

Double S Travel

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**Double S Travel Worldchoice - Celebrating Twenty Four Years of service
to the residents and businesses in the South Bedfordshire area 1985 - 2009**

Steve of Double S Travel's Factsheet for 26 April 2009

Today's Exchange Rates

Euro. Our tourist sell rate today: £1 = 1.08911 better than last week
US Dollar. Our tourist sell rate today: £1 = 1.52851 better than last week

Stop Press

Channel Islands warning. The Department of Health has issue a warning to all Britons planning to travel to Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, Sark and Herm as these destinations are not covered by the EHIC (European Health Insurance Card). Although part of the UK, these islands are crown dependencies and are not part of the European Economic Area (EEA). Holiday-makers are therefore being urged to take out travel insurance.

British Airways made a £400m loss in the last year. Even more reason to ensure you protect your money by booking through an ATOL holder and not direct with an airline.

Tunisia, Cheap to Luxury.

Cheapest found.

Stanstead to Monastir, 31 May, 7 nights at the 3* star Sinbad Center Hotel in Port El Kantaui, half board, £295 each based on two people sharing.

Family 3* in school holidays

2 adults 2 children, Stanstead to Monastir, 9th Aug, 7nights, 3* Neptunia Beach Hotel in Skanes, all-inclusive, £2212 total.

2 adults 2 children, Stanstead to Monastir, 9th Aug, 7nights, 3* Sinbad Center Hotel in Port el Kantaoui, bed and breakfast, £1881 total.

5* Luxury

2 adults, 9th August, 7 nights at the 5* Yasmine Beach Hotel in Hammamet, all inclusive, £601.53 per person.

Where are these places?

Tunisia

A land of golden beaches and jostling medinas, this north-African country has the Sahara desert in the south and golf courses and beaches along the coast. August average temperature is 34C (93F). Flying time 2 ½ hours from London.

Members of ABTA, Association of Cruise Experts, Leading Cruise Agent
IATA accredited. CAA ATOL licence 6766.

Proprietor: **SJ Pattenden TD, BA (Hons).** VAT Number 449 3040 53.

Finalist Travel Agent of the Year 2009, 2006, 2005.

Finalist Business Travel Agent of the Year 2006. Nominated Travel Agent of the Year 2008, 2007.

Skanes

Skanes is on the NE coast of Tunisia and is essentially a modern extension of the historic town of Monastir and is one of Tunisia's foremost tourist destinations, mainly because the airport here is capable of handling large numbers of charter flights. Extending for 10 mls along the coast towards Sousse, this is the location for the bulk of tourist accommodation. About 4 mls to the E, the bustling old town centre of Monastir remains reasonably picturesque, with as much Arabic charm and atmosphere as can be expected from a mass-tourism destination. Dominated by its walled old town (medina) and an ancient but well-preserved fort, it is also home to a presidential palace and mausoleum of the late president Habib Bourguiba. The usual host of small, unsophisticated shops, bazaars, pavement cafes and restaurants are abundant in numerous side streets and clustered around the pleasant, modern yacht marina of Cap Monastir. Young budget to middlemarket families and more mature couples. Particularly popular with British, Germans and French.

Port el Kantaoui

Port el Kantaoui lies 25 miles NW of Monastir airport and comprises a narrow, 2½ mile long coastal strip on either side of a compact, purpose-built resort, centred on a neat modern marina. The marina is surrounded by a motley collection of cheap and cheerful souvenir shops, stalls, assorted waterfront cafes, restaurants and accommodation blocks – all built in sanitised, modern style. Radiating out from here is a succession of ever more grandiose hotels stretching out along the sandy coastline. All this has been built since 1979.

Hammamet

A large, well-established resort lying 60 miles North of Monastir airport. It first found popularity in the early 1970s, Hammamet stretches nearly 10 miles around the bay. Rapid hotel development has resulted in its further expansion several miles to the W, in the form of another tourist zone called Yasmine Hammamet. The town's focal point – located on a small, central promontory – is the walled old town (Medina), whose crowded, twisting alleyways have a genuine North African atmosphere. At one corner stands the impressive and well-preserved old fort, which overlooks a broad sweep of beach littered with small, brightly coloured fishing boats typical of the region. The Medina is surrounded by a more modern but rather shambolic shopping district of bustling stores and street stalls wedged between restaurants and cafes. The resort is suitable for middle to up-market couples and families looking for a beach holiday with a difference. Hammamet is particularly popular with British, French and German pensioners in winter. More recently it has become popular amongst Eastern Europeans and Russians.

Double S Travel Worldchoice 01582 752 752.
Visit our website at www.doublestravel.co.uk .

Always:

- Check that your passport does not expire within six months of your return date.
- Ensure you have taken out good travel insurance and if going to Europe, take your EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) with you too. www.ehic.org

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- Put the 24hour UK Consular Assistance number - +44 020 7008 1500 into your mobile telephone – just in case you need emergency help.
- If hiring a car, don't forget to take both parts of your photo driving licence (the card and the paper counterpart) and a credit card with you. Some rental companies no longer accept the old-style green paper non-photo driving licences.
- Ensure you have all the visas you need in order to travel.
- If you have booked connecting flights, the baggage allowance may be smaller than your long-haul flights. To avoid extra charges, pack to the lowest baggage allowance.
- Tell your credit card and debit card issuer where you are going and for how long otherwise you may find your cards may be blocked. Take a Cash Passport instead of your debit card – much safer.
- Use public transport to get to the airport. Most travel insurance will only cover you for a missed departure if you used public transport.
- Take a photocopy of your passport with you. If you lose your original it is much simpler to replace if you have a copy available.
- Protect your money and your holiday by booking an ATOL protected holiday through a reputable travel agent. Even short-breaks using no-frills airlines can be covered if booked through an agent.
- Declare all medical conditions and hospital visits at the time of taking insurance and tell the insurer if you develop a medical condition before you travel otherwise they may not settle if you try to make a claim.
- Travelling to or through the USA? You need a visa (called an ESTA) in order to travel. www.usembassy.org.uk

In brief:

Thinking of going to New Zealand next year? Join my group, we depart in late January! Places are limited. Call me on 01582 752752 or email me at steve@doublestravel.co.uk for details.

Interested in a cruise? Visit our cruise club website at www.upadeck.co.uk it contains details of over 20,000 cruises, port descriptions and ship details!

Do you Twitter? Follow Double_S_Travel.

If you would like to join my emailing-list to receive offers and news, simply email steve@doublestravel.co.uk and put 'Mailing List' in the subject box.

Remember, travel safely, protect your money by booking through an ATOL holder, but most of all - enjoy your travelling.

All the best, Steve Pattenden. steve@doublestravel.co.uk

Acknowledgements. DG&G Gazetteers for much of the destination information.

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