

Casablanca – April 18, 2021 – Casablanca, Morocco

Today was Sunday and no one was working on transporting our 4Runner from Morocco to South Africa. We decided to go bathing suit shopping. Nancy and I both thought we had left bathing suits in the 4Runner when we left Morocco last year at the beginning of the pandemic. We returned to Morocco and the 4Runner to find no bathing suits. The front desk suggests the Marina Mall, grabbed a taxi and off we went.

It was maybe a 15-minute ride that cost about \$2.50 – we over paid. The mall was two floors with two U.S. small medium sizes store, a large grocery store, 30 small shops and a dozen eating establishments. Took us less than 45 minutes to see everything including maybe 10 women swimsuits and to head for the door.

Took a taxi to Hassan II Mosque. This is the third largest mosque in the world – and was closed, no tours. This is the one tourist attraction that Casablanca claims and it wasn't open to the public.



We spent a few minutes ocean and people watching before walking in the general direction of our hotel.



The children were having a blast in the cars and motorcycles. The ocean is behind us.



Beautiful ocean and sky.



This area of Casablanca was definitely the upscale area of the city or at least the most upscale we have seen.

By this time I had opened Google maps and we were walking a route back to our hotel. Google maps said we should be home in 45 minutes. Of course, it took us closer to an hour and half. We found the edge of a market and then we were in the center of the market. This street market was a dozen blocks or longer with everything from fruit and vegetables to cooking pots and pans to wrought iron gates to Ramadan fried cookies to the always present shoes and slippers.



Nancy bought a papaya. She had the hotel waiter slice it up for our evening dinner dessert. We ate maybe a quarter, and the waiter got the remainder.



Nancy liked the looks of the green squash – lower center of photograph. If we had a kitchen, I am sure we would have tried the squash along with other vegetables and fruits.



The market began with a wide street with stalls on both sides. Lots of room for a market even with the cars and motorcycles. Lots of people but lots of room for everyone.



Ceramic tagine pots and other cooking and serving pieces.



There was even a plant nursery within the market.



Need a fence or gate – this is the guy. He was welding as we walked by.



Advertising or street art – your guess is as good as mine.



All of a sudden, the market was smaller and more crowded. As Nancy put it, “a super spreader event” if there ever was one. We were masked up and so were 50% of the people. We walked a half dozen blocks through the people while enjoying everything that was displayed for sale.



There is always time to talk.



I wish I could have taken a better photograph of the women. She was much more than just her hair color.



Focus on the man on the left's hair knot. I need a haircut, should I go for the knot look?

We had decided to exit the market and were back on a main street.



Still walking toward our hotel. Less than 30 minutes from home. It was in the low 70's, sunny with a slight breeze – great walking weather. Only if a café or two had been open so we could have a cup of tea or coffee.

We stopped at the grocery store maybe a block and a half from the Radisson Hotel. This grocery store is large with a good selection of food. Unfortunately, no prepared food and our room doesn't even have a microwave. Bought some yogurt and coke for the room refrigerator.

Casablanca is a city of 3.5 million people but feels much smaller. We haven't explored much because we think the shipping company is going to call us any minute and request we do something to facilitate the shipping of our car – not yet. However, if you visit remember Casablanca isn't a tourist city it is the business hub of Morocco.