

Part 274 for Cathy's blog

Monday June 9th to Wednesday 11th June

Monday June 9th, 2025.

Temple day : Angkor Wat : east entrance, walk to south gopura

Angkor Wat faces west, which is unusual for an Angkorian temple. This is one of the reasons scholars think it was built by King Suryavarman II for his funeral temple.

You can park at the east of the temple "island" and walk across a causeway (after having your temple passes checked). There has been considerable work done restoring this east gopura and a wooden walkway into the temple complex. It is very pretty in itself.



Reflections in the moat, about half way across the causeway. Can you see the workers on their boat, cutting the floating weeds in the moat?



This is the new pathway over a section of the moat and looking at the east gopura, fully restored.



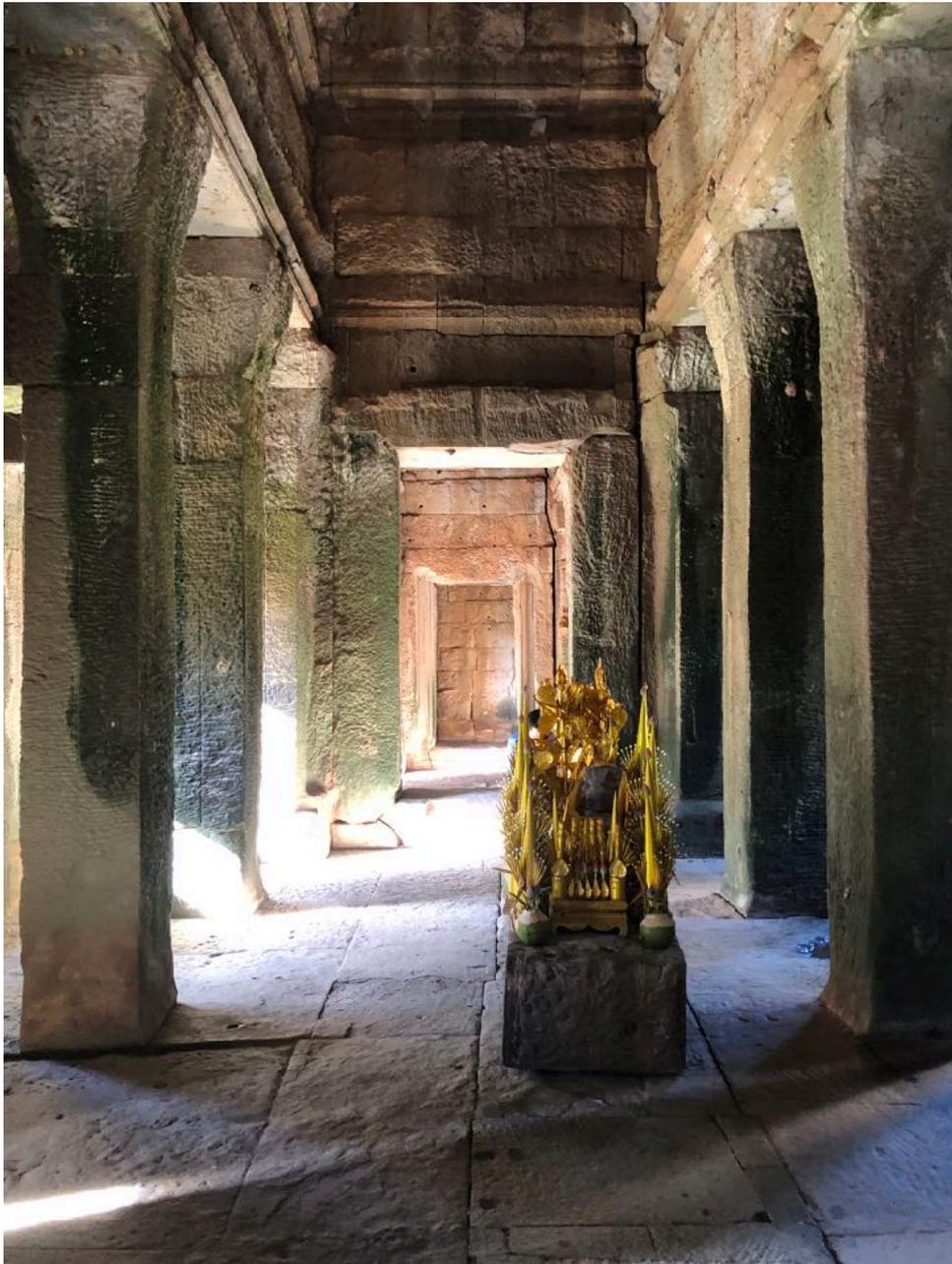
The east gopura, in the “green season”.

All things Khmer are carefully aligned and balanced.



From inside the gopura, the main tower of Angkor Wat (dedicated to Vishnu) rises in the distance.]

You can, of course, walk in this way and enjoy the architecture and the carvings at Angkor Wat itself.



Inside the east gopura.

We walked south, around the outside of the wall (alongside the moat).

There is a lot of wildlife in the grasses, bushes and trees.

These two beetles.



