

## Part 280 for Cathy's blog

Monday 7th July to Wednesday 9th July, 2025

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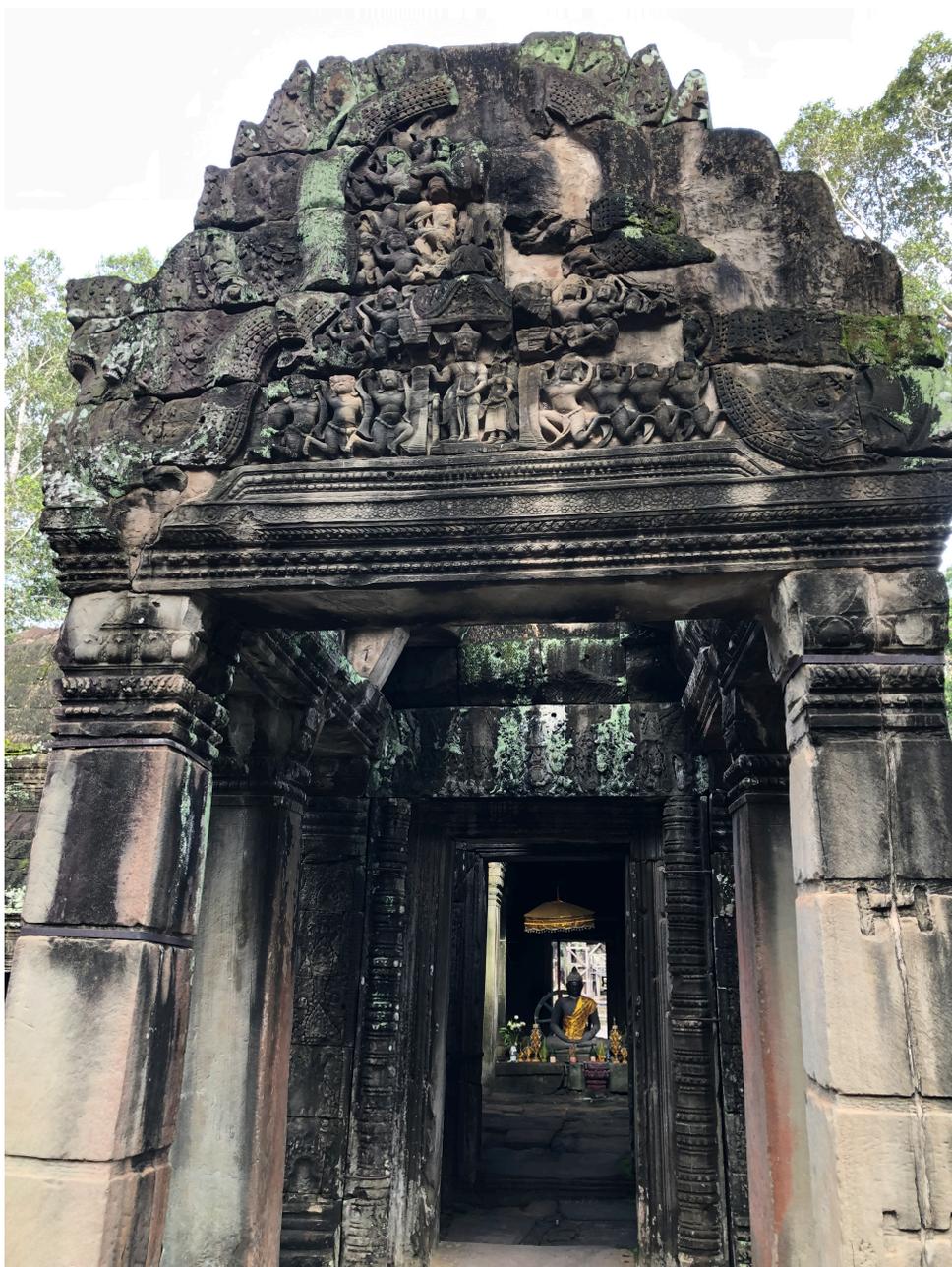
### Temple Day : Banteay K'Dei

Banteay K'Dei is a large temple, built by Jayavarman VII. It is a beautiful temple too, with a long walk up to the East Gopura.





