archaeological finds and exciting history

which can be discovered in the Sousse Archaeological Museum or the Museum Dar Essid. The city of Sousse, similar to Monastir, exhibits some important ancient structures that remain intact today. The Ribat in Sousse is a bit smaller than that of Monastir and perhaps not as impressive, but it is inexpensive to enter and visitors can climb the tower right to the top to appreciate the expansive views of the city from above.

The Medina is nearby and contains the main Mosque of the city as well as a bustling souk complete with passionate traders who will test your haggling skills. Be careful of rogue traders and pickpockets in busy areas such as these and be mindful of offers made by unlicensed operators. Getting to Sousse from Monastir is very easy to do, just hop on the bus or train from the city centre and in about half an hour you'll be there.

Photo: Romas_Photo/shutterstock
Address: Sousse, Tunisia
Phone: +216 70 161 700

Internet: www.commune-sousse.gov.tn
Email: municipalite@sousse.tn

Ribat Museum

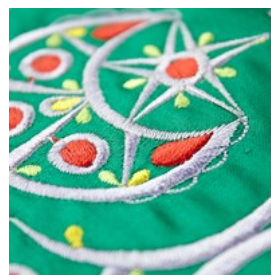


Once a prayer hall, the Ribat Museum showcases a varied collection of traditional fabrics and objects such as coins, jewellery and pottery that

will transport visitors back to a time when Islamic art was highly coveted the world over. It also displays an astrolabe (a device which measures the distance between stars) dating all the way back to the year 927, right at the time when pivotal discoveries in astronomy and mathematics were taking place. The museum is accessible from the south wing of the Ribat.

Photo: eFesenko/shutterstock
Address: Musée du Ribat, Ribat, Monastir
Opening hours: April through September: daily 8am-7pm.
October through March: daily 8:30am-5:30pm
Tickets: Free Entry
Internet: www.tunisiepatrimoine.tn/en/monuments/ribat-of-monastir/overview
Email: contact@tunisiepatrimoine.tn
More Info: Ramadan opening times may vary

Monastir Museum of Folk Arts & Traditions



This small but pleasantly decorated museum gives insight into the traditional clothing and jewellery of both the Tunisian and Berber

peoples. Stop in briefly and learn about the intricate designs of Monastir through the years. The Museum of Folk Arts & Traditions is located near the Bourguiba Mosque and is a nice, easy, inexpensive addition to a busy schedule.

Photo: art3dz/shutterstock

Address: Musée des Arts et Traditions populaires de Monastir, rue L'Independence, Monastir
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 9am-4pm, Mon closed
Phone: +216 73 501 415
Internet: www.tunisiepatrimoine.tn/en/museums/the-monastir-museum-of-popular-arts-and-traditions/the-monastir-museum-of-popular-arts-and-traditions/
More Info: Ramadan opening times may vary

Marina



This is the place for diving, fishing, windsurfing, sailing and just about any other water sport out there.

The Marina is right beside the Ribat and a luxury hotel resort which peers over the crystal clear water on the other side towards the beach. Sauntering along the marina is especially enjoyable at sunset when the fishermen return with their daily haul. Hop on a boat tour to Kuriat Island and, with a bit of luck get, a glimpse of the sea turtles and dolphins that frequent the area.

Photo: [geogif/shutterstock](#)
Address: Marina Cap, Monastir
Phone: +216 73 462 305
Internet: marinamonastir.tn
Email: marketing@marinamonastir.tn

Beach Life



White sand and turquoise water are the key ingredients to Monastir's beaches. The most obvious choice would be to head straight to Karaia

(Qaraiya) beach, which is one of the focal points of the city. However, it does get very busy in high season. For those willing to venture a little further afield for some R&R, the beaches of Sousse such as Bou Jaafar and Las Vegas Beach

are particularly beautiful.

The coast between Monastir and Sousse is a bit more utilitarian but could prove to be an interesting adventure as the locals will often come there to cast a fishing line on the beaches and for all horse lovers, there is riding and racing further inland at the Monastir Hippodrome and the Eki Club. Just beware that there is not a lot of shade on offer along the waterfront, so be sure to pack the SPFs.

