

**Tuesday 25th to Sunday March 30th, 2025.**

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**Temple Day : East Gate (Victory Gate) to Prasat Chrung NE.**



This is the ticket checkpoint at the South Gate. The buffalo seem quite at home eating the grass while tourists take photos.



We parked at the East Gate (Victory Gate) and were directed to come through the traffic bollards (wooden stumps) to where an officer sits all day long. We parked near his bike, before climbing up the path to the top of the wall.

You can see the sunshine struggling to breakthrough the smokey haze. It makes for nice photos but the air quality is low.





**This butterfly looks like a leaf.**







### **Another butterfly.**

Along this east wall of Angkor Thom, the morning sunshine has warmed up the butterflies. There are quite a few around, but they are generally very flighty and hard to photograph.



Another decent shower or two and another couple of weeks will see even more (butterflies, dragonflies, spiders and insects).



**Pretty flowers are out too.**



**Complicated patterns of yellow and black on this dragonfly. They shine gold in the sun.**





**An old snakeskin. This snake was fat! Those ventral scales were about 7cm across.**







**Seed pods, think snow peas, but with only two seeds in each.**





**This is looking outside of Angkor Thom. They have cleared this area of the moat. Excavations have found some of the Devas and Asuras from the wall. You can see the fallen trunk of a big tree, probably the same species as the tree standing by the road / this end of the Naga.**





**The serene faces of the King, Jayavarman VII, in the gate in the wall around the city of Angkor Thom.**



**Wednesday 26th March,, 2025.**

I am a creature of habit. It is Wednesday, which means David goes to Anjali and I clean the house.

I finished sewing a round bag (Kantha, using recycled material from my old shirts).



It is important to remember as we get old, any little “injury” is more significant, because it takes us longer to heal. With that in mind, it doesn’t matter how careful you are, if the people around you are careless, accidents can happen.

At Anjali, a girl on a motorbike in front of David, rolled down the driveway and crashed in to him. Her bike lay on top of his bike, with his leg in between them. He hurt his foot and calf.

She didn’t even comment, not even a sorry. David was helped by the (other) staff at Anjali. Note well, she works at Anjali!

### **Thursday 27th March, 2025.**

David’s foot and calf are only a little bit sore (we expected worse). But no templing today. Instead, I went back to “my” hairdresser and had my hair coloured and cut for \$15 (probably a western price). It took nearly two hours and included a head and shoulder massage and some language practise.



While there, waiting with dye in my hair and my head in a shower cap, the local mobile food store pulled up.

This is like the food carts, a motorbike with a side cart, but with vegetables and meat for locals to buy.

My hairdresser bought dried fish, two cauliflowers (they are the size of your first here, not big at all) two different coconut milk bags (coconut milk, and some herbs etc) and some other green vegetables. Not sure how much she paid, perhaps \$4 (all in Riel, though).

Two other neighbours came out and bought things and even the noodle soup breakfast cafe next door sent someone out to buy garlic.

My hairdresser also sent two dried fish, placed in between a wire bbq grill frame two doors along to the woman who makes waffles (nom bomb). She cooked them over her clay pot and fire on the footpath, and sent them back about fifteen minutes later!

My hairdresser's two sons came home from their schools. One of them put his hands together (sampeah) and said hello in Thai. I was surprised, but I answered him in Thai which I think surprised him!

He then asked if I wanted his father to take me home (but David was already on his way on the bike).

## **Friday 28th March, 2025.**

We spent the morning checking our language homework and searching for a power board (which still remains missing).

## **Saturday 29th March, 2025.**

It is funny, but sometimes the less you do, the less you want to do. We caught a Tuktuk both ways to the supermarket. It was a careful shop this week, with meals carefully planned (by David) so as to leave the fridge quite empty.

## **Sunday 30th March, 2025.**

Something has happened to our water... not even a trickle. Our landlord is onto it, but we're on Cambodian time, which might mean fixed in ten minutes, or it might mean "we'll look at it in an hour or so".

No washing today.

And we had to have a home delivery lunch (because we can't wash the dishes!)... Any excuse.