Butterflies and Spiders





And bigger spiders. Can you see in front of David?

And a butterfly that was a little confused.



An interesting flower.



Magnificent trees.





The outer wall around the temple has four gopuras.

This is the south gopura, looking a little over grown.





We walked through this gopura and found these little toadstools just coming up in the almost bare soil.



This is Angkor Wat from the south, a huge grey stone building lying in the bright morning sunshine.



And this is Angkor Wat from the south east corner. The colours really are so bright and distinct.



Angkor Wat facing east, a view taking full advantage of another tree. The sun is hot. It is June.



While colourful fungi or big toadstools catch our eyes, there are millions of little toadstools and their hidden “bodies” busily returning nutrients to the soil.



Shaded pathway back to the east gopura.



**Back at the car park and there were these butterflies
“sipping” up water and salts from the mud.**

Tuesday 10th June, 2025.

Temple Day : Angkor Wat, east entrance to north gopura.

We returned to Angkor Wat, to walk another quarter of the outer wall.



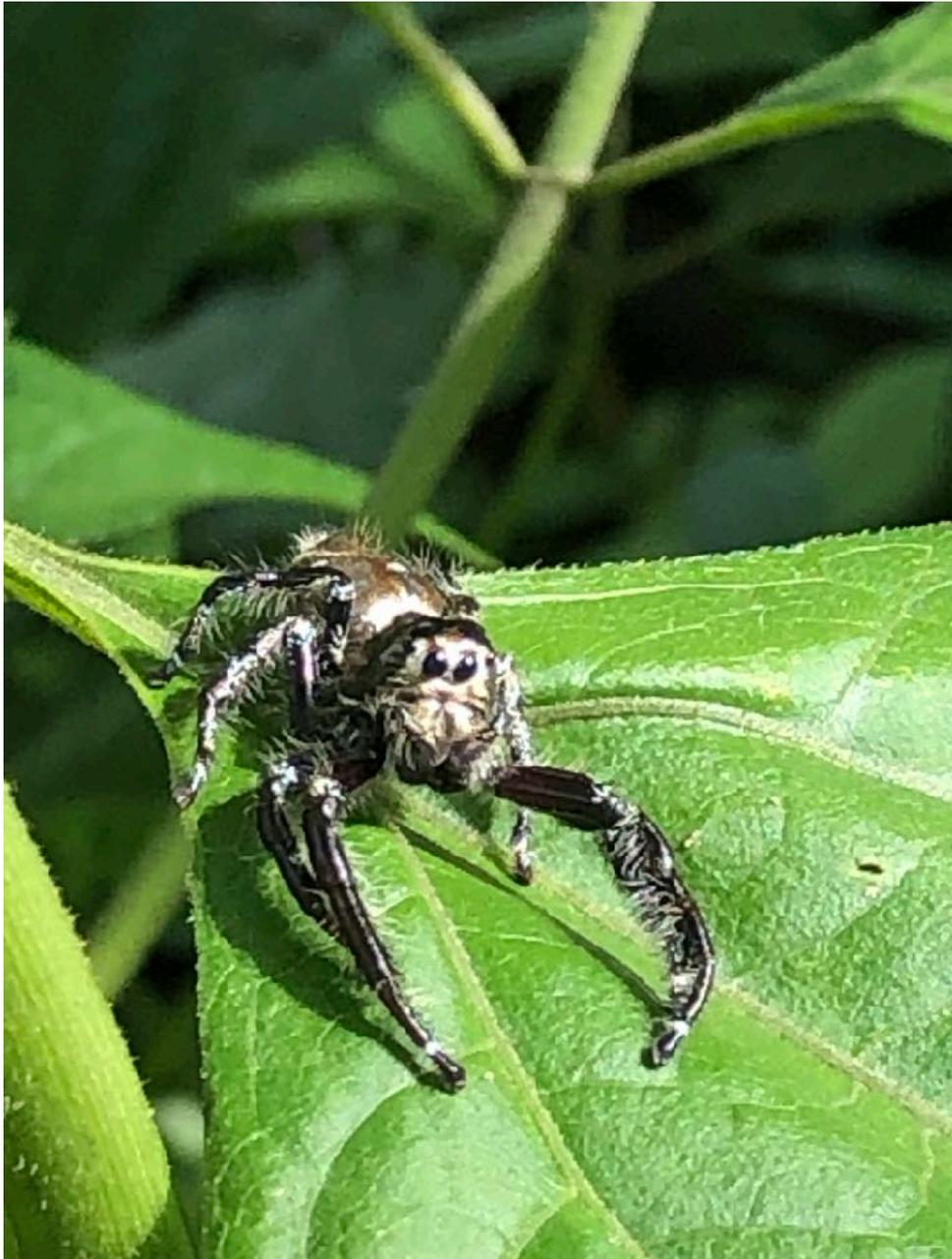
Another *Nephilia* spider, with leg span bigger than my hand.



A pretty butterfly, quite patient with me taking a photo.



Monkeys on the wall.



Close up of a spider.



