

Saturday 25th to Friday 31st January 2025

Saturday 25th January 2025.

Saturday morning and it is time to walk to Angkor supermarket.

We bought a broom and a dustpan and brush. One day I will get a “swiffer”. The grass broom here has shed so much, it is not that useful anymore. I will use it on the balcony.

I have some “paperwork” goals. These include sorting out my language books.

The little exercise books I use, have a printed grid not just lines. This makes writing the Khmer letters quite easy. And they have printed maths formulae and measurement conversions etc in them too, with words in Khmer but the numbers are the ones we use (I find the Khmer numbers hard to remember too).

We walked into town for tea, Greek. On the way home, we stopped in at the Zandos Chinese New Year sale but nothing caught our eye. A local lady got David to put on a nice wool winter coat, to see the size, I suppose. I helped her get a smaller size and try it on herself. She looked really smart in it!



The new fountain in the Siem Reap River.

Sunday 26th of January

Today is Australia Day.

It is also our 40th Wedding Anniversary.

We had a very quiet day and we will save our special lunch (usually pizza) for another time.

Monday 27th January 2025.

Our new Visas have not come back yet.
Our temple passes run out today.

We walked in to town, to go to the bank, to the other supermarket for Vegemite and coffee (got the coffee) and to the book shop for another bullet journal (mine will run out in February).



On the way in to town, we walk along the river.

This boat (above) motors around in the water scooping up the water weed. The wooden triangle can be levered up and the weed pulled off the base. Simple and effective. The boat's outboard engine sounds quite powerful. It is keeping the river water clear of weeds near the new fountain.



Along the street by the river, local traffic has a problem here in Siem Reap: the issue of animals on the road. The dogs lie in the sun (the mornings are quite cool at 20C). At least this

dog has a supervisor (not sure I would trust this supervisor to have my welfare at heart!)

We also walked into town for tea. We went to the Sabai Lifestyle kitchen, pool and bar (the old Star Bar, for those who have been here). Well, prices were quite dear and the menu was very limited. I didn't want a salad for tea, so I had to have pasta. The pasta served was packet pasta with some cheese sprinkled on it, served on a broad plate, so almost cold by the time it got to us. It took 30 minutes and we were the only ones eating (four men drinking beer and one girl, sitting at the bar). It was so very disappointing.

I very nearly joined Google to write a review:

“Do yourselves a favour. Go to the supermarket and buy a packet of pasta and a jar of sauce. Cook it according to instructions. Serve in a bowl. You will have a hotter, larger, quicker, cheaper and tastier meal.”

David did write a review (and got a pleasant apology and promise to do better, with a credit for our cost of meal). I don't think we will take them up on it. On closer reading, perhaps the gushing reviews of the place were written by one person.

It was a good day, but by the evening, my throat was sore. I went to bed sniffing and woke up coughing. I had a terrible night's sleep.

Tuesday 28th January 2025.

Chinese New Year

We spent the day at home, and I had a few snoozes on the couch. I did manage to do some television watching.

David got a phone call, unusual; it was the Visa place. He then rode out to get our new VISAs.

With the new Visas, we can apply for our new Angkor tickets.

Wednesday 29th January 2025.

I had another poor sleep and we spent another day at home. Anjali has the day off today as well (as many families wanted the time to spend with their family), so David was here all day!

Thursday 30th January, 2025.

Again, poor sleep, but I am feeling a bit better.

We have been following the air quality reports. Cambodia says the air quality is good. The air monitoring stations put it in the “unhealthy” zone.

Some schools have recommended that children be kept inside, with air conditioners on (as if many schools have them!) and have no physical activity classes.

I went to language class, and went through the “How” questions. I could do most of it. So I had to listen to a conversation and answer questions in class. I got to listen to it twice and could follow it and answer the questions, so I was quite pleased.

We went out for tea, to a place opposite our bad experience cafe. This place was crowded and bustling. The “bad review” place had two people sitting at the bar. The restaurant manager should watch how things are done across the road and perhaps even try a meal (cheaper, nicer, hot, a limited menu compared with some places in town but still more choice.

I actually feel a bit sorry for the staff at the Sabai restaurant, because they are ones who would have to fend off comments from their customers.)



On a more pleasant note, this is the sunset behind the palm trees along the road to our apartment. On the right is the former crocodile farm. On the left is an empty block being prepared for building. The building (roofline) on the left is our apartment building.

Our landlord ensures there is good lighting along this bit of the road and for the pathway (and stairwell) in our building.

Friday 31st January, 2025.

I had the worst night's sleep so far.

So, yet another day at home (our new Angkor Archaeological Park tickets have not come through yet)... not that I want to go anywhere.

David has language class today too, so we went through his work. I read a Children's book and wrote it out. There were only a few words I needed to Google search.

My writing class went well. Having learnt all the vowels, I have now to learn the independent vowels (which, as the name suggest, don't need a consonant to make the sound... only they actually do...only 4 don't... so that is 15 new little extra symbols to put on consonants to make 15 new sounds... oh well, I guess I will just have to learn them too!)

And just like that, January has passed and we are into our third year in this apartment in Cambodia.