

Part 340 for Cathy's Blog

Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st, March, 2026

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Temple Day : Victory Gate to Gate of the Dead



The Victory Gate, facing East.



An elephant in the carvings at the bottom of one of the three trunks of Airavata, the three headed elephant that stands either side of each of the gates.



Asura holding the Naga at the Victory Gate.



Blocks stacked at the Victory Gate. These were probably dug from the moat during the works to restore the road over the causeway. We walked south beside the moat, with the wall to our right.



Tiny red dragonfly (perhaps 2cm long).



Another thin dragonfly (perhaps 5cm long).



Lily growing through the leaf litter.



Weevil.



At the Gate of the Dead, we found this seed pod. You can see how neatly the seeds are arranged and how easily they will fall from the seed pod in the wind.



The other side of the seed pod.



This is a photo of otter wee/poo. It stinks.



This spider has a large packed lunch.





Butterfly.



Another butterfly.



Flower.



Back at the Victory Gate.



Iconic Victory Gate photo, in the bright morning sun.

Tuesday 31st March, 2026.

Temple Day : Victory Gate to NE Prasat Chrung



More seeds.



Moth.



Butterfly : Common Imperial (*Rhyothemis plutonia*).



Small red beetle.



Flower.



Butterfly.



Bright green eggs... not sure what creature.



Orange spider.



Back at the Victory Gate. The famous Akubra butterfly.

And that is the end of March. The weather is hot and it makes travelling and walking around the temples tiring. We are conscious to drink lots (of water!). We swim in the mornings now, when the pool has some shade. Although

the sun is not as “strong” as in Australia, it is hot. I wear my sun hat in the pool (and my new Akubra hat out at the temples).

I put sunscreen on my face and hands before leaving the house each morning). Add to that my long sleeves (a cotton shirt) and I must look quite out of place... but that doesn't matter the same here in Cambodia.

We have another month of heat before the rains begin (there may be some showers and storms, but rains are expected in May). April will be a month or so of short temple visits, early in the mornings and then quiet days and turning the air conditioner on after tea for a cool evening (plus the air conditioner on “dehumidify” over night).