

## **Part 334 for Cathy's blog**

**Thursday 12th March 2026**

**Thursday 12th March, 2026.  
Temple Day : Phimeanakas**

We say it often : We are so lucky to live here and to see these temples (and other things) so often. Every time we visit a temple, we see something new.

Today was no different.

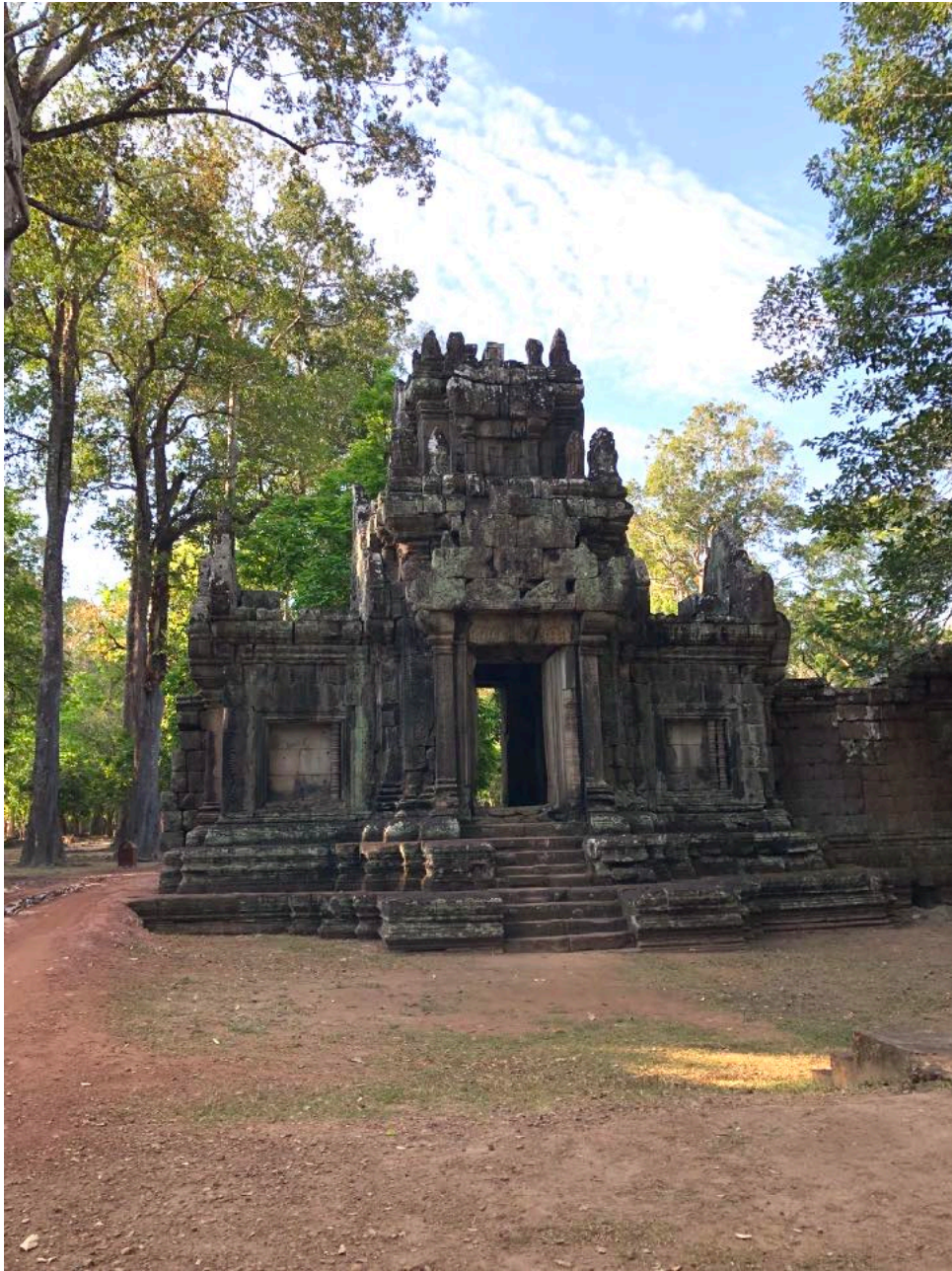
We went back to see Phimeanakas because the carvings along the bathing pools were so interesting and nice. Add to that, the big trees and the blue sky and you have amazing pictures.

Phimeanakas is the Royal Palace “behind” the Elephant Terrace (just north of the Baphuon and just south of Palilay).



**We parked near Palilay which is just a bit further into the jungle from the working pagoda at the north end of the Elephant Terrace.**

**Perhaps it was washing day!**



**This is the north gopura of the Phimeanakas complex.  
The wall has been dismantled so that vehicles can  
enter.**



**In here, many of the trees are named. This is the “pongro” tree, a beautifully shaped, big tree, casting a dark shade. We associate this tree with Elizabeth!**



**It is eight o'clock in the morning here and the sun is making its way higher into the sky. The shade is very welcome.**

**This is the women's bathing pool with the men's pool in the distance.**



**Beautiful tree.**

It is like walking around a garden here, with the grass cut and swept clean of leaves.



