

Sunday December 1st to Wednesday December 4th, 2024

Sunday December 1st, 2024.

Another month has passed...

A bit of a sleep in this morning, then a day of catching up on language homework. We walked into town for tea. We also bought bread at a bakery near two of our favourite restaurants. This means carrying two round loaves of bread home.

Sometimes this results in cheeky comments from locals about David's big buns. He is considered a good catch by the local women because obviously there is enough money for a lot of food.

Monday 2nd December, 2024.

Temple Day : Ta Tuot, Kor Sak, Daun Mea etc.

These temples are part of the Preah Pithu Group, almost opposite the Terrace of the Leper King. The Japanese people are helping with restoration works, which means one of the bigger temples in this group is out of bounds. There are still plenty of other ruins, carvings and temples to see.



Tree reflected in the pond at the southern end of the temple group.



Carvings in the central tower of the Ta Tuot temple.



Looking back at the pond, from near the top of the Ta Tuot temple.



This temple was guarded by lions.



Elephants at the eastern walkway back to the temple.



Chariot carved at Kandaek Yeak temple.



Smooth columns supporting the walkway to Prasat Daun Mea temple (at the west entrance).



Supporting columns to the walkway to Prasat Kor Sok temple (western entrance).



Naga balustrades on the walkway to Kor Sok temple.



Seven headed naga... and important building.

The walkways of these two temples lie behind the last of the restaurants and the car park at the northern end of the Terrace of the Elephants.



Trees invading the western gopura (Daun Mea).



Guardian lion?

Back at our apartment, we were invited to the family shared meal for our landlord's son's wedding. Tables and the barbecue were set up near the big sliding door (near the pool).

Once again, we knew quite a lot of the people (including my hairdresser).

It was a good opportunity to practise my Khmer.

We contributed two bottles of Australian red wine.

We brought down the licquorice assortments, but didn't get to see everyone try them.

The food included Vietnamese rolls (rice noodles, herbs, beef and fried spring rolls, wrapped in lettuce leaves), Khmer chicken (black skinned, small, and very tasty... worth gnawing down to the bones), fish with lime and ginger and chili, grilled sweet potatoes.

And turtle. These are cooked elsewhere and bought in, quite expensive (not the same as the turtles in the pond next door, but those are for eating too).

Apparently, the best part is the turtle egg, a bit like chicken, with a string of them at varying stages of development.

They taste like chicken egg yolks and that was all I was prepared to try.

Once the turtle meat has been eaten, they pour whisky into the shell and then fill glasses using a spoon (or just by tipping up the shell!)

That night went on a long time for old people like me, but it was fun.

Interesting too, was that the Australian family here for the wedding and a holiday, had all been to the dentist... two had to go back the next day!

Tuesday 3rd December, 2024.

We slept in. It is harder to do late nights like that when you get old!

We walked into town for coffee (and avocado chocolate cake, very rich and not sweet) at a cafe that donates part of its profits to people with injuries from landmines.

Wednesday December 4th, 2024.

Anjali Day and cleaning.

And... I had to finish my homework.