Photo: [Evgeniapp/Shutterstock.com](#)

Desert Adventure



To really get a deeper understanding of the area, head inland towards the golden sand dunes that are home to a myriad of hidden treasures. One not-so-hidden treasure is the amphitheatre of El Jem which was a set for the film *Gladiator* and is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site owing to its size and importance during the Roman Empire.

Due to the drifting sands of the desert, archaeologists periodically make discoveries here, the most recent of which is a large racetrack that had gone unnoticed for centuries. A private tour, which can last anywhere between four hours and three days, will take adventurers from Monastir through the surrounding Bedouin villages, past Kairouan to El Jem.

Photo: [Rastislav Stur/shutterstock](#)

DINING



Monkey Business Images/shutterstock

The cuisine of Monastir and Tunisia on the whole defines itself with an abundance of rich olive oil and not-so-delicate spices. The national dish is the famous Berber couscous, made from durum wheat which is steamed and soaked in a thick, peppery harissa paste and accompanied by vegetables, beef, veal, lamb, fish or octopus. Monastir itself is better known for its seafood as it is right next to a major fishing port. The amalgam of sweet, sharp, smokey and tangy flavours that are infused in this seaside city's best dishes can appease even the most robust palates.

Le Pirate



Le Pirate has to be one of, if not the most esteemed seafood restaurants in Monastir. The set menu is reasonably priced considering the jaw-dropping quality of the food. The calm atmosphere beside the fishing port and the friendly service make the experience that much more appealing. The fish soup sets the four course meal off to a strong start, then comes an onslaught of mussels, octopus, seawolf, and more. There is no alcohol served here, so the food can be appreciated amongst sober heads.

Photo: sunorwind/unsplash

Address: Fishing Port, El Ghedir, Monastir

Opening hours: Tue-Sun noon-4pm / 7pm-11pm; Mon closed

Phone: +216 73 468 126

Internet: www.instagram.com/pirate_monastir

Malibu Space



This jazzy resto-lounge has a wild, tropical feel to it. Perhaps, it's because of the giant ornamental elephant sticking out of the front door. The restaurant specialising in seafood is upstairs overlooking the beach and downstairs you can grab a cocktail in the lounge area whilst listening to a live band. Whilst Malibu Space may be on the higher end of the holiday budget, there aren't too many other places you can go in Monastir that offer quality food and live music in the same place. Be sure to try the octopus salad.

Photo: Nick Fewings/unsplash

Address: Zone Touristique, Dkhila, Monastir

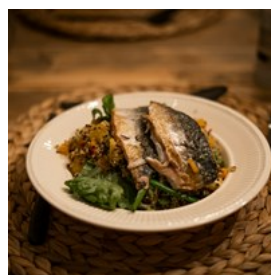
Opening hours: Daily 1pm-4am

Phone: +216 53 443 944

Internet: www.instagram.com/malibu_space_restaurant

Email: ste.zitouna@gmail.com

El Koojina



La Cocina, as it is otherwise known, is a quaint, clean and traditional Tunisian eatery that specialises in couscous and local dishes. The fresh spices really come through in the colour and aroma of the food here, and the mint tea is a refreshing palate cleanser. It's a great excuse to embark on a walk through the winding backstreets of Monastir.

Photo: Paul Einerhand/unsplash

Address: Bab El Kram 6, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-6pm, Sun closed
Phone: +216 54 060 609
Email: elkoojina@hotmail.com

Marina The Captain



The restaurant Marina The Captain specialises in fresh seafood. It can be found in one of the best spots in town, right in the middle of the Marina

overlooking the fishing boats that bring in the catch of the day. If the grilled sea bass and sea bream don't get the juices flowing, perhaps the stone cooked beef will.

Photo: sutulastock/shutterstock
Address: Marina Cap, Monastir
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 8am-1am, Mon closed
Phone: +216 92 555 655
Email: direction@marinathecaptain.com
More Info: Reservation recommended

El Ferik



Fast and friendly, El Ferik is the venue to taste the local dishes like goat meat at very reasonable prices. They also have a decent selection of fish

and alcoholic beverages. The restaurant lies right on the waterfront and offers its guests a beautiful sea view to accompany their meal.

