



# Monastir

Photo: Natalia Sidorova/Shutterstock.com

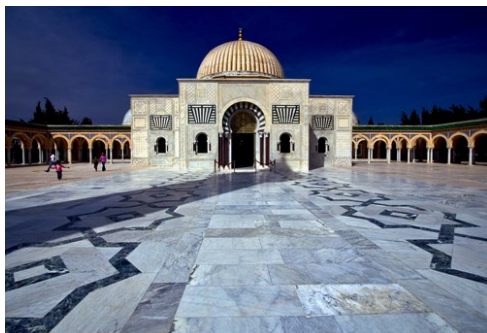


Tomasz Szymanski/Shutterstock.com

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, offering a wide range of 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.



Volodymyr Martyniuk/Shutterstock.com



lkpro/Shutterstock.com

# QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller  
Are You Based on  
Your Travel IQ?*

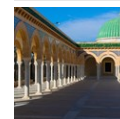
**TAKE THE QUIZ**

## Top 5



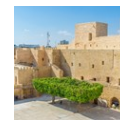
### The Ribat

This is probably the main attraction in Monastir and the right place to get ...



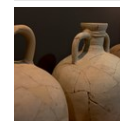
### Bourguiba Mosque

The beautiful mosque was originally built in 1963. The prayer hall has 86 pi...



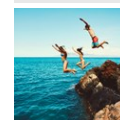
### Islamic Museum

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



### Lamta Archaeological Museum

This archaeological site presents a unique collection from the Roman period....



### Cap Marina

This is where you may head first to find out about all the beach sports such...



## THE CITY



*Kekyalyaynen/Shutterstock.com*

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. 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 travelers 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 center 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 pay a visit to the cities of Sousse or Kairouan, where you will taste the real flavor of North African culture.

## DO & SEE



*Lizavetta/Shutterstock.com*

You will 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.

### The Ribat

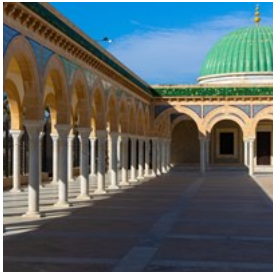


This is probably the main attraction in Monastir and the right place to get a glimpse of ancient Tunisia. The fortress has been used several times as natural décor for international movies. The oldest part is situated around the lookout tower and houses the Museum which features a great collection of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

Photo: Natalia Sidorova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ribat, Monastir

### 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.

Photo: Curioso/Shutterstock.com

Address: Bourguiba Mosque, Monastir

### Islamic Museum



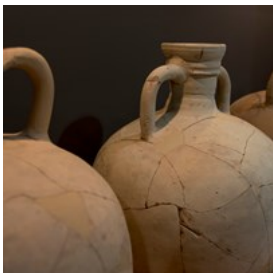
This museum is located in the Ribat and was originally the prayer hall. It presents a varied collection of traditional fabrics and different

objects such as coins, jewellery and pottery. It also displays an astro laboratory dated all the way back to year 927.

Photo: eFesenko/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ribat, Monastir

### Lamta Archaeological Museum



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

Photo: Tuombre/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenue Habib Bourguiba, Lamta

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 09.00-13.00; 16.00-19.00

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.

Photo: EpicStockMedia/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cap Marina, Monastir

### Musée des Arts et Traditions Populaires



This small museum gives you insights into the traditional clothing and jewelry of the area. Step in a learn about the people of Monastir

through the years. It is located near Bourghiba Mausoleum and adds to a day full of sightseeing.

Photo: art3dz/Shutterstock.com

Address: L'Independence, Monastir

### Beach Life



Experience outstanding beach life in Monastir and surrounding areas. You can visit La Goulette, which is close to the city Tunis and provides an

ideal spot for family holidays at the beach. A day-trip to the island of Djerba will be a beautiful experience with a lot of sun and sand.