**Lions and Garudas with the Naga at the east gopura.**



**Looking in through the eastern entrance you can see a modern Buddha statue and offerings.**



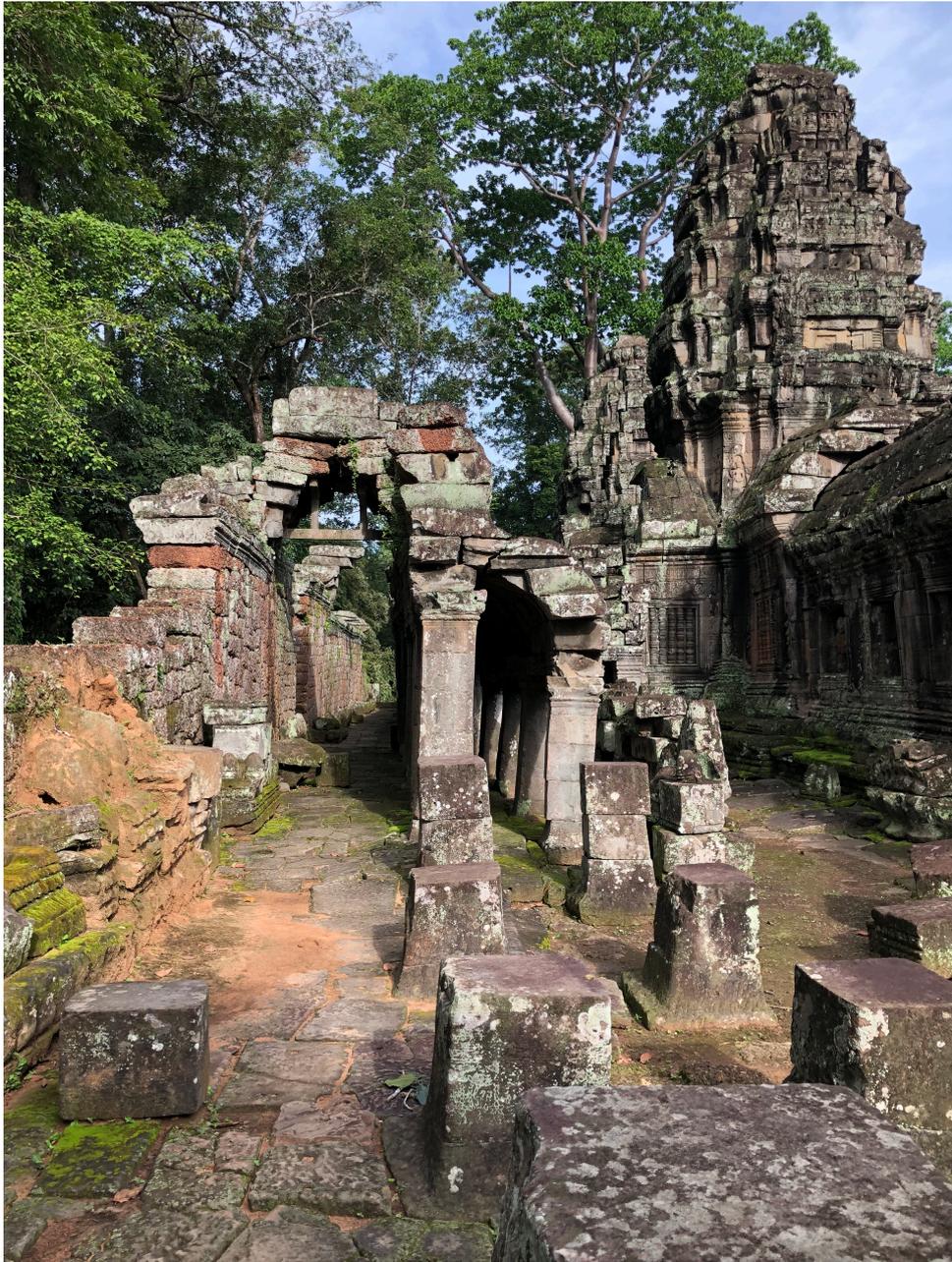
**Inside the gopura, there are libraries, significant buildings in themselves in this temple.**



**A long sandstone walkway takes you to the Hall of Dancers and the central temple.**



**The central temple is protected by warriors.**



**The central temple also had covered walkways along the sides.**



**Looking through a series of chambers to the central tower.**



**Some of the carvings.**



**The covered walkways ran around the south, west and north sides of the central temple building.**



**Now there are trees encroaching on the walls.**





**More carved blocks, lying around the courtyards.**



**A striped kukri snake.**



**Handsome blue and red beetle.**





**Another view of the library and the walkway in to the temple (looking almost west).**



**Collection of lions and Garudas at the eastern entrance.**



**And this is the eastern gopura in the outer wall. You walk through here to the car park, the road (Mini Circuit) and the Srah Srang (King's Swimming Pool).**

**Tuesday 8th July, 2025.**

**Temple Day (and a day of chatting!)**

At the Tonle Om ticket check point, I chatted with Mr Ma Thi who insisted (nicely) on taking my photo with his wife.

Then at the Preah Kahn car park (for my motorbike lesson) two old ladies sat and ate hot sweet potatoes and then chatted when I finished. Their advice was to “loosen up” and one of them stood up to show me a real “hula” move and offered me sweet potato.

Further around the Grand Circuit, we turned north east at the north east corner (near Ta Som Temple) to find the Wooden bridge (over the canal, north of Ta Som). Patrick the Frenchman stopped on his bike and chatted. And Mr Tang Kruy, the builder of the wooden bridge, stopped to chat too, apologising for his English (which was better than my Khmer). He gave us fried battered bananas and invited us to his house (we took the bananas, but promised to come back to visit him one day in his house).

Finally, at the Ta Som Dam, I chatted with Chenda, a worker there who was careful to point out the rushing water and that we would die if we fell in.



**The Wooden Bridge built by Tang Kruy.**



**The canal with Phnom Bok in the distance.**



**David and Tang Krui**



**The Ta Som Dam on the Siem Reap River. There is quite a drop in water level.**



In the evening, we went to see “Loot”, at CKS, the Centre for Khmer Studies.

The film was about the looting of the statues from the temples and the systematic removal and then sale of them, making some people rich.

Several families were mentioned, some of whom did return some of the statues.

Museums and Art Galleries were named too, again with some returns of items.

We met several (western) people we know there.

**Wednesday 9th July, 2025.**

**Anjali and cleaning day... again**

Today was a little different though, as we signed a new lease, for a further twelve months. I could read the “date” section and our landlord was pleased with my reading abilities.

Then we went out for Ribs for tea... too much, really, but delicious.

While we were out, the daughter in law of the landlords bought fresh milk for us (and our landlords insisted on paying!)