Photo: Jenn Kosar/unsplash
Address: Route de la Courniche, Monastir
Opening hours: Daily 11am-midnight
Phone: +216 73 462 220
Internet: www.instagram.com/restaurantferik
Email: restaurantferik@gmail.com

Soprano



A firm favourite amongst students who mill around the surrounding areas which belong to the university, Soprano offers generous doses of

tomato, cheese and whatever topping your heart desires on their very reasonably priced pizzas. The staff are as warm and authentic as the dough that makes their pizzas, making them popular with locals and tourists alike.

Photo: Barbara Dudzinska/shutterstock
Address: 29 Avenue Habib Bourguiba, Monastir
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-11pm, Sun closed
Phone: +216 73 466 646

Alhambra

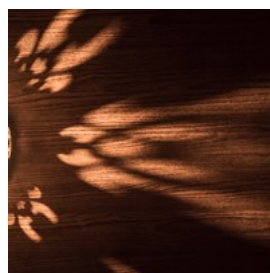


Travellers that have the willpower to stick to a tight budget will find Alhambra ideal for small bites and that fill big

holes and massive meals that go one step further. There's no alcohol served here, but the quality and portions more than make up for that.

Photo: gkrphoto/shutterstock
Address: Rue Abdessalem Trimech, Monastir
Opening hours: Daily 11am-11pm
Phone: +216 73 465 358

Le Chandelier



This pleasantly lit restaurant full of lanterns, and by virtue of which a certain smokey ambiance, is another popular addition to the

Marina. The Candle House, as it is otherwise known, serves both Tunisian and Mediterranean

cuisine and makes superb fish and seafood dishes. There is also a large choice of pizzas and pastas, making it a great spot to get some carbs in.

Photo: Extarz/shutterstock

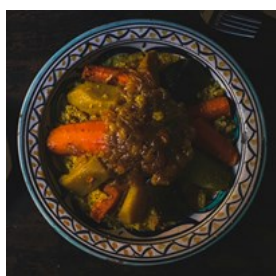
Address: Marina Cap, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10pm-2am, Sun 6pm-2am

Phone: +216 73 462 232

Email: candlehouse@gmail.com

Le Roi du Couscous



The self-proclaimed 'King of Couscous' serves up some hearty Moroccan comfort food that is popular amongst the locals due to its price point and the gargantuan portions. Be sure to make it abundantly clear what level of spice you are comfortable with as the sauces here can range from a zingy tickle to full nuclear meltdown and tastebud malfunction.

Photo: Louis Hansel/unsplash

Address: Imm Bab Essour, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sat noon-10pm, Sun closed

Phone: +216 98 277 380

Email: rhimmed83@gmail.com

CAFÉS



fizkes/shutterstock

There are many traditional cafés to be discovered in the unmapped parts of Monastir. They all serve the quintessentially Tunisian mint tea and pine nut combo. At the other end of the spectrum, you will also come across a plethora of modern establishments that are oozing with character, serving anything from frappuccinos to Belgian waffles. Take a walk through the centre of Monastir to find the best and most unique coffee houses, some of which serve a broad selection of tantalising pastries and cakes that wouldn't look out of place in high-end French patisseries.

Café Dar El Habib



Café Dar el Habib is a typical Tunisian residence, which has been transformed into a cultural café, located in the old town just a few steps away from the Medina of Monastir. Its charm lies in the weathered stone blocks, traditional decor and a collection of quirky antiques paying homage to Habib Bourguiba that come together to give the place the feeling of a museum. Pancakes, omelettes and crepes are the order of the day here and the tea is as authentically Tunisian as it gets.

Photo: Luigi Morbidelli/shutterstock
Address: Quartier des Tripolitains, Monastir
Opening hours: Daily 7am-midnight
Phone: +216 55 568 568
Email: cafedarelhabib@gmail.com
More Info: Opening times may vary

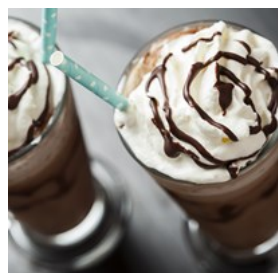
Biscottino's



This well-established French/American bakery serves up some seriously naughty pastries and cakes that are very difficult to say no to — consider yourself warned. The whipped pistachio ganache is a firm favourite amongst the locals and all their versions of traditional pâtisseries are both masterful and unique. Wash them down with a crunchy caramel frappuccino or a strong americano to start the day off with a bang, or to give yourself a boost later on.