Photo: Evgeniapp/Shutterstock.com

## Desert Adventure



When in Monastir, you should not miss out on experiencing the desert at its best. The easiest way is to book a tour with a local agency and learn more about the arid area in Tunisia.

Photo: francesco de marco/Shutterstock.com

Internet: [www.tunisiafirst.co.uk/desert\\_tours](http://www.tunisiafirst.co.uk/desert_tours)

Email: [sales@tunisiafirst.co.uk](mailto:sales@tunisiafirst.co.uk)

## Souk Shopping



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 jewelry, brass and copper, leather work, wall hangings, antiques and funny stuff.

Photo: Dasha Petrenko/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ribat, Monastir

## DINING



Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock.com

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.

Photo: Y Photo Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cap Marina, Monastir

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 11.00-15.00; 18.00-00.00

Phone: +216 73 461 449

Internet: [www.marinathecaptain.com](http://www.marinathecaptain.com)

Email: [direction@marinathecaptain.com](mailto:direction@marinathecaptain.com)

### 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

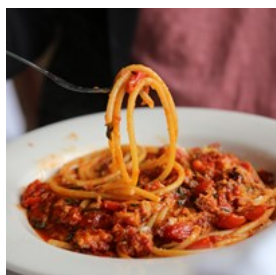
the restaurant is known for its great choice of meat.

Photo: amenic181/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cap Marina, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 12.00-15.00; 18.00-23.00

### 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.

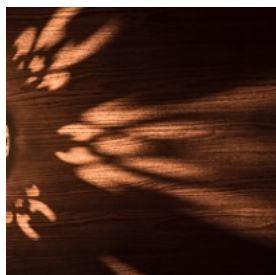
Photo: Tanya Hsu/Shutterstock.com

Address: Route de la Courniche, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12.00-01.30; Sun 12.00-00.00

Phone: +216 73 462 220

### Le Chandelier



Only a few meters from the waterfront marina you find this pleasant restaurant full of lanterns. 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.

Photo: Extarz/Shutterstock.com

Address: Cap Marina, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10.00-02.00; Sun 18.00-02.00

Phone: +216 73 462 232

Email: candlehouse@gmail.com

### Salsa Posada



At Salsa Posada you can revel in Mexican specialties 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.

Photo: Gossip/Shutterstock.com

Address: Airport Road, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 12.00-14.30; 18.30-01.00

Phone: +216 24 130 638

More Info: Near Sahara Beach Hotel

### Soprano



Craving pizza? Then stop by Soprano and get your doze of cheese. The servings are generous, the prices affordable and the staff impeccable. You won't regret coming here for lunch, dinner or a snack in between a full day of sightseeing.

Photo: Barbara Dudzinska/Shutterstock.com

Address: 29 Avenue Habib Bourguiba, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 08.00-23.00; Sun 09.00-23.00

Phone: +216 73 466 646

### Al Hambra



Low-budget travelers will find Monastir a great place for cheap meals. Especially Al Hambra can be recommended for small pockets and great hunger. Step in for lunch or just a quick coffee in the afternoon, you won't be disappointed.

Photo: gkrphoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenue Trimeche, Monastir

Phone: +216 73 465 358

More Info: Oposite the Gift Shop Centre Near Minare

### La Baita



At La Baita you will find a piece of Italy in the middle of Monastir. From home-made spaghetti to spicy pizza it offers all you could wish for. Order

a bottle of wine with your meal and stay for some sweet Tiramisu.

Photo: Lapina Maria/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenue de l'Environnement, Cite E.I. Omrane, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 11.00-23.00

Phone: +216 21 508 178

### La Voile



Located in the luxury Thalassa hotel, this restaurant welcomes you with a great selection of international cuisine in an

great atmosphere. Grab a lunch at the beach or step in for a meal in the classy dining hall. There is something for everyone on the menu and the friendly staff is always at your side.

