

Part 264 for Cathy's blog

Friday 9th May to Tuesday 13th May, 2025

Temple Day : West Gate and walk north to Prasat Chrung NW.

This side of the Nagkor Thom complex is in the shade in the morning. Even so, the sun was still hot.



The West Gate is almost completely rebuilt. We remember it when it had a dirt track to it but not through it. When we first came to live here, we found it bare and lacking in character, with its new tarred road and the bare sandstone.

Now, two years later, it is still bare, but it is beginning to soften with the jungle weeds continuously growing over the blocks (these weeds are viciously cut back by the Apsara staff in their green shirts).



(Libelago lineata ?)



Essendon bug!



**Carved people, covered in lichen or mould of some sort.
(Maybe Cyanobacteria).**



Nearly in focus... (*Orthetrum* spp. ?)

In the afternoon, we have our language lessons. Friday's lessons signal the end of the week to me.

Saturday 10th May, 2025.

It is the weekend again, and we go to the supermarket but we do not go to temples on the weekends. Local people have time off on the weekend, usually Sunday, but some have Saturday too. This means families in their cars (maybe a battered Toyota Corolla or a big 4 wheel drive) head out on the roads to the temples.

Although you need a license to drive a car, I think only some of them have one. But most of them drive as if they are entitled to hog the road. They overtake tuktuks or slower cars, just by pulling out around them, which means traffic in the opposite direction needs to get out of the way. They flash their lights.

Motorbikes have no hope. You just have to get out of their way.

We stay home on weekends (and often on public holidays too).

At home, I am working on my language (trying to catch up with what I have forgotten) and some sewing. David is also working on language practise.

Sunday 11th May, 2025.

Mothers Day

It was lovely to have a phone call from one daughter and a special Facebook post from the other (who is in Italy, which makes timing a little more awkward).

Monday 12th May, 2025.

Temple Day : Tor Temple, Tor Bridge and the other Krol Romeas.

Having been to one of the “elephant circles”, we decided to find the other which we visited more than a year ago.

This Krol Romeas is rectangular and is now home to mango trees (with the fallen fruit just lying on the ground!) and a volleyball court.

There is some information that this structure was something to do water regulation rather than an animal corral.

For those who know the area, it is north east of Preah Dak.



Many Mangoes going to waste



The laterite wall of the structure is the back of the court. Yes, it is a shame about the rubbish.



More walls and more mangoes. (PS ... it is not worth trying to save any of these mangoes as we have been given a bag of ripe ones, picked from the tree.)

We visited Tor Temple on this visit too. Tor Temple is near a small river (called River River on the map). There are some stones that are part of a bridge over this river, called Tor Bridge.



Laterite entrance.



New bridge and lock to control water flow.



Tor Temple is three laterite towers, some with restored sandstone carvings, set off the cross road near the new bridge.



In the overgrown jungle-like bush land around the temple, there were many pretty flowers.











And this green beetle which turned to face me (they often hide behind the leaf or just drop off!).



This is a different dragonfly. (*Neurothemis tullia*).

Tuesday 13th May, 2025.

David's tummy is unwell, so we stayed home.

