

Part 324 for Cathy's blog

Saturday 10th January to Monday 12th January, 2026.

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The mornings are cool (and dark until about 6:00am). So it was a pleasant walk to the Angkor supermarket.

It is a good chance to stop by the money exchange (Huy Keang, in Sivutha... no commissions) to swap the 50000 R into 5000R notes and 1000R notes. These are useful for change, buying bread (at half price), tuktuks, and for giving to the families that live in the carts, travelling around the streets collecting the recyclables.

Here are some more pictures from the supermarket.



Safe vegetables!

It literally translated as “vegetables = banlie, safety = so-wat-a-peap”.



Yellow (and red) watermelon.

Sunday 11th January, 2026.

On Sunday, we walked into town to have coffee with a Facebook friend (the one who spoke to us in the little restaurant!).

A very interesting man, a little older than us, a farmer from Germany (remembers working in “East Germany” and the falling of the wall) and with a grass roots approach to helping people (with innovative ideas for the use of “water weed” grown locally to feed cows etc. He’s working on it!



The local lanes (shown as roads on Google) one block past the Old Market (tucked in behind Pub Street).



We have been meaning to go to the Welsh Consulate for three years now!



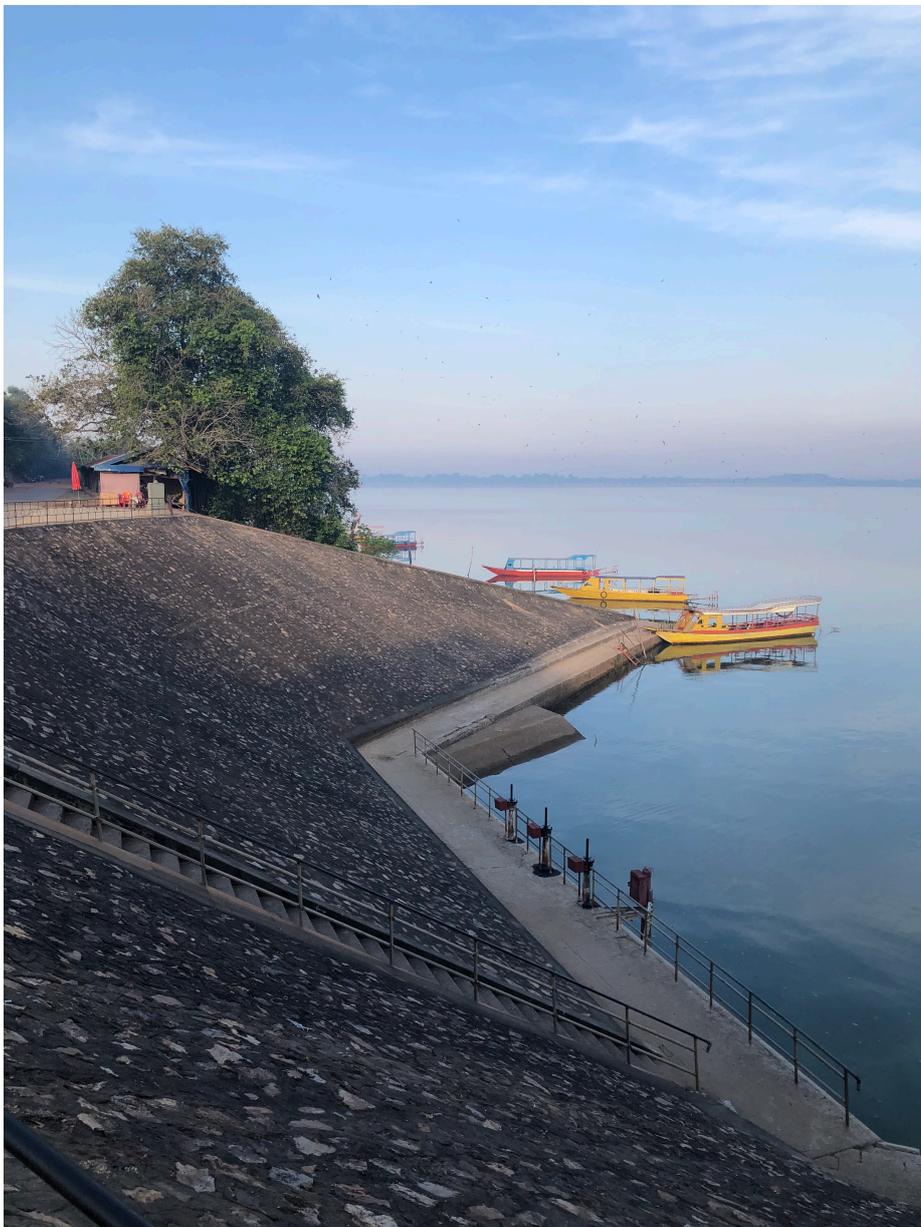


Check out the socks on this giraffe!

Monday 12th January, 2026.

Temple Day : West Baray and Ak yum

To take advantage of the cool weather, we decided to go further afield today. So we rode out to the West Baray.



Smoke on the West Baray.



The “spillway” from the West Baray.

We rode around the Baray, along the top of the wall in most places.



Motorbike to show the size of the ruts. The Baray is to the left.

The Baray is man-made, 8km by 2.2km.



The West Mebon Temple is on the island (the dark smudge).



This set of stones is on the “mainland”. The West Mebon Temple has its own area of numbered sandstone blocks.

And a friendly dog.





And new blocks for restoration.

We found ourselves riding along a local street, concrete, which then became red dirt. It was very sandy (two months without rain). We stopped at a little shop to buy 1l of petrol (in a gin bottle!) for 4000R (which is “city” price). Then continued on our way.

A river, small today, but capable of carrying a lot more water, feeds into the Baray at the North West corner.





An older bridge with interesting dragons and the newer bridge.



The river, upstream.



Looking east from the west wall of the Baray. ...Smoke on the Water...



**Happily taking pictures of the Baray... then we look up.
Can you see the Golden Tree Snake? Harmless, but
even so...**



**And then riding on, we come back to the south side,
and the Ak Yum Temple, being swept of leaves in the
morning sun.**

This is the earliest temple we know of, built in the 7th Century, right at the beginning of the Angkorian era.

It is 9:30 when this picture was taken and the sun is hot. It is time to ride home.