Photo: Alena Haurylik/Shutterstock.com

Address: 75 Route Touristique Skanes B.P., Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 11.30-00.00

Phone: +216 73 520 520

Internet: [www.thalassa-hotels.com](http://www.thalassa-hotels.com)

## CAFES



fizkes/Shutterstock.com

There are plenty of cafes in Monastir, almost all hotels have a coffee and in the bazaars you'll find both coffee and the traditional mint tea. Following are a few addresses to cafes in Monastir, you will probably find your favorite hang out easily just walking down the street. Why not try some shisha to your tea?

### 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.

Photo: beats1/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenue des Martyrs, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 06.00-23.00

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.

Photo: Yulia Grigoryeva/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Route Touristique Skanes, Monastir  
Phone: +216 73 520 900  
Internet: [www.amirpalace-hotel.com](http://www.amirpalace-hotel.com)  
Email: [dc.amirpalace@gnet.tn](mailto:dc.amirpalace@gnet.tn)

### Le Vivarium



Refined taste, quality service and friendly staff. The atmosphere is very cozy, forged by a hip, welcoming interior. Offerings include

spectacular breakfasts, including guests' favorite pancakes.

Photo: Thongsuk Atiwannakul/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Rue Salem Bchir, Monastir  
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 09.00-22.00  
Phone: +216 50 609 609

### Cultural Cafe Dar El Habib



A peaceful place with character, Cafe Dar el Habib is a typical Tunisian house transformed into a cultural café, located in

the old town, just a few steps away from the Medina of Monastir.

Photo: Luigi Morbidelli/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Quartier des Tripolitains, Monastir  
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 07.00-00.00  
Phone: +216 55 568 568  
Email: [cafedarelhabib@gmail.com](mailto:cafedarelhabib@gmail.com)

### Friends Coffee



A great place where you can start your day with a refreshing morning frappuccino! Everybody comes to Friends Coffee for its delicious

cheesecake, tasty drinks and central location, perfect for taking a break while you're visiting the city.

Photo: Natalia Van Doninck/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Avenue Taher Ben Achour, Monastir  
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 08.00-23.00  
Phone: +216 58 570 000  
Email: [contact@friends-coffee.com](mailto:contact@friends-coffee.com)

### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



*Jacob Lund/Shutterstock.com*

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 neighboring resorts of Sousse (Skanes area).

### 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.

Photo: Minerva Studio/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Zone Touristique Skanes, Monastir  
Phone: +216 73 520 900  
Internet: [www.amirpalace-hotel.com](http://www.amirpalace-hotel.com)  
Email: [dc.amirpalace@gnet.tn](mailto:dc.amirpalace@gnet.tn)

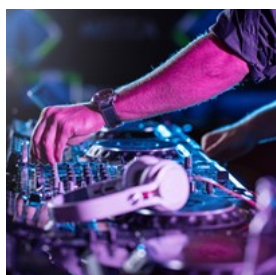
### Bar 51



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.

Photo: dotshock/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Route Touristique Dkhila, Monastir  
Opening hours: 10:00 to 00:00  
Phone: +216 73 521 088  
Internet: [www.saharabeach.com.tn](http://www.saharabeach.com.tn)

### 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.

Photo: Vladimir Hodac/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Avenue Habib Bourguiba, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 23.00-04.00  
Phone: +216 26 779 069  
More Info: Located at Hotel Delphin El Habib

### Ali's Bar



This bar serves delicious cocktails and chilled 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.

Photo: Kondor83/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Zone Touristique Dkhila, Skanes, Monastir  
Phone: +216 21 014 154  
Email: [bilel.behi@live.fr](mailto:bilel.behi@live.fr)

### Savana Club



Expect high quality meals with a modern twist from Savana Club in Monastir. Dine in the low-light setting of the beautifully decorated indoors place or take a seat on their outdoor terrace. Try the fish plate, stay for cocktails and check the events calendar - there might be a party on at a later hour.

