

Part 284 for Cathy's Blog

Monday 21st July to Friday 25th July, 2025

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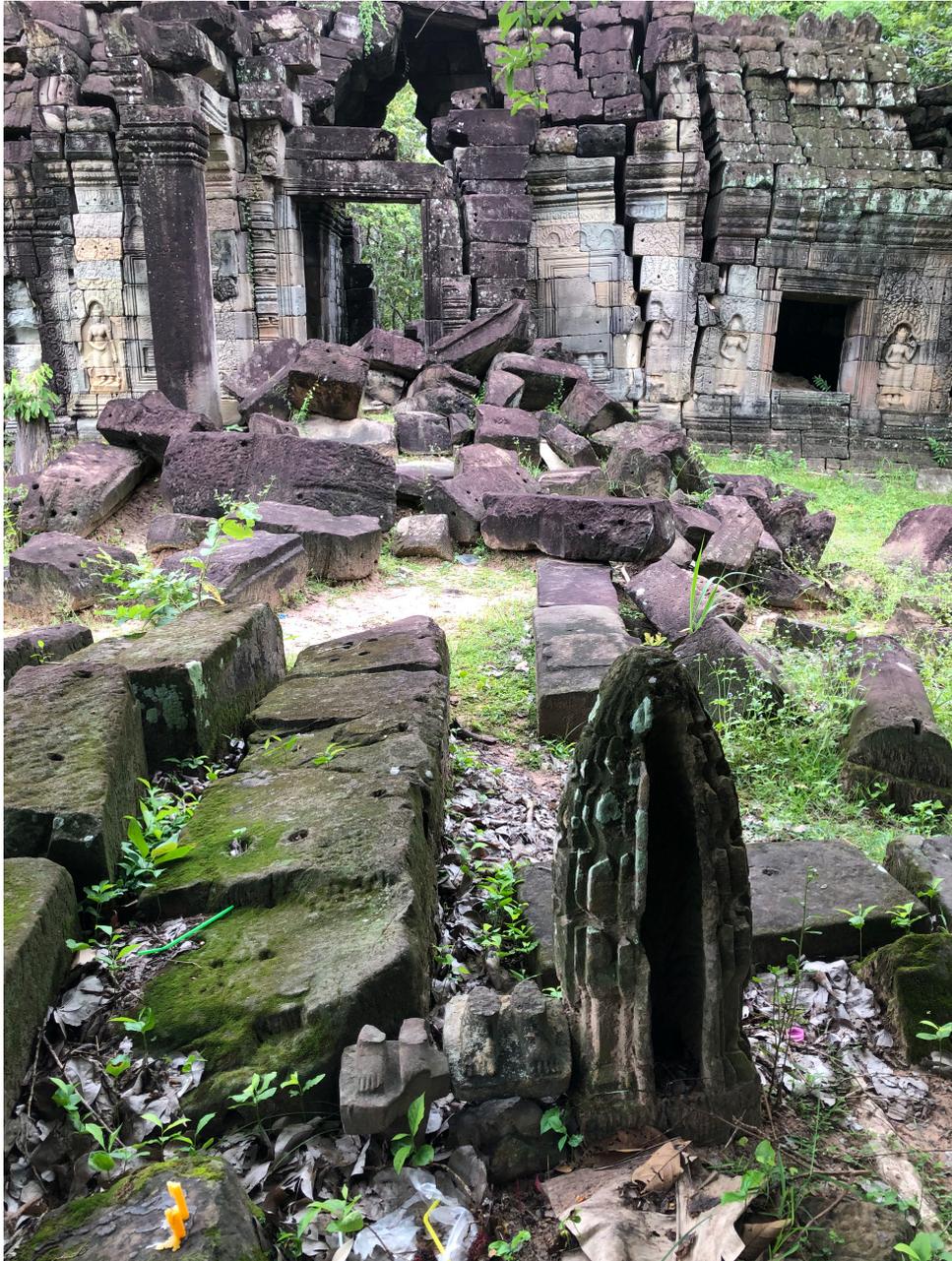
Temple Day : Banteay Thom

This is another temple built by Jayavarman VII, late in the twelfth century. It has three sandstone towers of impressive size and a covered walkway around three sides using the inner wall of the temple as the outer wall of the walkways.

