

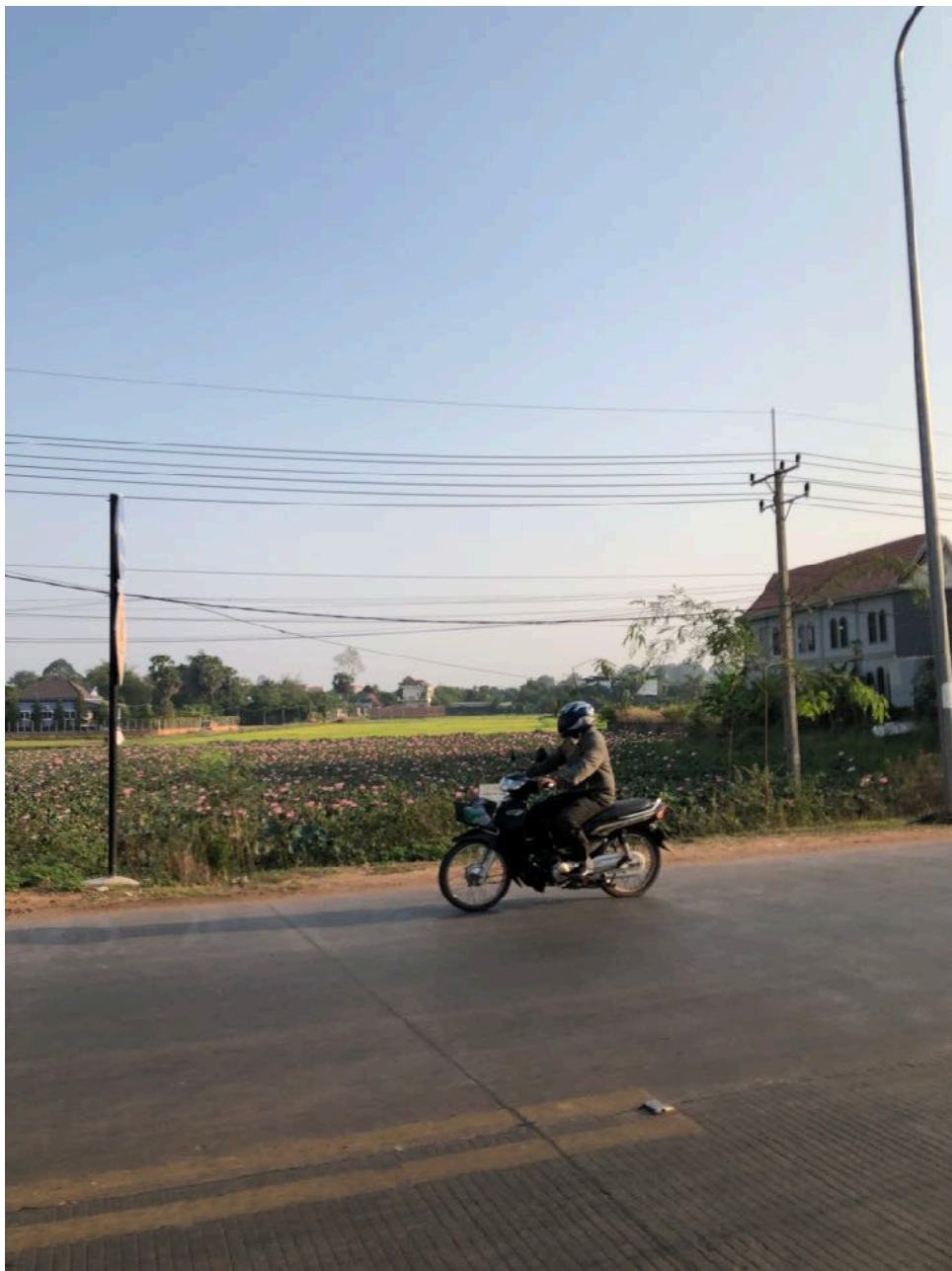
## **Part 338 for Cathy's Blog**

**Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th, March, 2026**

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### **Temple Day : Prei Monti**

Prei Monti was one of the first temples we found off the tourist trail (more than three years ago!). It is a three towered temple, made of brick, all on a single raised platform. It is near the Bakong, east of Siem Reap.



We rode out along the Ring Road, where between houses and businesses there are rice fields and lotus ponds.



**The trees on this garden are the kapok tree, where there is soft “fluff” and seeds, traditionally used for stuffing pillows etc.**

You need to show your tickets here (we don't know the staff here) as you ride past Preah Ko and south to the Bakong.

Prei Monti is further south, past the Bakong and through the countryside, where small houses have quite large gardens. Most of them have neat vegetable patches.