**Bird carving on the wall of the men's pool.**



**Is she sitting with a peacock?**



**A different head dress.**



**Much larger circular pattern... not a flower.**



**The corner of the men's pool.**



**Part of a nine headed naga. This one has different patterns too.**



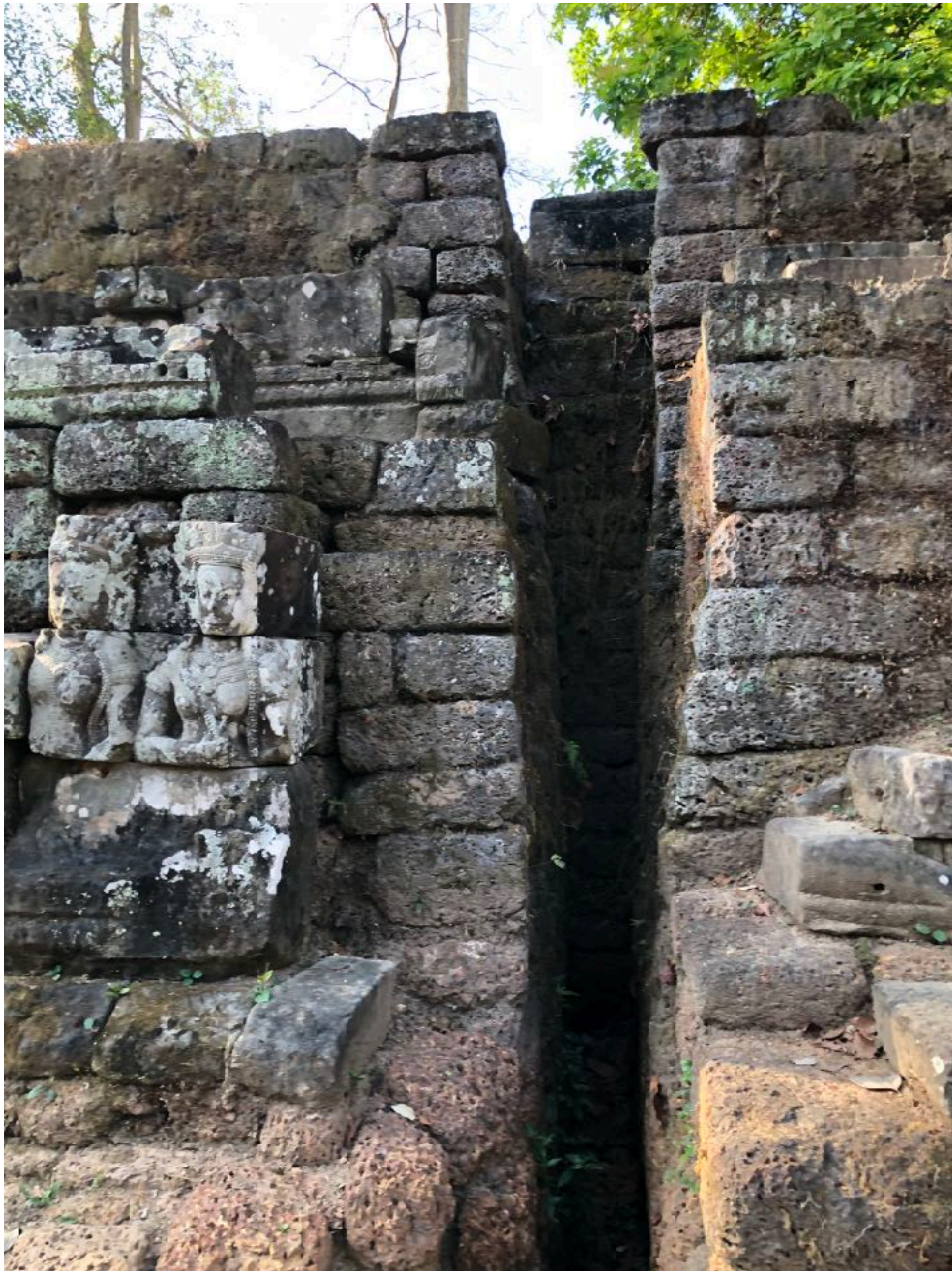
**And yet another different naga; in this one, the central naga head is looking up.**



**Asuras?**



**This head dress is “made” of nagas!**



**In addition to carved people, there are structural details here. These openings in the laterite (foundation stones) are for wooden poles and beams.**



**An interesting mix of characters here, with a Garuda (note the carved pattern on the legs).**



**This photo shows these characters carved along the length of the pool.**



**Having been impressed with the carvings of people, we come to some of the animals.**

**Here we have a lizard (I don't think it's a crocodile) and fish and a crab! Are the little "curly" carvings shells?**



**Next is the lion. Is it swimming?**



**More fish and to their left, there are crocodiles.**



**Phimeanakas temple itself. You cannot climb this temple; it is being restored.**



**Corner view of Phimeanakas.**



**Apsaras (heavenly dancers) carved in the fallen blocks just lying around the temple.**

**We also have a tree that we associate with Alison. It has a good local name too.**



**This is Elizabeth with us in front of Alison's favourite tree (at Ta Nei temple).**



**We headed back through the north Gopura and followed a path to find some new diggings.**



These works began to learn about the drainage system of the Royal Palace (and grounds) with a view to repairing them.