Photo: Ruth Georgiev/unsplash
Address: Avenue Ali Bourguiba, Monastir
Opening hours: Daily 7am-midnight
Phone: +216 55 685 030
Internet: www.instagram.com/biscottino_s
Email: biscottinos.monastir@gmail.com

Friends Coffee



A great place to start your day with an ice cold frappuccino. Locals come to Friends Coffee for its sumptuous cheesecake, foamy beverages and friendly atmosphere. Make a quick pitstop in this petit cafe in the centre of town to refresh the senses and help you on your way.

Photo: Natalia Van Doninck/shutterstock
Address: Avenue Taher Ben Achour, Monastir
Opening hours: Daily 8am-11pm
Phone: +216 58 570 000

Internet: www.instagram.com/friends_coffee2014
Email: contact@friends-coffee.com

Le Bistrot



This elegant and cosy cafe in the heart of the city can get a bit busy at peak times, but it is for a good reason. The presentation is really exceptional here as each cake, crepe or omelette has its own unique character which is achieved through delicate dressings and precise craftsmanship. Whether it's breakfast, lunch or a quick coffee to go, Le Bistrot is set to serve it in style.

Photo: Jason King/unsplash
Address: Avenue 14 Janvier, Rond Point de Globe Terrestre, Monastir
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6:30am-midnight, Sun 8:30am-midnight
Phone: +216 51 900 500
Internet: www.instagram.com/le_bistrot17
More Info: You can also visit Le Bistrot + close to Monastir train station

The Hobbit



You may be thinking that a place called 'The Hobbit' is going to be serving heavy quaffs of ale and lembas bread but, alas, coffee is the main ingredient of this student-centred café. If you need to get a bit of work done whilst you're on holiday, this is the place to come. The ambience is perfect to get stuck into a bit of light reading and maybe even a board game.

Photo: Mostenire/unsplash
Address: The Hobbit, Monastir
Opening hours: Daily 8am-midnight
Phone: +216 27 954 991

Internet: www.instagram.com/the.hobbit.coffee.shop
More Info: Opposite the Monastir Faculty for Sciences

Kavos Coffee



Funky, fresh and bright yellow are three ways to describe Kavos coffee shop, popular amongst students who swarm in from the neighbouring faculties to get their caffeine and sugar fix. Enjoy a healthy breakfast of dried fruits or a waffle dripping in caramel depending on the vibe of the day. If you have a bit more time to spare, why not partake in a game of Uno or Monopoly which you can rent for a small fee from the counter.

Photo: Daniel James/unsplash

Address: South West of Avenue 18 Janvier, Monastir
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-10pm, Sun 4pm-10pm
Phone: +216 22 399 000
Internet: www.instagram.com/kavos_coffeehouse
Email: marwen6moussa@gmail.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Jacob Lund/shutterstock

Most of the late-night entertainment in Monastir is hotel-based unless you are happy to travel up towards Sousse where there is a bit more nightlife. You will find a wide range of western style bars and discos within most of the resorts in Monastir offering such entertainment as floorshows, live bands and plenty of other

excuses to get on the dance floor. Venturing off outside the resort in the evening can be a bit of an adventure as there is not a great deal of information for tourists on local after-hours haunts, but if that's what you're after, have no fear, this list is for you.

Savana Club

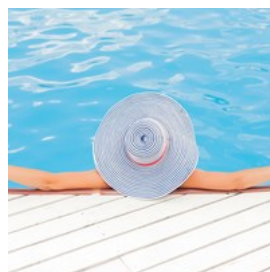


Expect high quality meals with a modern twist during the evening and bottles popping all around when the night hits at Savana Club in the expansive Safari shopping centre. Dance the night away inside where the DJs are hard at work under the strobe lights, or take a seat on their outdoor terrace to give the eardrums a chance to heal. Try the fish plate, stay for cocktails and check out the events calendar, there's always something going on.

