

**Tuesday 10th December, 2024.**

## **Temple Day : Phimeanakas**

Phimeanakas (or Phimean Akas) was built by Rajendravarman (who ruled from 941 to 968) and completed by Suryavarman I (1006 to 1050)...( there was considerable conflict in the intervening years including internal strife...). This temple is quite old.

It is set back behind a tall laterite wall that runs behind the Terrace of the Elephants. There are many small temple ruins in this large, walled compound.

There is a story about the temple. Apparently, the King had to meet the nine headed Naga named Nagini, every night before being with his wife or concubines. Nagini could turn into a woman.

The Woman's Pool is the larger of the water reservoirs north of the temple (still inside the wall). The Woman's Pool has been restored and some amazing carvings uncovered and restored.



**The west gopura (about 20m from the Elephant Terrace).**





**Internal walls less well restored (and the weeds are growing...).**





**Pretty flowers in the weeds, and a naga at the feet of the Garuda.**







**Internal buildings.**





**Some internal buildings made of bricks (older than the more famous temples).**





**Many trees have (Latin) names. It takes two photos to capture them!**









**This is part of the raised walkway through to the Baphuon (south of Phimeanakas).**





**Phimeanakas temple (pyramid style temple).**





**These are the remains of elephant statues at the corners of the three tiers of the temple.**





**You cannot climb up now.**





**A seven headed naga carved into the stones lining the  
Woman's pool.**





**The eastern end of the pool and the carvings. The laterite wall (in the distance) surrounds the temple, the pools and the other (ruined) buildings.**

The Royal Palace was built of wood and nothing remains.

The religious buildings are built of stone.





**David standing by the north east corner of the Woman's Pool... just to give you an idea of the size of the trees.**





**The north gopura. This leads into an area with a long raised walkway (Tep Pranam) and a modern (working) pagoda.**



At this end of the Royal Palace grounds, we are at the end of the Terrace of the Elephants.



**A broken statue in the carefully laid out stones of what is left of the buildings of Tep Pranam.**





### **Another broken statue.**

The Koreans are busy in this area, and are quite strict in not letting passersby take photographs of their restoration works (on the Elephant Terrace).