

Part 326 for Cathy's blog

Thursday 15th and Friday 16th January, 2026.

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Temple Day : Chorm Temple

Chorm Temple is one of a series of temples and Angkorian buildings tucked in the north end of the Suor Proat towers and behind the (very few left) food stalls at the north end of the Elephant Terrace.

Supported by South Korea, it has been fenced off for nearly three years. After extensive rebuilding works it is now open to public access.

The broken statues and carvings are set out around the square raised platform of the temple.



Chorm Temple in the dappled shade.



The restored temple from the front, on a two tiered raised platform.



Some of the carvings, left for all to see, set out inside the temple wall.









Chorm Temple, on three (shallow) tiers in the centre of the raised platform.

It has a lot of newly cut stone and some new carvings. The original carvings have been cleaned too. It looks like it is made of concrete.



Lintel. The shape of the stone (worn at the top right corner) suggests this is cleaned rather than newly carved.



This shows where new stone has been fitted into the existing blocks and carvings to protect and support the temple.



Devapalas. They show original stonework and new work.

A warrior. Interesting positioning of his feet!





Complicated frieze of Apsaras with some repair works.



While we often see elephants and cows, horses are more rare.





There are several horse statues here at Chorm. (You can find the five-headed horse - Uchchaisravas - at the Terrace of the Leper King).



Even the carved patterns on blocks supporting doorways have been elaborately carved.



**Small Garuda carving on the corner of the platform
(showing repair work too).**



More elaborate carvings on the blocks supporting the temple.

Chorm Temple is also called Preah Ang Vek Preah Ang Chorm Shrine.

It was built to house shrines. King Suryavarman II (builder of Angkor Wat) built the temple.

There were two bronze statues of Princesses - the banana Princesses (Preah Ang Chek means "Royal Grilled Banana and apparently Chorm is another name for Banana). The two statues were kept at Angkor Wat.

In the 1950's, the then Governor of Siem Reap had them taken to his house. His name was Dap Chhoun and it was said he had (black) magical powers, which he lost as he tried to flee with the statues to Thailand.

The statues were then taken to Wat Damnak in Siem Reap.

Then the civil turmoil and Pol pot's Khmer Rouge totally disrupted the country. One story says the two statues were said to be seriously damaged as they were deliberately blown up. Another story says the statues were thrown into a pond.

Both stories end with the soldiers accused of mistreating the statues becoming ill and dying shortly afterwards.

The statues now reside in a shrine in the grounds of the Royal Residence and can be visited daily. Offerings to the statues is said to bring good luck to people who plan to marry.

After visiting Chorm temple, we walked around some of the other temples in the Preah Pithu group.



This view is from a temple (Kor Sak) behind the food stores at the north end of the Elephant Terrace. This dog was quite content to let me walk around.

There are many fallen blocks and it will be interesting to see how much further restoration work is done on these temples and their outer buildings.



This view is looking back towards the Suor Proat towers. You can see the smoke in the air.



Some of the carvings are well worn.



Detailed carvings.

Both the Preah Pithu Group and the Suor Proat towers are inside the walls of Angkor Thom and are considered part of the Royal Palace (Phimeanakas).



Chorm Temple from the tower of Kor Sak Temple.



Naga in the fallen blocks at Ta Tuot.



Apsaras and intricate carvings at Ta Tuot.



Imagine when these were complete!



Inside the tower at Ta Tuot.



**This gives you some idea of the height of the towers.
David is on the large first platform. (Ta Tuot is
significantly taller than Chorm.)**



In the blocks in the Ta Tuot compound. This might be my new favourite carving.

Friday 16th January, 2026.

It was a long morning on Thursday, and David didn't quite get over his congestion and tiredness, so we had another day at home.