

## Part 314 for Cathy's Blog

**Monday December 8th to Friday December 12th, 2025**

**Monday December 8th, 2025.**

**Temple Day : Preah Khan**

After getting petrol, we began the day with a motorbike lesson then a walk in to Preah Khan.

It is a large temple, set within several sets of walls. We parked at the eastern entrance, which has a laterite walkway to the North Baray (Jaytataka).





**The east gopura (with an almost full moon).**



**One of the 72 garudas around the outside of the temple.** The Garuda is the only creature not afraid of the naga. You can see here that the “lion feet” of the Garuda are holding the “twin” nagas (five headed nagas here... at Angkor Wat they have seven heads).



**Of course, where there is a moat, there will be dragonflies.**



**Look at ol' blue eyes here.**



**This building looks like a church.**



**And this is the eastern entrance through the second wall.**



**Just inside this second wall is the famous two storey building. It is thought to be a granary. There is no (stone) staircase to the second level.**



**The fallen blocks are stacked and often have beautiful carvings. There are lots of fallen blocks. Indeed, most of the temple to the south of the central axis has collapsed and is impassable.**



**The holes in the blocks were used to secure the stucco (plaster). The stucco was painted.**



**Central axis with a (modern) stupa.**



**Fallen blocks.**



**Do not climb.**



**Some of the entrances have warriors to guard them.**



**We don't see many windows like this in the laterite buildings (Banteay Thom has them and some of the out buildings at Chau Srey Vibol do too).**



**We left the temple and walked south to the south gopura.**

**We saw these pretty purple flowers. *Mucana pruriens* - direct contact can cause itching and rashes and eating the seeds may cause poisoning. (Used as a tonic and an aphrodisiac for males!)**



**The south gopura (in the outer wall). It is not quite as impressive as the east gopura!**

We crossed the moat (via the causeway) and made our way around the outside of the moat.



**The corner of the wall, with a Garuda.**

It took some balancing to get across a small stream running into the moat (with only one wet foot).



**Then we were back at the east gopura and ready to get back on the bike and ride home.**



## **Tuesday December 9th, 2025.**

My throat was sore over night, so we stayed home.

## **Wednesday December 10th, 2025.**

David went off to Anjali and I went back to bed. My throat was still sore, and then my nose was running.

## **Thursday 11th December, 2025.**

Another morning at home, but after some cold and flu tablets, I felt much better.

I went to language class, well dosed up and disinfected, so as not to be contagious.

## **Friday 12th December, 2025.**

Yet another morning home. In the afternoon, we both had our classes. David is learning all sort of food terms and expressions.