

Part 325 for Cathy's blog

Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th January, 2026

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Temple Day : Suor Proat towers

These small temples (12 in all) run in a north to south line, opposite the Terrace of the Elephants in Angkor Thom. They were built by Indravarman II, in the 12th century (towards the end of the Angkorian era). Their name means towers of the "tightrope dancers" so there is some speculation that ropes were stretched between them for performances.

They are built of laterite with some sandstone decorations. They are set out in symmetrical rows either side of the road to the Victory Gate.

Behind them, two large sandstone temples stand, the Kleangs (which means warehouse). They are quite decorative for warehouses.

We parked to the side of a road used by the Korean team who were restoring temples a little further north, and walked through the entrance to one of the modern pagodas which lies about 100m along the road.

Here, there is a modern Buddha statue and shelter and the flags, set on a laterite platform.



The entrance to the modern pagoda.

Lions and elephants guarding the east steps up to the platform.



Detailed carving on one lion.



It is hard to see in the photo, but the legs had carved patterns and these bracelets. Or, were they chains?



The raised platform at the end of the walkway had no building, but a single damaged Buddha statue (leaning against the column from a window).

In the background you can see some of the Suor Proat towers and further away is the Elephant Terrace with a shelter for works being done on the elephants and Garudas carved into the Elephant Terrace wall.



Big trees in the “garden” of the walled temple. That is David at the base of the tree



Then it was time to walk on to (re) visit the Suor Proat towers.

Here, you can see the big trees and a large water basin (with laterite steps/wall to the water).



This is half of the South Kleang, showing evidence of smaller outbuildings and tall raised walkways.



Inside (half of) the South Kleang.



Corner Suor Proat tower, with the Elephant Terrace (across the road and in the distance). It is hard to judge the size of these buildings. You can see the (small) temple worker (sitting and scrolling or chatting on her phone).



David at the central entrance to the South Kleang. The Kleangs have these wide doorways and windows.



South Kleang false door (south end).



Some of the Suor Proat towers are in need of repair (the trees are growing behind this one, not through it!)



With some blocks fallen, this tower looks a peculiar shape. Individually, the towers are quite big and and some are in good repair.



I managed to get a good photo of the elusive red dragonflies. I think he needed a bit more sunshine to warm up.



Inside one of the towers.



“The view from my window...”



Suor Proat towers north of the road to the Victory Gate.



Another window view.



The North Kleang from inside one of the Suor Proat towers.

Further north and behind the food stalls at the end of the Elephant Terrace is another group of temples, the Preah Pithu Group (but that is Thursday's temple visit, and I won't put a photo here!)

On our way out to the temples this morning, we stopped to photograph a bicycle delivery.



Wednesday 13th January, 2026.

Typically, Wednesday's are our Anjali and cleaning day. The smoke in the air from forest fires and stubble burning has got to David and he is a bit congested, so he stayed home today.

A day at home is a chance to work on the language and the blog posts.