**In a small stand of big trees, lies the three towers of  
Prei Monti.**





**Imagine moving through the jungle with these growing!**



**Just outside the temple and its circle of trees, lies the now dry rice fields, with several sugar palms.**

Parallel to National Road 6 lies a red dirt road that takes you back to the Ring Road (south of Siem Reap). And by the side of the road is this temple.



**Prasat Trapeang Kaek. If you only visit the famous temples, you are missing out.**



**Back on Highway 6, you might be surprised to find an ice-skating rink.**

It is quite a long ride, and to ride on National Road 6 takes a bit of courage and a lot of concentration.

**Tuesday 24th March, 2026.**

**Temple Day : Preah Khan**

We often park at the East entrance to Preah Khan, but today we parked at the west entrance (which means braving the food and souvenir stalls and their owners trying to sell things).

Preah Khan is a big temple, with impressive walkways and a moat (still with water) to cross before getting to a series of walls and gopuras and towers, and the temple itself.

**The west entrance.**



**The causeway has the usual rows of Devas and Asuras.  
And on the walls of the causeway, in the moat, there are  
carvings.**





**Very different faces on these.**



**Picturesque moat.**



**Preah Khan is famous for its Garudas (72 of them), standing 50m apart around the wall around the temple (inside the moat).**

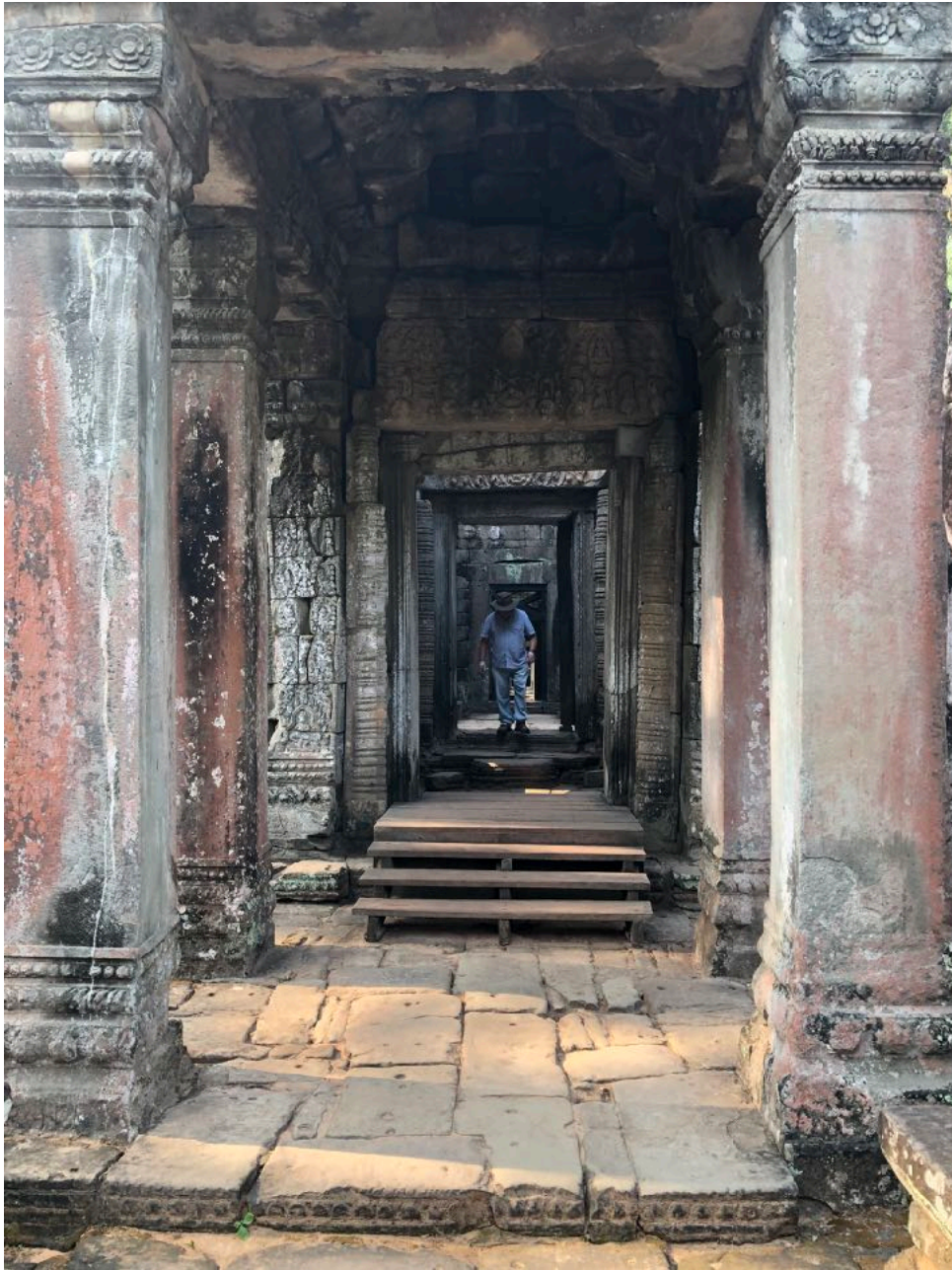


**Medallion carving. We don't often see horses; even rarer are people riding horses.**



**Perhaps this skink is after the insects feeding on the fallen fruit.**





**David in the carefully aligned doorways of Preah Khan.**



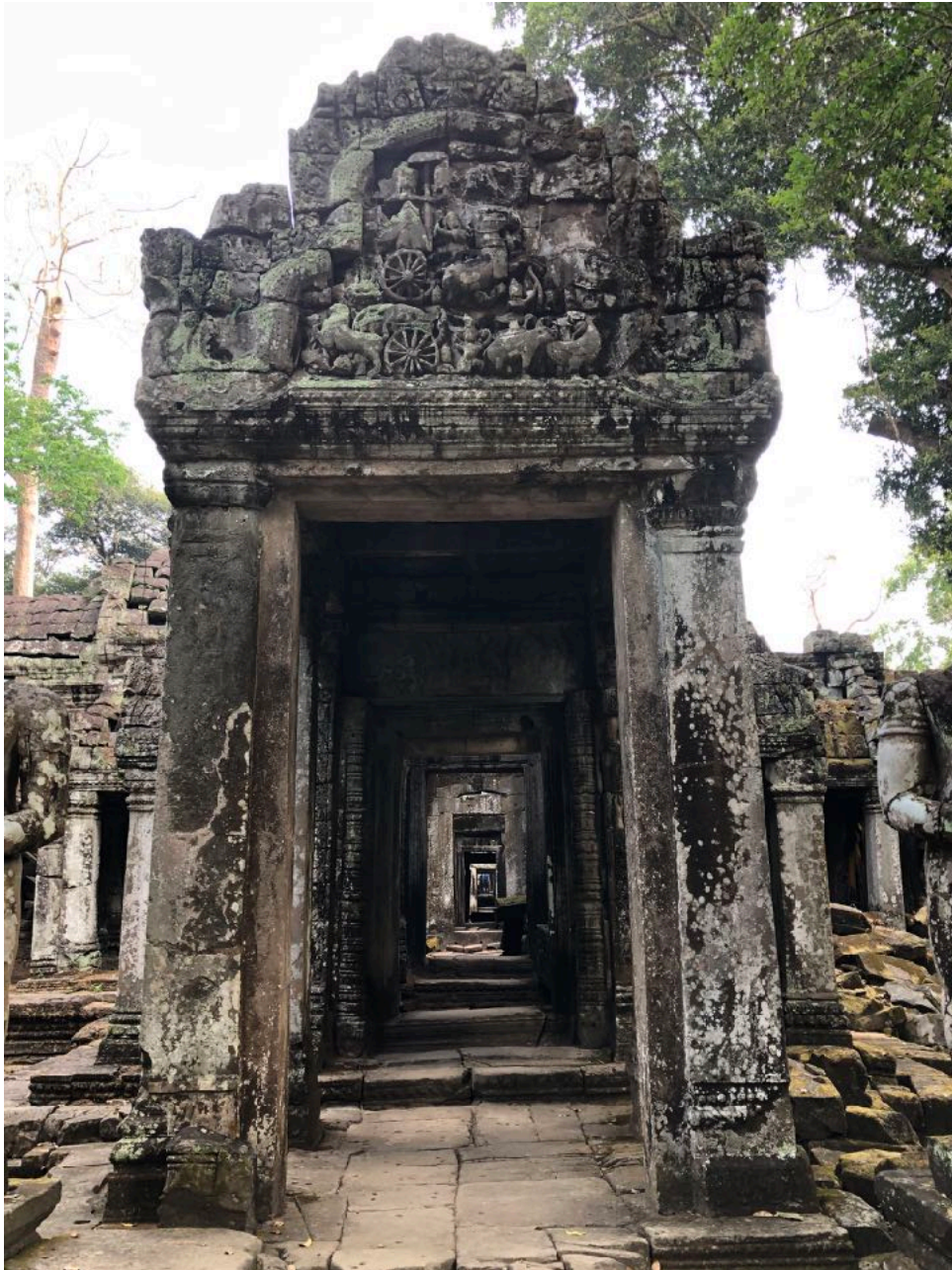
**Did the men carving these have a sense of humour?**



**I expect they understood life.**



**Courtyard between the outer wall and the second wall.  
The rubble probably belongs to covered walkways.**



**Looking into the temple from the south.**

There is so much more to the Preah Khan temple. We stayed nearly two hours and saw perhaps one quarter of it (nor did we spend a lot of time photographing dragonflies).



**Snap shot taken from the bike on the way home. Impressive to balance the food tray on her head, but look closely at the cage on the back of the bike.**