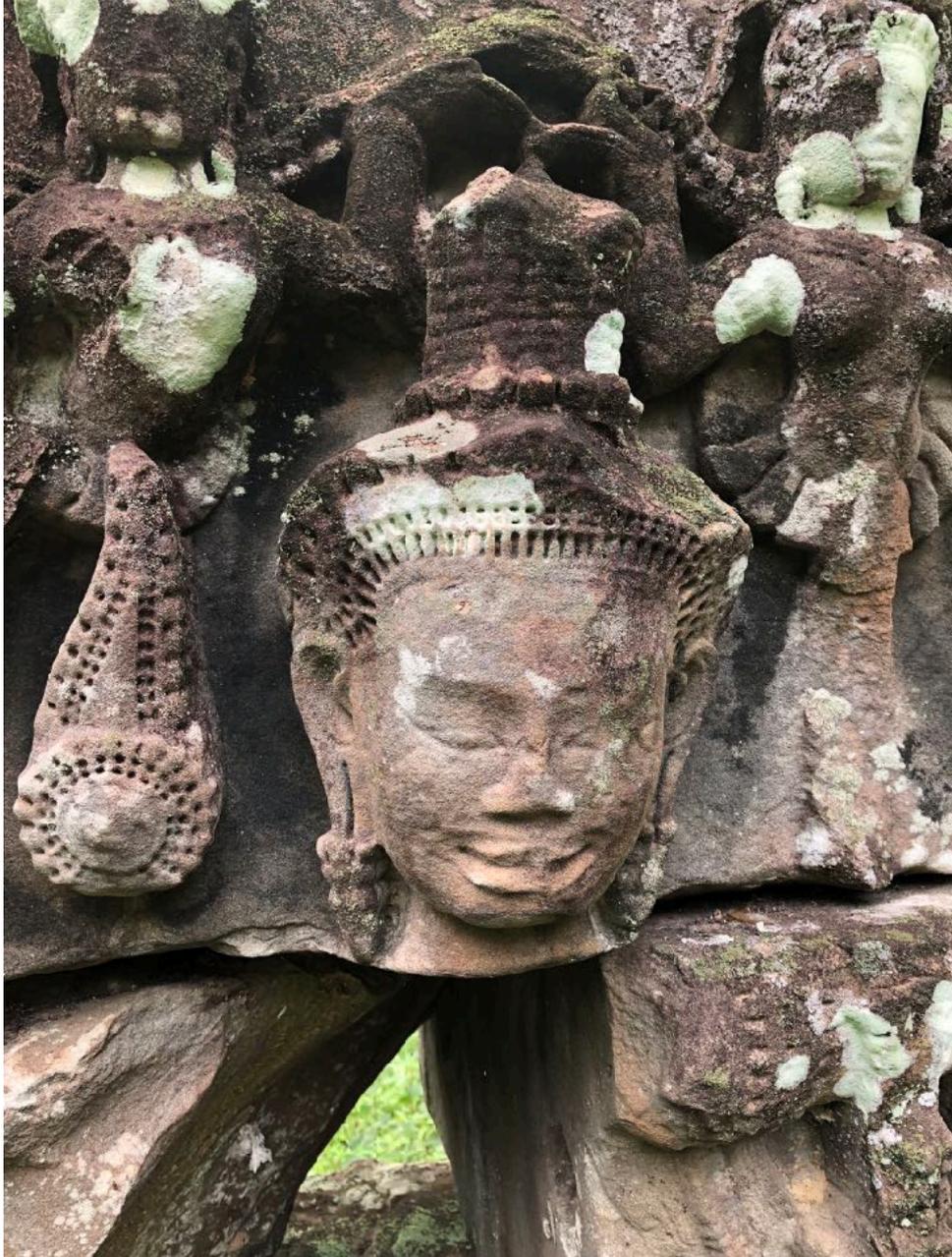
An elusive red dragonfly.



Skink on a log.



The north gopura.



Carved stone. Once these statues were part of the building.





Different weather today. This is the moat looking almost due north.



One of the large (probably 15cm) millipedes walking across the base of the north gopura.

Is it true that moss grows on the north side of trees (in the northern hemisphere)?

I don't know the answer, but certainly, there were more fungi this side than the south side of the temple.



Large plate-like fungi.



Different colours.



Attached to the supporting log by a stalk.



Fungus with frills, almost like paper.



Pretty edges, like the skirts of the Spanish dancers.



A fungus with gills. It might have been eaten for breakfast.



Different flattish fungi with frills.



Similar shape, different colour.



These fungi are commonly termed “dead man’s fingers”.



More traditionally shaped mushrooms.



Like pus.



Another collection of regular mushroom shaped fungus.

All working silently, while tourists walk past (mostly oblivious even to their presence).

Wednesday 11th June, 2025.

Anjali and cleaning day.

The highlight of today was going out to Lost City Pizza for ribs (cooked in the fire pit). Lost City Pizza is tucked in behind the Riverside Night Market.



Too much to eat, so had to take almost half of it home.
Good price, delicious food and interesting beer (specialty beers).

You have to book for the ribs here (because their fire pit isn't as big as they would like... a new one is being built).

Apparently the pizzas are good too, so we will try them one day.