

Part 342 for Cathy's blog

Friday 3rd to Tuesday 7th April, 2026

Friday 3rd April: Good Friday

David ordered Hot Cross buns and collected them in time for a late breakfast. Although they didn't have much fruit, they were tasty (and soft!)

David packed up some of the Hot Cross Buns and delivered them to all our neighbours in the apartments. The French girls didn't know about them (but were happy to have them).

Our Khmer landlord only knows them because this is the second time we have given them out.

We stayed home for the day, because unless we get out early, it is too hot to do much.

Saturday 4th April, 2026.

It was hot again, temperatures of 38 C. So we caught a Tuktuk to Angkor Supermarket.

Sunday 5th April, 2026. Easter Sunday

Today we had a special Easter lunch at Raffles Hotel.



**It was time to dress up, catch a Tuktuk and head into
Siem Reap.**

**The view of the Royal Palace Gardens from the Raffles
Hotel.**



Easter decorations inside (that egg is chocolate!)

David with champagne and an Old Fashioned cocktail.





Inside Raffles... the long walk to the bathroom!

Three hours later and we were full. We managed to get out to the Tuktuk and get home, where we sat around under the fans and let our delicious lunch slowly digest.

No tea after that lunch!

day 6th April, 2026.

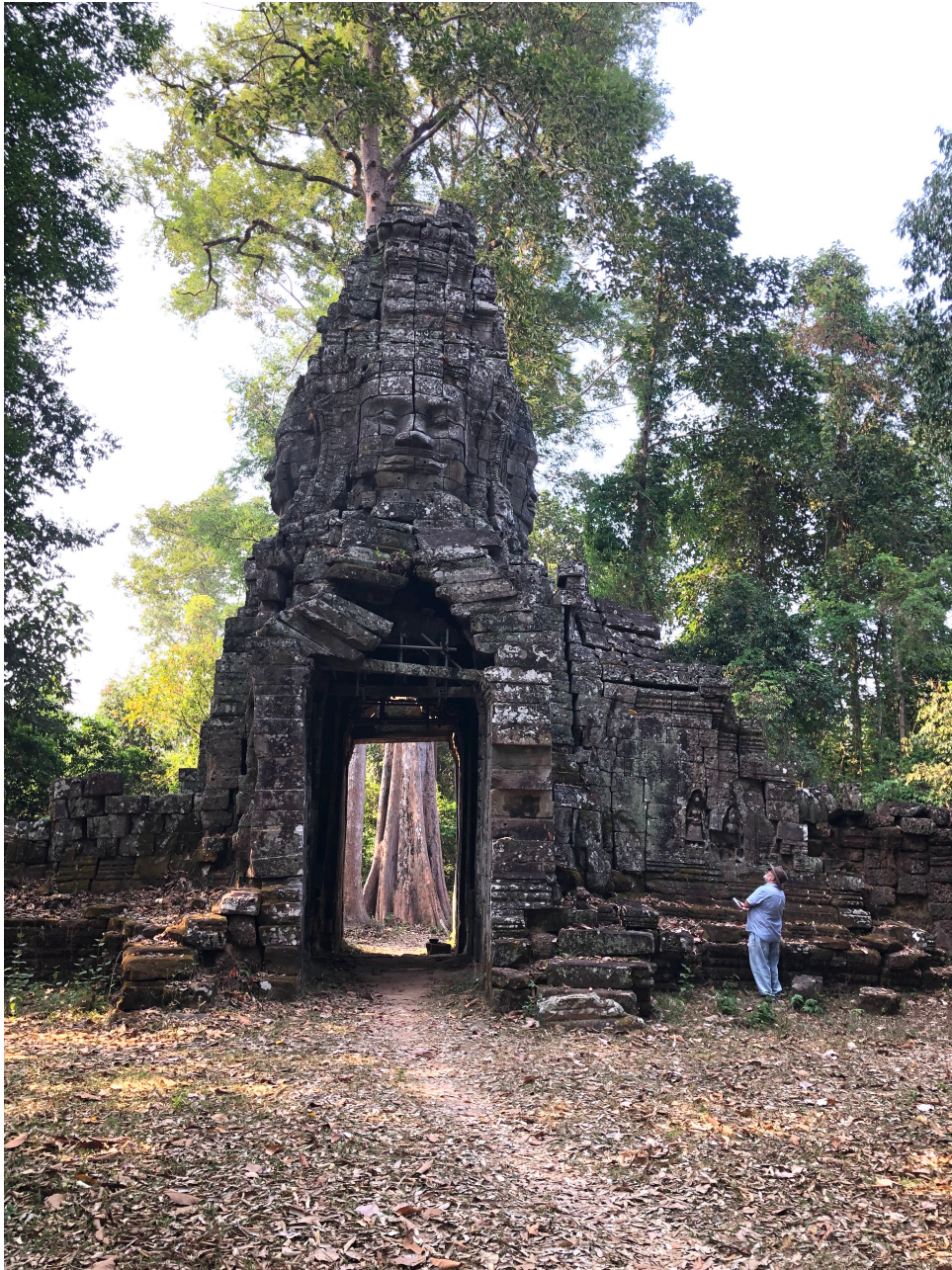
Temple Day : Banteay K'Dei south gopura (and walk to the dry moat)



