

Part 270 for Cathy's blog

Sunday June 1st to Wednesday June 4th

Sunday June 1, 2025.

Having stayed home yesterday, today we went by Tuktuk to Angkor market. Is this the highlight of our day? Perhaps.

Monday June 2nd, 2025.

Temple Day : Ong Mong and Leak Neang

We tried to visit Ong Mong temple more than a year ago. We gave up because there were army trucks and soldiers hanging around the local houses near the temple. We believed this to be part of the forced relocation of people.

We have returned to the temple, and can see evidence of families moved on from the area nearby.

Ong Mong is a small temple literally in a "community" of houses. These houses are the cleanest and neatest set of houses we have seen here in Cambodia.

It is one of 100 (small) temples built during the reign of King Yasovarman (889 - 910). It is opposite the Srah Srang (behind the High School at the east end of the Srah Srang).



**We found this temple because a helpful local guided us.
Even then, we felt quite awkward literally riding into
their community.**

A young girl (and puppy) came to see us and I asked her in Khmer her name : Lendi.



Very friendly girl and a skittish dog.

Then we rode on to (one of them) Leak Neang. This one is almost opposite Pre Rup temple.

It is set back from the road and is almost surrounded by scrub and trees. This makes for interesting insects.

Here, I got to chat with an old woman (Loak Srey - more literally translates as “teacher woman” but means “wise woman”) about looking for butterflies. She was chopping bamboo (using a machete and crouching next to the fallen “logs” in her tied sarong. She wore the local safety boots = thongs).





Common dragonfly.



Caterpillar busily eating.



Pretty flowers.



Interesting fruits.



Rice fields planted and the Cambodian National tree, the sugar palm.

Then it was time to ride home for a quiet day inside (out of the heat).

At home, I received unexpected bad news from my old school.

I will just share this here. There are no guarantees in life. We retired early to come to Siem Reap and to base ourselves here while we travelled predominantly in Asia but also to other parts of the world. There are many heartbreaking stories of people who had plans and never got the chance to act on them. We did. We are fortunate. We are making the most of our time (and relatively good health) while we can.

Tuesday June 3rd, 2025.

Temple Day : West Gate and walk to Prasat Chrung SW.

We were joined on our walk by this companionable dog.



Damp and humid along the top of the wall of Angkor Thom.





Four young legs are quicker than our old ones. He had to wait for us.

A different dragonfly.





This colourful beetle was the highlight of today's insects.

Chrysochroa- viridisplendens



Patiently waiting... at Prasat Chrung, the corner temple.





Very pretty patterns on this butterfly.



And this dragonfly is commonly called a “bronze flutterer”.

The wall walks, 3km in distance (plus any wandering to look at insects), take just under an hour. Then it is time to ride home. From the West Gate (Ta Kav) we ride through Veal and come back into town along Street 30 and down past the hospitals.

Tuesday (every second week) is Zoom time, time to catch up with the family, all of whom are back in Australia, safe and sound.

Wednesday 4th June, 2025.

Anjali and cleaning : I put quite an effort in to tidy up and clean up. It feels like a lot of buckets of dirty water getting tipped down the drain (and you can tell the difference), but it is hard work. Thank-you Google Mini for playing a range of songs to keep me company and keep me going.