

## **Saturday 7th December to Monday 9th December, 2024**

### **Saturday 7th December, 2024.**

We caught a Tuktuk both ways to Angkor Supermarket ( not much of an excuse for it... the weather is cooler and we didn't have a late night party the day before...)

Note: small jars of Vegemite back on the shelves.

We went into town to see the Christmas Tuktuk parade. The route wasn't published but it began and ended at the Royal Gardens, so riverside was a good place to be.

There weren't many people along the riverside roads, but we did see our upstairs neighbours amongst the "crowd".

The tuktuks looked great, even the ones just with some green and red balloons. We saw some businesses we knew, and quite a lot of the hotels had tuktuks as did The Mended Drum, an Aussie pub on Street 63 that we walk by most days. I was given a t-shirt from the Tuktuk decorated by the Siem Reap Football club.



**Sorry about the fuzzy pictures.**





**The Santa Suit selling shops did big business this year.**







There were even some of the little rickshaws decorated for the occasion. This is an “Onion” rickshaw, an electric vehicle.

We had tea at a street side sit down cafe, riverside. They apologised for taking a long time, but it didn't seem that long. Good tasting food and a nice spot to watch the traffic go past.

We had a quick chat with our neighbour on the way home. He is still busy making fishhooks. Although I can't always put words into sentences, I can say enough words in Khmer for his wife to follow our conversation.



## **Sunday 8th December , 2024.**

Being old, we needed a quiet day at home.

Note : I have increased my swimming back to 30 (double) laps of the pool.

## **Monday 9th December, 2024.**

### **Temple Day : Baphuon**

The Baphuon is an interesting temple. It was thought to have been built by Udayadityavaraman (1050 to 1066) but carbon dating has determined it to be older and associated with Suryavarman I (1010 to 1050).

It is a pyramid temple built on a man made hill (not a very big hill!). It is a big temple, though. In it's time, it was gilded with bronze (which would have been a magnificent sight in the sunshine).



**Looking east towards the Baphuon, along the long, raised walkway from the beginning of the Terrace of the Elephants.**





**Side view of the Baphuon, from the man made hill.**

In about 1440, the back towers of this structure were taken apart and the stones used to create a reclining Buddha running the width of the building.





**It is hard to see with the shadows, but this is the 70m reclining Buddha (head on the left).**





**These are the steps (east entrance) down to ground level, about 10m high.**





**This photo shows how high the man made hill is.**



**The north steps up to the temple towers had animals carvings.**













**The gopura in a laterite wall on the east had animal carvings too.**



**We don't often see carvings of people riding horses.**





**Or people wrestling cows.**





**I like the bristles on the pig's back.**

The Baphuon was completely taken apart in the 1970s (for restoration). Some 300 000 stones were numbered and laid out. Unfortunately, the Pol Pot regime disrupted the whole country and the French workers had to leave. The plans of the building were lost, but it was put back together beginning in 1996 and taking 16th years.



**We saw some wildlife too.**













