

Tata – April 10, 2020 – Tata, Morocco

We woke with a planned drive from Taфраout to Taroudant by way of Tazalaght, Imitek, Tata, and Igtherm. However, about 30 minutes outside of Tata Nancy suggested we stop in Tata for the evening. I immediately agreed, our long drives do tire one out.

Nancy grabbed the Lonely Planet Morocco book and looked for lodging in Tata. We decided on a place with so-so reviews but a bar. As we drove into town, I pulled over to see if we could get the internet and google maps – No. But Nancy sees a sign for the hotel we want, damn good luck. I drive a hundred feet, make a left and pull into the hotel unloading area – looks dead. It is closed. Nancy and I agree on hotel #2 which I had seen a sign for as we drove into Tata – it's closed. As we drive through town, we see the Lonely Planet's 3rd and last hotel. It's open and we get a room. What can I say, I think we have had worse and Nancy's not sure. Price is \$31/night and no breakfast but a restaurant that serves beer.



It was the bathroom, and its lack of cleanliness Nancy wasn't impressed with. I got the wall side of the bed.

We dumped our bags and headed for the bar and restaurant. The few tables already had people but we found a small sofa and sat down. After about ten minutes of watching the two servers wait on others but not even look at us I waved one over. We ordered two beers. Again,

I waved a server down and ordered one more beer. After splitting three beers we ask for menus. It is 4:05 pm and we are told the kitchen closed at 4:00 pm. You got to be kidding.

We get up without paying or signing for the beers and head for the street. About five minutes later we see several places and choose one with green tables in the shade.

What a find! Great food, great owner, and we enjoyed the street ever changing people walking in either direction. More women than men and none of the women wearing western dress.



Many of the women wore bright colors and some also wore a dark blue or black head and shoulder draping shawl.



This gentleman was an exception to the rule of wearing mostly white. His isn't the only baseball cap we saw. Several women were sporting their own caps.





Not everybody was wearing masks but a significant number were mask wearing.



These two ladies walked in front of our table. The plaid was very attractive. And no, ladies do not like being photographed. So, most of my photos are with their backs to us or from across the street or farther away.





As I noted before: black isn't a favorite color of the desert women.

The next morning, we did not even bother to try the hotel for breakfast. I turned my key in, paid \$31 for the room and \$9 for the three beers, and headed for the 4Runner. We loaded up and drove to our favorite restaurant in Tata. I will add that we both ordered eggs and five minutes later after the coffee, a large, tall glass of orange juice, bread, jelly, honey, etc. arrived the owner put down in front of each of us a tajine dish of three of the most delicious eggs I have ever eaten.



After breakfast I asked the owner for directions to the semi-backroad we wanted to take (I say semi because it was paved all the way). He smiled and pointed down the street and told us we couldn't get lost because there were no paved turn offs from this road. Next time you are in Tata, Morocco I highly recommend eating at Al Mansour's.