

Part 278 for Cathy's blog

Tuesday July 1st to Wednesday 3rd July, 2025

Tuesday July 1st, 2025.

Temple Day : Ta Som Temple

Ta Som temple is on the Grand Circuit, north east of Siem Reap. It is renowned for beautiful carvings and big trees, although the tree over the eastern gopura has been removed to protect the temple.



Interesting biological necklace.



Medium sized frog hiding by the laterite stones around the moat.



A little gold beetle with clear wings. When you see the holes in the leaves like this, you know these small beetles (many different species) have been feeding.



Broken carvings put inside the temple chambers for protection.



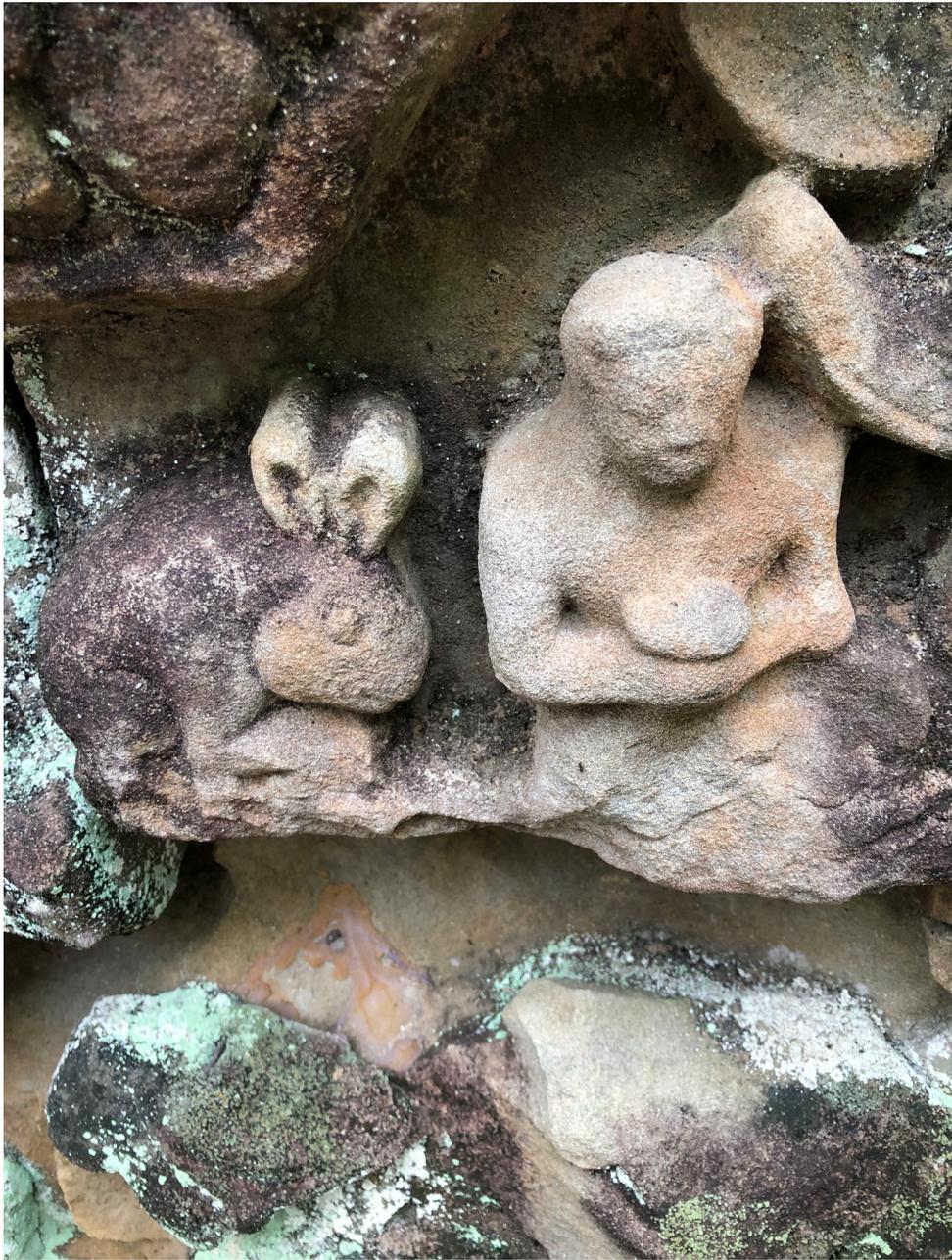
Well worn, but still telling a story.



A four armed deity.



An apsara = heavenly dancer. She is dancing “on” the fringed parasol carried to protect kings etc from the sun.



That is a big rabbit!



This is probably another apsara, a dancer. The unlikely / contorted position would suggest a dance or performance.



At least some of the people of the time enjoyed their work.



These two seem to be content as well.



We found this spider casually walking up an outside wall. Her abdomen looks like a shell.



The east gopura, with scaffolding to secure the stones.



Waterlilly.



Spiders



Fallen buildings, big trees and morning sunshine. Just beautiful.

Wednesday 2nd July, 2025.

Today is Anjali for David and the cleaning day for me.

Thursday 3rd July, 2025.

Temple Day : Don Mao

With heavy showers most afternoons for the last week, we decided to return to Don Mao temple, which is set back from the road. This gives a lot of “forest” for insects to live in.



Mushrooms almost camouflaged against the soil and leaf litter.



Orange mushrooms on thin stalks.



We see a lot of these orange spiders, but they hop off the leaves quickly as we approach. This one hung around for a photo.



A millipede breakfasting on tiny mushrooms.



The excavations are flooded. They are moving the sand (in the background) to fill in the trenches they dug.



This is a forest “slater”... about 3 cm long. They look like short millipedes.



I will call this a carpet moth. It even looks worn out like a carpet.



A very thin dragonfly.

Then it was time to head home for a shower. Although the temperature is a few degrees cooler (a welcome relief) it is still very humid.