Photo: Roman Voloshyn/shutterstock

Address: Complexe Safari Zone, Monastir
Opening hours: Daily 6pm-5am
Phone: +216 50 404 000
Email: savana.club@hotmail.com
More Info: Opening times may vary

Hacienda Beach-Pool



For those who prefer a more controlled swimming experience by the beach, perhaps with a long cocktail in hand, Hacienda Peach-Pool bar has the answer. It may be quite expensive to get in, but once the entrance fee is taken care of, visitors can enjoy the beachside pool, the four poster sunbeds, great music and the dotting service of the waiters.

Photo: Anna Demianenko/unsplash

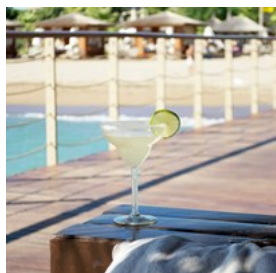
Address: Hotel Chiraz Thalasso, Sahline, Monastir

Opening hours: Daily noon-1am

Phone: +216 58 751 051

Internet: www.instagram.com/hacienda_beach_pool

Bar 51



The flagship bar of the Sahara Beach Aquapark Resort, Bar 51 is a floating fantasy perched on a pier just off the coast of Skanes beach. The

friendly staff can whip up just about any cocktail that can be dreamt up for a very reasonable price considering its location. The resort offers a whole lot more in the way of entertainment including dance and music shows, some of which however is only available for the guests of the hotel who have gone for the highly coveted all-inclusive package.

Photo: Olha Tatdot/unsplash

Address: Zone Touristique, Dkhila, Monastir

Opening hours: Daily 10am-midnight

Phone: +216 73 521 088

Internet: www.ttshotels.com.tn/saharabeach/gastronomie-detail/?id=39

Email: info.saharabeach@ttshotels.com.tn

L'Empreinte



L'Empreinte bar comes to life later into the night with blaring music from popular DJs and live bands. The set up is very stylish and equipped to

host hundreds of guests who can immerse themselves in the theme of the night which could be anything from football to Moulin Rouge. Be a bit careful here as security have been known to run a tight ship.

Photo: Zac Bromell/unsplash

Address: Zone Touristique, Dkhila, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-2am, Sun 9am-1:30am

Phone: +216 58 056 000

Internet: www.instagram.com/lempreintemonastir

SHOPPING



Linus Mimietz/unsplash

If you like haggling, you will love shopping in Monastir. As a general rule, if you are shopping in the souks or stalls, start by cutting the price in half then work your way up to a compromise from there. If you prefer fixed prices or you just get tired of haggling, try the established stores outside the souks and if you have time, the large Soula Center in Sousse. The Medina is almost always full of passionate salespeople, sweet smells and local treasures, so be sure to at least have a gander around the old quarter.

Medina



Just outside the walls of the Ribat, along the boulevard all the way to the cliff you will find hundreds of shops and artisans that make the main souk of Monastir so enchanting. A huge selection of carpets, ceramics, silver, perfumes, brass, copper, leather, antiques and many more suitcase stuffers can be found here. The Chraga district of the Medina has been recently reformed and is a great place to take a break from shopping with a sweet mint tea.

Photo: Dasha Petrenko/shutterstock

Address: Rue L'Indépendance, Monastir

Opening hours: Daily 8am-8pm

Safari



There's plenty going on in this very touristy area between Monastir and Sousse. The Safari Shopping Center isn't just for shopping, it boasts a restaurant, an artisanal goods store and groceries amongst stacks of souvenirs. The prices are fair in relation to the quality and you can find just about everything you need here. The novelty is of course the herd of life-sized giraffes and elephants out front which will make a nice photo for a postcard.

Photo: Artem Beliaikin/unsplash

Address: Zone Touristique, Dkhila, Monastir

Opening hours: Daily 8am-8pm

Phone: +216 53 443 944

Folla Center



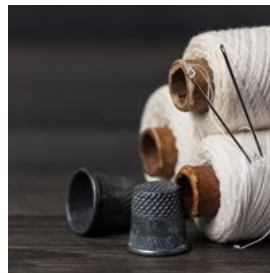
The Folla Center is a slightly more upmarket version of the nearby Safari Center, selling world famous brands alongside local artisanal goods such as carpets, clothes and souvenirs. It is a much more peaceful shopping experience here compared to the hustle of the souks, but prices are fixed so don't go in expecting to barter with the store attendants. There is a supermarket on the first floor selling strong spices and gourmet sweets that are hard to find elsewhere.