It is "off the beaten track", another series of motorbike tracks through the jungle, but with farmed land and houses dotted around. After a few twists and turns, you come across the outer laterite wall and follow it for about 500 m, which gives some indication of the size of the temple.



This is the view through the fence at the rice fields beside the road. Note the “yellow” of the rice... it needs rain.



The now collapsed sandstone entrance walkway to the east gopura in the outer wall of the temple.



All that is left of two warrior statues, found in the rubble of rocks near the east entrance.

We also found these little orange “grubs”. The grass seeds in this picture stick to your socks and jeans and shoelaces!





More evidence of the movement of the blocks. This is probably due to the weight of the blocks above pushing them down and out (Cambodia is not prone to earthquakes).



Lion statue foot (and grass seeds).



The covered walkways, with low doorways.



Ornately carved temple tower (left) and the covered walkway right.



Back of the central tower and the scaffolding.



“Hamas” or goose carving.



Library and fallen stones.



Carving on the lintel of one of the three towers.

Although the ride to Banteay Thom is not direct (one road), nor on sealed roads, it is only about 4km further out than the city of Angkor Thom.

It takes quite a long while to ride to these temples, as the top speed on the motorbike is about 45kmph, and around town you cannot even ride at 30kmph. David has a top speed of 15kmph on the dirt tracks. So it is a longer morning away from home.

Tuesday 22nd July 2025.

Neak Tep Hospital test

We had planned to do these complete health checks each year, but somehow in our busy (!!!) schedule we missed last year.

We get blood tests, urine analysis, chest x-ray, abdominal ultra sound, ECG and heart and lungs examination and a doctor's report /consultation.

We know some of the things they will tell us ... lose weight, exercise more, don't smoke, don't drink alcohol, do drink

more water, don't eat fatty foods or too much salt (all but one of which relates to us).

We also had our flu shots (and will have our Covid shots at the end of next week).



This is David with the abdominal ultra sound...

Back at home, I had to record my language homework and send it in. It is funny how awkward it feels to record it, even after a few practises!

Wednesday 23rd July, 2025.

Anjali and cleaning day

Thursday 24th July, 2025.

Temple Day : Preah P'thu (a small temple by the side of the road, north of Preah Khan)



We stopped just short of the Bayon to take a photo of this little guy and then saw some larger ones a bit further on.



Then it was on to Preah Phtu temple.



Very different style of windows in this main building of Preah Phtu temple.



The roof is also made of laterite. The only sandstone we saw are these carved door frames.



Perhaps it was not a “temple” because it is a single, long building with no sign of a tower.



Pretty jungle foliage.



The big trees are trying to take over.

On the way home, back alongside the Angkor Wat moat, we had a puncture. It is our first real inconvenience with the bike.

We ordered a Tuktuk, thinking I would just go home and David could walk the bike to one of many small mechanic shops in the villages.

The Tuktuk driver called over a few people and put the bike into the Tuktuk. We offered the helpers money but they all refused. Difficult for us to climb in, but we did, and rode with the bike to the series of local food shops and mechanics along the “back” road to Angkor Wat (the road the Appopo rats are on).

\$10 for the tuk tuk.

\$5 for the new inner tube.

Half an hour delay.

Then it was off to Neak Tep for our results.

Our results were as we expected. Good numbers on all tested aspects.

We went out for tea to Nomad, a more modern food place just over the river from us.

Friday 25th July, 2025.

We stayed home, in order to catch up on our language homework and because we are out with our school teachers and students on Saturday.