**There have been many discoveries. This is the carved wall of a new pool.**





**Here you can see a crocodile and a tortoise.**



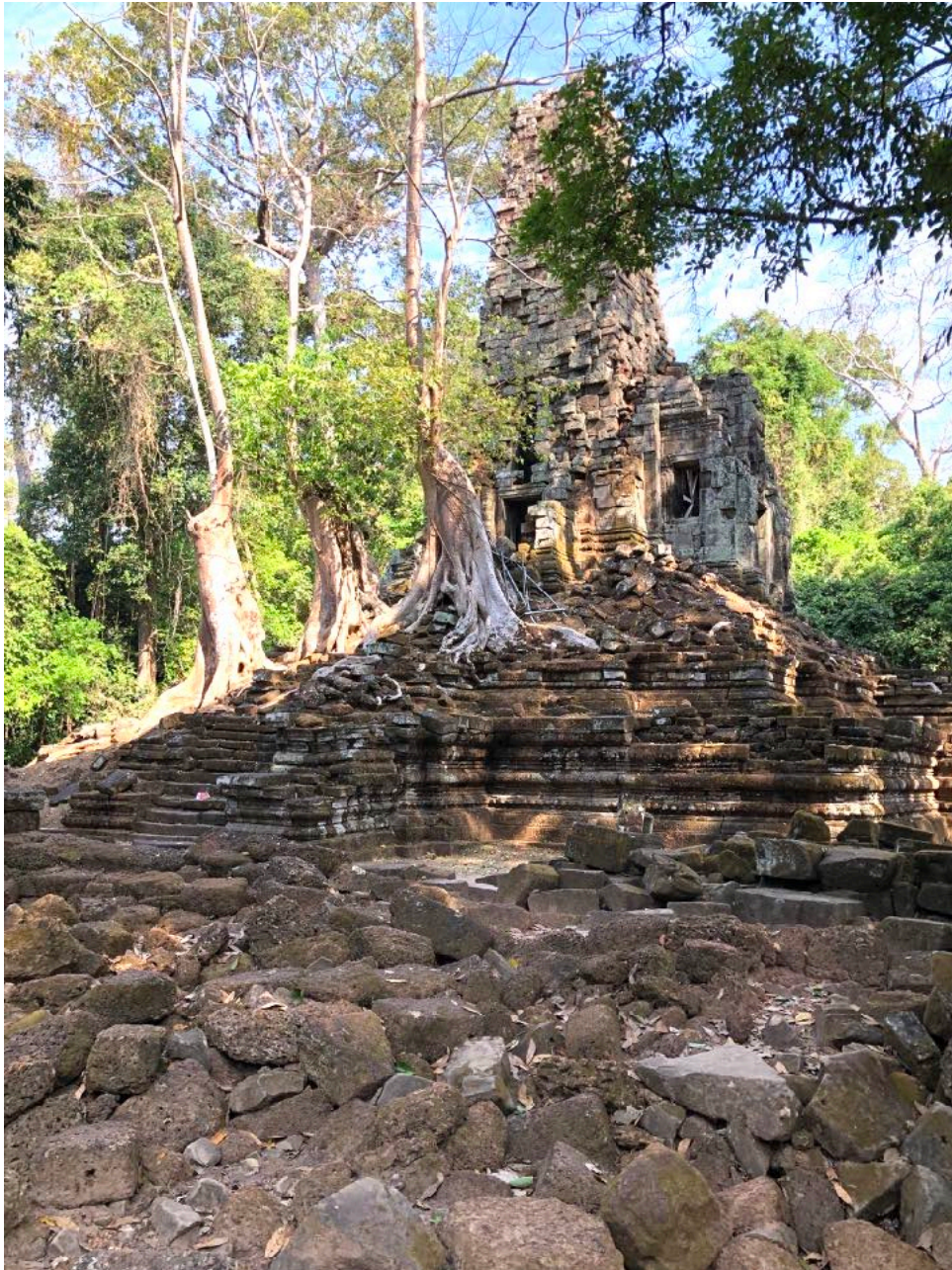
**Different crocodiles and another tortoise. There are also lotus leaves and flower buds.**



**I spoke to these three ladies. Two are using small trowels and the one up at the ground level carries the little bucket of sand away.**



**A hungry crocodile and a (large) crab.**



**I had planned to write about (and post photos of) the new excavations only.**

**But here is a long post about Phimeanakas and I have included a picture of Palilay in the morning sun.**