Photo: Kzenon/shutterstock

Address: Diar El Golf, Zone Touristique, Dkhila, Monastir

Opening hours: Daily 8am-9:30pm

Imagine Espace Créatif



If you want to be inspired, awed and delighted, Imagine Espace Créatif is the place to be. Explore this paradise filled with recycled arts and crafts whilst indulging in tasty homemade drinks and biscuits. Take a break in its serene garden and come inside to shop for handcrafted souvenirs, accessories and gifts. You can also participate in workshops and fascinating craft courses if you come on the right day.

Photo: Alexeysun/shutterstock

Address: Rue Salem Bchir, Monastir

Opening hours: Wed-Sun 10am-5pm, Mon & Tue closed

Phone: +216 99 569 263

Internet: www.instagram.com/imagine_monastir

Email: imagine.monastir@yahoo.com

More Info: Behind the Station and the Central Bank

Yasmina Center Dorra



Everything you need under one roof for yourself or the loved ones back home. Yasmina Shopping Center is a huge mall where you will find whatever you need, whether it be souvenirs, drinks, food, clothing, shoes or leather goods to name but a few. Moreover, here you can expect reasonable prices, air conditioned shops and multiple floors to explore.

Photo: Shepitko Tatiana/shutterstock

Address: Rue L'Indépendance, Monastir

Opening hours: Daily 8am-8pm

Phone: +216 73 425 200

TOURIST INFORMATION



Nadezda Murmakova/shutterstock

Monastir Habib Bourguiba Airport (MIR)



Monastir Habib Bourguiba International Airport (MIR) is located less than 10 km from the city centre. Taxi services can be incredibly

convenient when travelling to or from the airport. Whilst at the airport you'll find both yellow taxis and white taxis available for hire. The white taxis are designated for tourists and tend to offer a higher level of comfort. For that reason they are more expensive than the yellow ones.

The rail network of Monastir connects the airport to the city and to other major cities as well. To check the schedule of trains in Monastir and buy your ticket online, visit www.sncft.com.tn.

Photo: Rocker Sta/unsplash

Address: Aéroport International de Monastir-Habib

Bourguiba, Monastir, Tunisia

Phone: +216 73 520 000

Internet: habibbourguibaairport.com

Email: nbe.cr@tav.aero

Passport/Visa



For stays of up to 90 days, a visa is not required for citizens of 97 world countries, including all citizens of the European Union (except Cyprus), United States, Canada, Australia and Russia. Citizens of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macao, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan may only enter visa-free when travelling as part of an organised tour, upon producing a hotel voucher. For updated information at your planned time of travel, please contact an embassy or consulate closest to you.

Photo: ConvertKit/unsplash

Public Transport



There are regular northbound trains from Monastir to Tunis via Sousse and southbound trains to Mahdia via Lamta. The main railway station of Monastir is called Gare Habib Bourguiba Monastir, which is located in the city centre very close to the Ribat.

If you want to go to the capital, you can take a train from Monastir to Tunis which will leave you at the Gare de Barcelone station. If you want more information about it, check out the website of Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Tunisiens.

There is also a regular bus service to Sousse departing twice daily from Monastir bus station near the Medina, arriving in around 35 minutes at Cite Erriadh station.

Photo: YURY LEDENTSOV/shutterstock

Internet: www.sncft.com.tn

Best Time to Visit

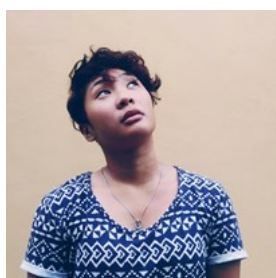


The weather in Monastir is always pleasant, but the best months to come here are June and September when the temperatures aren't too high, averaging around 29°C.

The most important festival in the city is the International Festival of Monastir which takes place in the summer at the Ribat of Monastir. With a lot of famous international artists making appearances and all sorts of entertainment being showcased such as music, theatre and ballet, the annual gathering is sure to be a memorable spectacle.

Photo: Amal Bourkhis/unsplash

Frequently Asked Questions



- Is Monastir safe?
Monastir is considered to be quite safe. As Monastir is such a popular tourist destination, there are frequent police patrols during the day and through the night. Most of the city is well lit, although it is advisable to avoid some areas after dark and always be aware of pickpockets in busy markets.