This is the south gopura, with its four faces (of Jayavarman VII) above the actual entrance. This gopura is in the outer wall of the temple.



A close up of the Garuda, showing the detailed carving.



This photo is from inside the gopura, giving you an idea of the size of this entrance and the wall that surrounds the temple.



The blocks neatly stacked both inside and outside the wall, show that there was more to this gopura back in the day.



It is about 75 meters to the moat. Inside the moat is another wall around the main tower and other buildings like the libraries of Banteay K'Dei Temple.

The nearly dry moat. Once again, it is hard to imagine just how big these buildings (and walls and moats) are.

The locals have fish nets and traps (which will need to be repaired before the moat refills).

It was just a short temple visit, to be sure to be back home before it gets too warm.

Tuesday 7th April, 2026.

Temple Day : Krol Ko



Krol Ko is a small temple which lies almost at the furthest corner of the Grand Circuit (the tourist circuit) from us.

It has a laterite wall all around it and an internal wall, keeping the separate buildings (the libraries) and central tower enclosed within a moat and a wall.

The sunshine is already bright and hot.

Even the dogs are hot, and they barely took any notice of us.







Until restoration of the wall and the gopura are completed (indeed, if ever they are), these beautiful carved lintels have been displayed on the ground. They tell the stories from the Ramayana (etc). Scholars can name the characters and the scenes (I can't).

Like many temples, the carvings here at Krol Ko are weathering with age. Inside the carved medallions beside the doorways there are figures and animals.





**More carved blocks lie around inside the temple,
waiting to be placed in their original positions.**



Here you can see the Apsaras, the heavenly dancers surrounding an important figure (but I don't know who he is). The styles of the "sombot", (= the "skirt") and the earrings and headdress help date the temples. Some temples also have written inscriptions which date them and give information about who built them (and why).



A Devapala, (part of) a false door and carved medallions with figures.



A carved figure, with a different headdress and interesting earrings. This one is one of many in the blocks stacked at the temple (and not put in place in the temple building).



It would be hard to carve the fingers of hands...



Unfortunately, many of the carvings have been “stolen”. Many were looted over the years starting around the 1900’s (Angkor Wat was discovered in 1860). Another wave of thefts occurred during the unrest before and during Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot’s infamous leadership. And perhaps there have been further thefts since then.

In recent years, some of the carvings (and bronze statues etc) have begun to be returned from museums and private collections. The trouble with private collections is, they are private and it is not known for certain what treasures are there.