

Part 329 for Cathy's blog

Monday 23rd to Friday 27th February, 2026

We had a wonderful time back in Australia meeting our newest granddaughter and visiting family and friends.

We left Melbourne on Sunday night and flew overnight from Tullamarine to Singapore and then Singapore to Siem Reap.

Monday 23rd February, 2026.

Immigration is quick and easy, with only a short amount of time in queues, both at the Visa check (etc) and baggage collection.

We were picked up at Siem Reap International Airport by the driver from Siem Reap Shuttle (reliable and safe).

We were home at lunchtime, and almost immediately headed off to (our not so soft!) bed.

We have found that an early sleep is the best way to manage jet lag. We were up mid afternoon, still tired, but managing.

Then it was time to unpack.

We caught a Tuktuk out for tea and then went on to the supermarket, where we did an almost full shop, particularly to restock milk and vegetables (and some meat).

Tuesday 24th, February, 2026

Today involved a bit of riding around. David needed to renew his motorbike license.

First, we get the photos done. The gentleman at the store (in Sivutha Road) straightened David's collar before taking the photos. About a ten minute wait and we decided to just stay there. Then we headed off to the Immigration Police for a certificate (their office is out towards the old Airport, about a ten minute ride on the bike). Then it was back to the Sangkat (think local council), where our address is registered.

The residence certificate (think "certified" copy of address) will be ready the next day.

That afternoon we still "zoomed" with the family. It is also good to get back into a routine of exercises, a swim then shower and freshen up ready for tea.

Wednesday 25th February, 2025.

David's turn to ride around... He went to the Sangkat to pick up the paper work, then on to the Health Department to have a (quick) medical check before heading back to the town office for his motorbike license.

A phone call in the afternoon confirmed his license was ready, so we went in to pick it up before tea.

In Cambodia, you don't need a license to ride a 150cc motorbike (or smaller). But check your insurance policy, as they might require you to have one!

Thursday 26th February, 2026.

Temple Day : Ta Nei and Don Mao.

Having seen a Facebook post about the newly dug up statues at Ta Nei, we decided to go there.

Ta Nei is a beautiful temple, a little off the usual tourist track, but still just a few kilometres off the “small circuit”.

Western gopura and foreground neatly swept and a dog.





Some of the recently dug up treasures.



Lion's foot, big tree and the northern side of Ta Nei Temple.

Then it was on to Don Mao temple, not much further around the “small circuit”.



This is one of the spiders that build their webs on the ground. They have a funnel like hole built of web which they hide in almost as soon as you step near them.

This one must have been having a slow morning.



**A very different spider. Most spiders have eight eyes.
This one is watching me with two of them!**

Friday 27th February, 2026.

Temple Day: Banteay Prei

To get to Angkor Thom and most of the temples, we ride past Angkor Wat. Angkor Wat has a beautiful moat. It is also a working temple, for Buddhists (and for any one to take time for meditation).



These two nuns were spending some quiet time looking over the moat.

Back here in our retirement country, it is back to our routine. So today, it was time for another motorbike practise session at the Preah Khan car park. (I wonder what the people in the little food stall at the car park think? Most locals would have been riding since they were twelve or thirteen and would hardly need a practise session at all!)

As far as my riding goes, I was a bit rusty, but ok with the gears, starting, stopping. I still have a bit of trouble turning tight corners.

Then it was on to Banteay Prei.

There has been considerable work on the East Gopura of Banteay Prei.

We were impressed.





Some of the broken pieces (part of a Garuda, for the balustrade across the causeway) waiting for placement in the repaired structures.



The broken balustrade in the front and the workers at the gopura.



Workers and scaffolding.



I am sure the workers back in the day had a sense of humour.

And these trees were in flower.





Later in the day, we took TimTam biscuits to our landlord (and I could tell her... in Khmer ... to put them in the fridge because otherwise the chocolate would melt!) This information was probably unnecessary, because she has family in Australia.