- Is Monastir expensive?

Monastir is not an expensive tourist destination. On average, the cost of living is around five times less than that of the UK.

- Is Monastir worth visiting?

The long golden beaches, clear sea and historical significance of Monastir come together to make it a popular tourist destination.

- What is the history of Monastir?

Monastir has a rich history which comes through in its expertly preserved ancient architecture dating back to the Phoenician times. The city was founded on the ruins of Ruspina after the fall of the Roman Empire. It is also the birthplace of the first Tunisian president Habib Bourguiba who transformed Tunisia during the 1950s.

Photo: Mel Lituañas/unsplash

Taxi



Yellow taxis are probably the best way to explore Monastir although most of the main points of interest can be done by foot. You can flag them down almost anywhere and it is a fast and efficient way to get around town. If you need a taxi to get back to the airport, it is best to ask at your hotel's reception desk to avoid any tourist traps.

The 'taxis collectifs' with a blue stripe painted on the side are the best way to get around the region and visit neighbouring cities such as Sousse. There is no specific schedule for these cabs, just head to the Gare Routière and hop on. They leave only once they're full.

Photo: Naseem Buras/unsplash

Post



There are several post offices in the city centre, the main one being the La Poste Monastir which is the local branch of La Poste Tunisienne. It is usually quite busy here so try and get there as early as possible. Also, make sure to get a tracking number if you are sending items abroad as they have been known to get lost in transit.

Photo: Sigmund/unsplash

Address: Bureau de Poste Monastir, rue Habib Bourguiba, Monastir

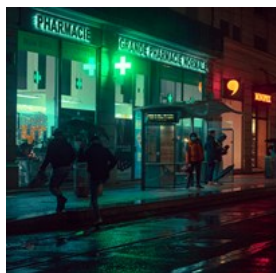
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 8am-1pm, Sun closed

Phone: +216 71 839 000

Internet: www.poste.tn

Email: brc@poste.tn

Pharmacy



There are several pharmacies located in the city centre, but for most tourists who are staying in one of the resorts or hotels along the beach near the touristic zone, Pharmacie Souani is probably the easiest to get to.

The Tunisian healthcare system is one of the best in Africa and most pharmacies have an extensive list of medications in stock. That being said, for complicated medical conditions it may be necessary to go to Sfax or Tunis.

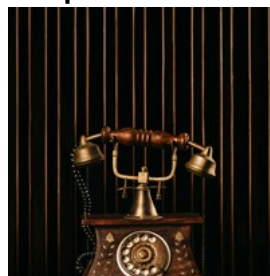
Photo: Florian Olivo/unsplash

Address: Pharmacie Souani, Avenue de la terre, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:30pm, Sat 8:30am-1pm, Sun closed

Phone: +216 73 500 700

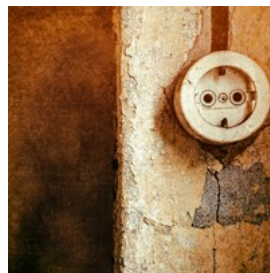
Telephone



Country Code: +216 Area Code: 73

Photo: Himanshu Ranpara/unsplash

Electricity



Tunisia operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz. Power sockets in the country are of type C and E. The Type C plug, commonly known as the Europlug, features two round pins, while the Type E plug also has two round pins but includes a socket for the earthing pin.

Photo: Denny Müller/unsplash

Population

107,127 (2023)

Currency

TND (Tunisian Dinar) = 1000 millimes

Opening hours

Most public services, banks, museums, and shops open 8am-noon and 2pm-5pm from Monday to Friday. During the summer months, opening hours in the afternoon may be extended to 8pm for some services and some banks stay open until 4:15pm. Museums are closed on Mondays, and most shops are closed on Sundays.

Newspapers

Tunisie Numérique : www.tunisienumerique.com

Réalités : <https://realites.com.tn/fr>

Tunis Afrique Presse : www.tap.info.tn/en

Emergency numbers

Police: 197

Fire: 198

Ambulance: 190

Tourist information

Discover Tunisia

www.discovertunisia.com/en/around-monastir

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