

Thursday 23rd to Friday 24th January 2025

Thursday 23rd January 2025.

Temple Day : we tried to visit the Ta Som Dam, not really a temple, but they are still working on the car park and toilets for Ta Som itself, so we rode on around (the grand circuit) to East Mebon.

This is the temple with the elephants on the corners. They make good points of interest in photos.

As do the three types of building materials : brick towers, the laterite walls and gopura and the sandstone of other buildings and finishing touches over the laterite.





Three types of building materials.



Elephants on the corners. Lions guarding the stairs (cardinal - north, south, east and west) and some side buildings (minus their roofs).



Each level is about 2 meters tall.



These temples are points of interest for both Buddhist and Hindu worshipers.

We chatted with the local vendors, who try their best to convince us to buy one more scarf or even some coffee. We also had the story about the country (village) children not having the opportunities of the city kids to learn English and that we could come out and teach them.

It is simply too far to ride (about 45 minutes). And we are not going to live in a village. We are spoiled that Anjali is less than five minutes on the motorbike.

My language teacher has succumbed to the smoke in the air (they are calling it a “cold” but it is “hay fever” ... the government has declared the air perfectly safe despite the Asia Air Map saying it is “unhealthy” ... and we have less particles than Phnom Penh).

So I had David’s teacher. We chatted a bit (questions from the first five chapters) and then we went through the next chapter = “how”.
Half of it is “what” in English.

Eg What did she tell you? She told me that
And How do you say “mouse” in Khmer?

Note : I woke up to a sore shoulder... too much cleaning? (That wouldn't happen often.) Or have I done too much swimming? Or did I sleep on it crookedly? I didn't exercise nor swim today. I had to take some Panadol to help me sleep.

Friday 24th January, 2025.

Temple Day : wall walk... North Gate to Prasat Chrung NW.

A good walk, but without much in the way of fungus or insects. We did see two different types of eggs. So living things are continuing their life cycles.







The lichen has grown over the face, but we can still see the expression.



Wall collapse.

We saw a lot of pegs and string, measured out where part of the wall had collapsed. On walking back, a young man was there with the drawings. In broken English we worked out it was to repair the wall.



We went home to some last minute words revision, lunch and then off to class. David is finding he can remember a lot of the language we learnt, more than 18 months ago, and I muddle my way through (I say “muddle” because I still can’t quite remember all the vowels...yet).

We stay for the free class. Last week we were crowded (14 people). This week we had 5. Which meant we all had to say everything! Which is good practise.

Friday after language class feels like the start of the weekend.