

Part 291 for Cathy's blog

Tuesday 29th August to Monday 25th August, 2025

Tuesday 28th August, 2025.

Temple Day : Gate of the Dead to Prasat Chrung NE
It is called the "Green Season" for a reason.





This moth is near the end of its life. Torn wings make it difficult to fly. Its patterns suggest camouflage.



This is the Victory Gate (the east wall of Angkor Thom has two gates). It is about 500 m north of the Gate of the Dead (and about 1km from the north east corner).



Another moth at the end of its life. This is a Japanese silk moth. It is bigger across than my hand with my fingers outstretched. I picked it up off the path and put it on the bushes, but it only flapped feebly at me.



More of the thin dragonflies.





A blue weevil (it really is that colour!) trying to hide from the camera.



This magnificent butterfly is a *Papilio memnon* (male Great Mormon). It is wider across than my hand with the fingers outstretched!



This little butterfly has wings of only 2cm (about 4cm with the wings open).



We do like to look at the ruined temples too. These naga, carved in blocks that are stacked around the Prasat Chrung (the Corner Temple) look ominous up close.



This is an unusual position for a person, perhaps in prayer.



And the temple itself is relying on the wooden supports to hold its shape.

We met the expat walkers, who do the complete circuit of the wall of Angkor Thom (12km) every week. They also carry tongs and collect the rubbish that is left (by locals, not tourists).

It rained in the afternoon, but we had to go out later on in the evening as David needed to buy prizes for his students.

Wednesday 20th August 2025.

Anjali and cleaning day

I scrubbed the grout in the tiles. My arms are sore!

It was a good day though, as I had a chat with the new Mum in the family and heard the gurgles and whinges of our new granddaughter.

Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd August 2025.

We stayed home as David's tummy was playing up. There are plenty of toilet blocks around the Angkor Archeological Park. They are always clean and always have toilet paper (and your ticket gets you free entry, but you could pay 2000R to use them).

Unfortunately, this tummy bug meant being able to get to the toilet in a matter of minutes. Too risky to go out!

These tummy bugs can also sap your energy.

Saturday 23rd August, 2025.

Once again, we caught Tuktuk to Angkor Supermarket.

Our shopping included a small stainless steel frying pan. Very useful for the eggs that we often have for breakfast (we are committed to raising our protein levels!)

I finished sewing another Kantha bag (just need to buy a zip for it).



And (boring I know) I did a clothes audit. Having written down every piece of clothing I own, I have found I have more than I thought and perhaps even more than I need. So I will have room to buy some other things when we are back in Australia (to see the granddaughter).

The quality of things like tea towels, towels and sheets is poor (or way too expensive) here. So I will look out for some pool towels (made of cotton) and some cotton sheets.

Sunday 24th August, 2025.

After a quiet day at home, we went out for tea to Old Maison. It is a lovely setting, prices only slightly dearer than our regular restaurants and nicely presented food. We had dessert... delicious.

Monday 25th August, 2025.

Temple Day: Prohm Kel

Kel Prohm is a small temple opposite Angkor Wat that has been undergoing refurbishment since we came here. They took it completely apart and rebuilt it, adding new blocks where necessary. It is set under planted trees (probably twenty or more years ago) and not in jungle.





Some nice carvings did not make it back into the temple itself.



Complicated story telling.



Although small, it is beautifully carved, with an eastern facing entrance. The minibus in the background is waiting for tourists who are visiting Angkor Wat.

Then it was on to the South Gate and we walked along the south side of the moat to several small temple ruins there.



Rong Leung temple (on the road to the South Gate).



Fungus for breakfast for this millipede.





Big trees.



The iconic South Gate causeway.



This is Bay Ka-ek temple. Although there is no date in the sign, it is probably 9th or 10th Century (being made of bricks).

It has a very worn cow statue in front



A much smaller side temple.



Further along is Brasat Bei (Temple Bei).



Extensively repaired.



The three towers have false doors on three of their sides, made using the small bricks.



The three towers are set on a laterite base.



This far along the moat, brings you level with the Bakheng. You cannot climb to the top of the Bakheng along these steps!



It is said that the lions at the Bakheng are the best examples of lions at any Khmer temple.



David for size.

Being south of the South Gate, we could just turn around and ride home (about 9km in total) back past Angkor Wat.