Photo: Roman Voloshyn&Shutterstock.com  
Address: Complexe Safari Zone, Monastir  
Phone: +216 50 404 000  
Email: [www.savana.club@hotmail.com](mailto:www.savana.club@hotmail.com)



## SHOPPING



fzd.it/Shutterstock.com

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. 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.

### Souk Shopping



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.

Photo: Dasha Petrenko/Shutterstock.com

Address: Monastir

### Typical Souvenirs



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!

Photo: Ekaterina Pokrovsky/Shutterstock.com

Address: Monastir

### Folla Shopping Center



relaxed atmosphere.

If you don't like haggling and bargaining, step by at the Folla Shopping Center. Here you get everything for fixed prices and can shop in a

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: Diar El Golf, Zone Touristique Dkhila, Monastir

Phone: +216 252 930 00

Email: soula.a@folla.tn

### Imagine Espace Créatif



wonderful paradise and try tasty drinks and homemade biscuits! Take a break in its beautiful garden and come to this shop for memorable handcrafted souvenirs, accessories, gifts and crafted objects. Here, you can participate also in workshops and fascinating craft courses.

If you want to be inspired, awed and delighted, you must check out this place, right next to the train station of Monastir! Explore this

Photo: Alexeysun/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue Salem Bchir, Monastir

Opening hours: Wed-Sun 10.00-17.00

Phone: +216 99 569 263

Email: imagine.monastir@yahoo.com

More Info: Behind the Station and the Central Bank

### Yasmina Center Dorra



Everything you need for yourself or for presents. Yasmina Shopping Center is a huge artisan souvenirs shopping mall where you will find

whatever you need: touristy souvenirs, drinks, Tunisian foods, clothing, shoes, leather goods and handcrafted stuff. Moreover, reasonable prices, air conditioned and many floors to explore.

Photo: Shepitko Tatiana/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rue Sakka, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 08.00-20.00

Phone: +216 73 425 200

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Nadezda Murmakova/Shutterstock.com

### Monastir-Habib Bourguiba Airport



Monastir-Habib Bourguiba Airport is located just 10 km from the city center. 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.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Monastir-Habib Bourguiba Airport

Internet: [www.habibbourguibaairport.com](http://www.habibbourguibaairport.com)

### 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, Russia, and an extensive number of further states. Citizens of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macao, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan may only enter visa-free when travelling as part of an organized 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: TukTuk Design

### Public Transport



There are regular train services to Tunis and Sousse to the north and Mahdia to the south. The railway station is located in the city center, very

close to the Ribat.

If you want to go to the capital, you can take a train from the station of Monastir to Tunis, which will leave you at the Barcelone station. If you want more information about it, check out the website ([www.sncft.com.tn](http://www.sncft.com.tn)).

There are also regular bus services to Sousse. The bus station is located near the Medina.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

### Best Time to Visit



Temperatures in Monastir are always pleasant, but the best months to come here are June and September, when the temperatures aren't too

high and average around 29°.

The most important festival in the city is the International Festival of Monastir. It takes place in summer in the Ribat of Monastir, with many shows including music, theater and ballet, and a lot of famous international artists making appearances.

Photo: VectorA

### 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.

Photo: Taxi

Address: Gare Routière, Monastir

### Post



There are a couple of post offices in the city center. One of the main is Post Office Tunisienne, open from Monday to Friday. All the information below:

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Avenue de la Republique, Monastir

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08.00-12.00; 14.00-16.30

Phone: +216 20 079 736

### Pharmacy



There are a few pharmacies located in the city center. 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:

Photo: Gemma Garner

Address: Avenue de la Terre, Souani, Monastir

### Telephone



Country Code: +216 Area Code: 73

Photo: Jardson Almeida

## Electricity

220 Volts, 50 Hertz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

## Population

93.306

## 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: 198  
Ambulance: 190

