

Part 267 for Cathy's blog

Tuesday May 20 to Thursday May 22, 2025

Tuesday May 20th, 2025.

Today is another temple day. In an effort to keep cool, we chose the Preah Pithu group of temples. For those who have been here, these temples are behind the food stalls at the end of the Elephant Terrace.



We parked by the workers huts just off the Victory Gate road.

This is Ta Tuot Temple. It would have been magnificent in its time. It is on a platform about 3 meters tall. The temple is mostly sandstone, but the base is sandstone covering laterite.





To the east is a long sandstone and laterite walkway, with some other buildings. This one has a broken Buddha statue, draped with orange.



Further east along the walkway are these elephants. They are not full size and have been repaired, but they stoically guard the walkway to the temple.

There were a lot of different fungi here too.







You can see the workers carefully moving blocks. They have been working on this temple (Preah Pithu itself) for more than the two and a bit years we have been here.



Lichen making patterns on the sandstone.



These small buildings all lie inside a wall (only a meter tall).

The Royal Palace is on the other side of the Elephant Terrace. These temples lie near the North Kleang (said to be a storage building). I need to do some more research on their purpose and importance.



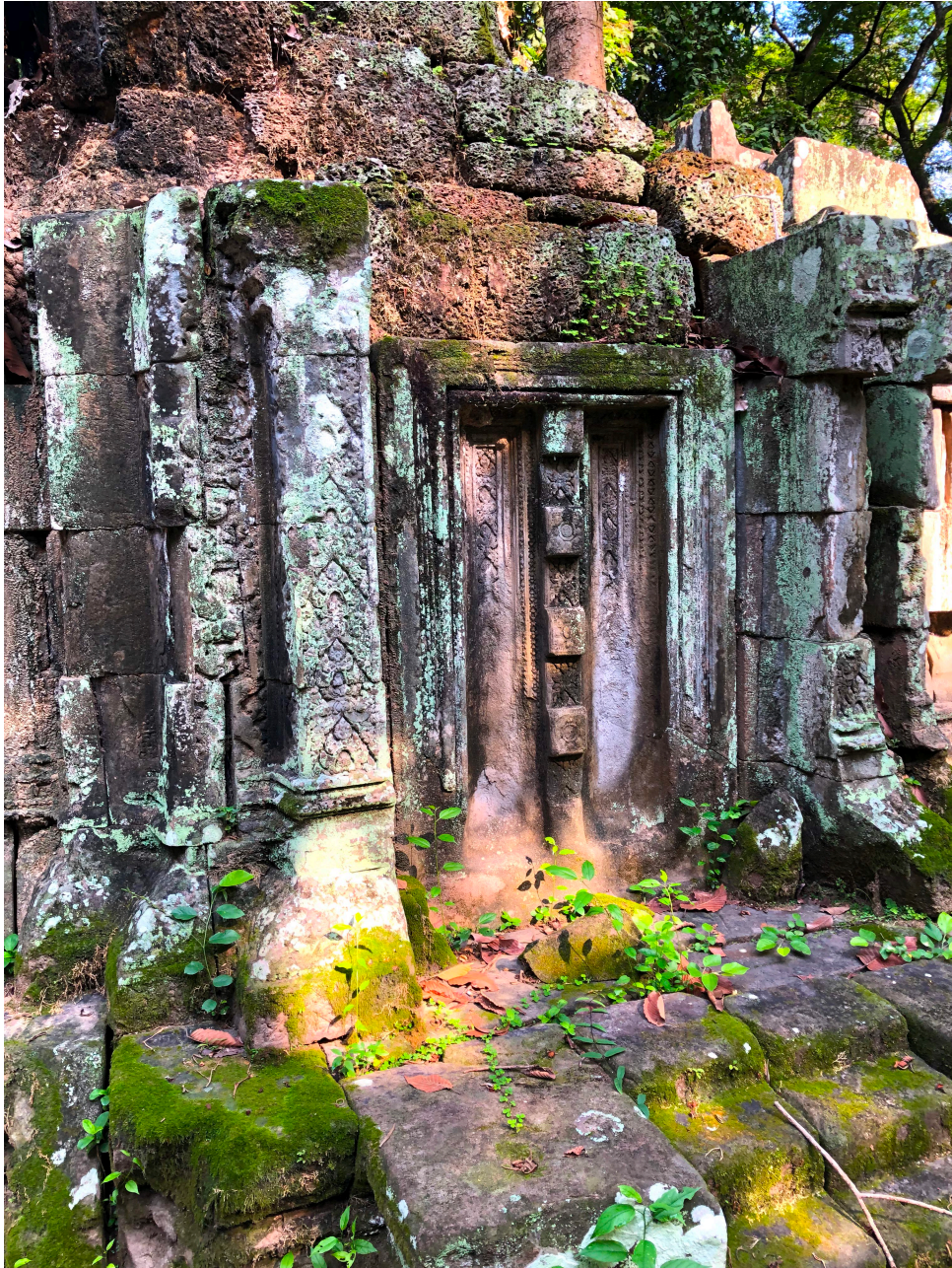
Western gopura into this group of buildings.



Strangler fig inside the compound.



Although small, these buildings show the complicated sandstone base and a moonstone (think “front step”).



False door of sandstone and the laterite structural stones of this building.



Intricate carving.



This is outside the small temple compound, looking south. To the right is the North Kleang. Across the grass is the “green army”, getting organised for grass cutting.



The North Kleang, built in a different style to the temples.

It was a short temple visit this morning because the days are over 35C with a humidity of about 90%.

In the afternoon we had a visit from Dani. He is an American who came to Cambodia more than forty years ago. He married a local and has fitted himself into local life.

He runs specialty tours, visiting locals doing a variety of craft activities. Well worth checking out “**Bees Unlimited**” and Dani Jump if you want to see rural Cambodians making a living.

He is a keen insect (particularly caterpillars) naturalist.

Then it was time for Zoom. It is always nice to check in with family.

Wednesday 21st May, 2025.

Anjali Day (and cleaning, language work and sewing).

I got out my watercolor paints. Always fun, but not much progress in regards to skill. It is funny, because even though it is so very humid, the paper (and paints) dry very quickly.

Thursday 22nd May, 2025.

Temple Day : South Gate, walk to Prasat Chrung SE.



Grey skies this morning. This is looking south at the South Gate (Tonle Om).



A few butterflies out today. And this cute gold beetle.





Head On!

Is he smiling?



Inside a fallen “passionfruit”. Usually the birds or squirrels or even the monkeys get to the fruit.



A “walking stick insect”. The stripes on its body are its wings. We found it because it flew into David!



A robber fly (or assassin fly) - related to dragonflies.



Another butterfly. It's wings are black on the other side.



This shiny blue beetle is actually the male of the species of the gold beetle.



These red dragonflies are easy to see, but are very shy and usually fly off before I have time to focus.

We saw both the red squirrels and the little grey striped squirrels eating fruit in a tree (too quick for me to take a picture). Also, there was a kingfisher, like a kookaburra... but again too quick for a photo.

After this walk (3km), it was time to go home.