

Part 343 for Cathy's Blog.

Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th, April, 2026

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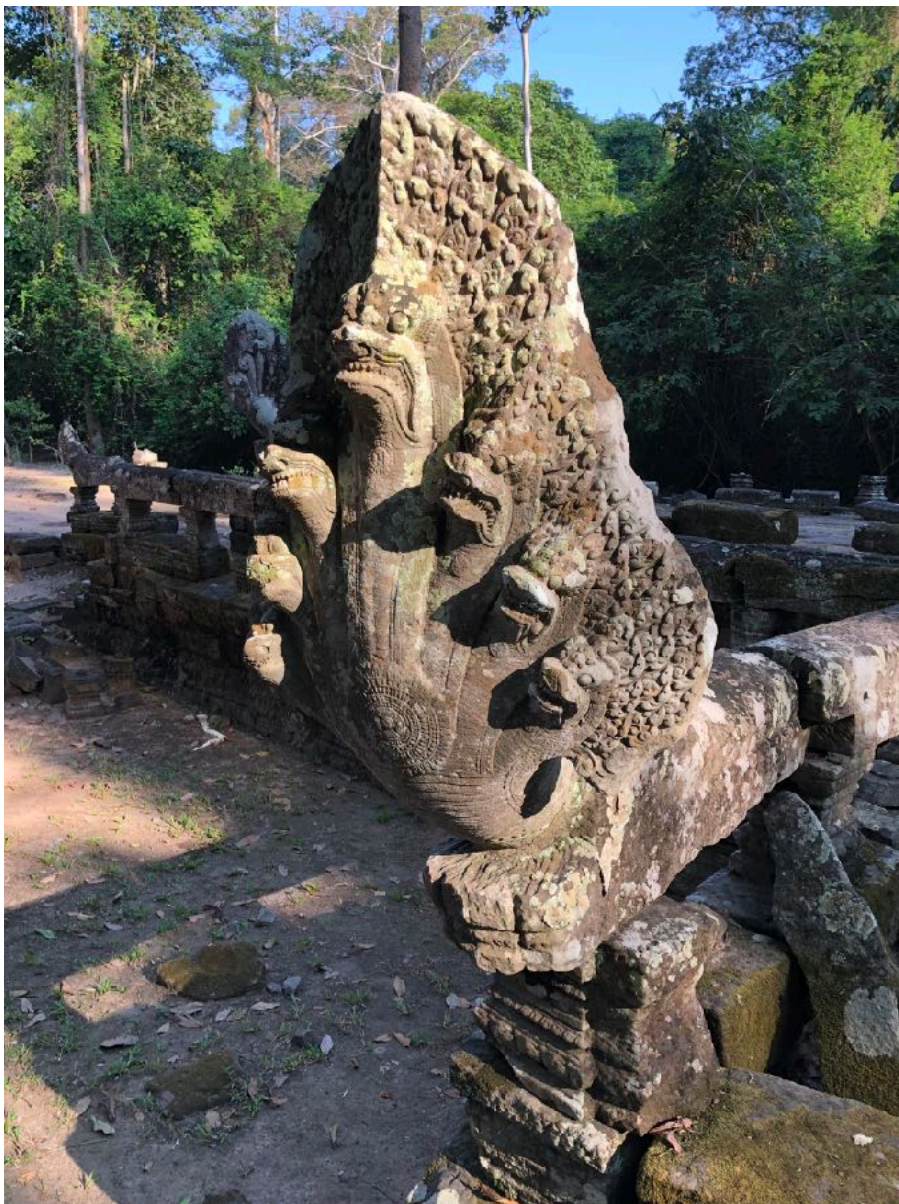
Temple Day : Palilay and the Gate of the Dead

Two short visits today, with the short trip between them (on the motorbike) to cool off.

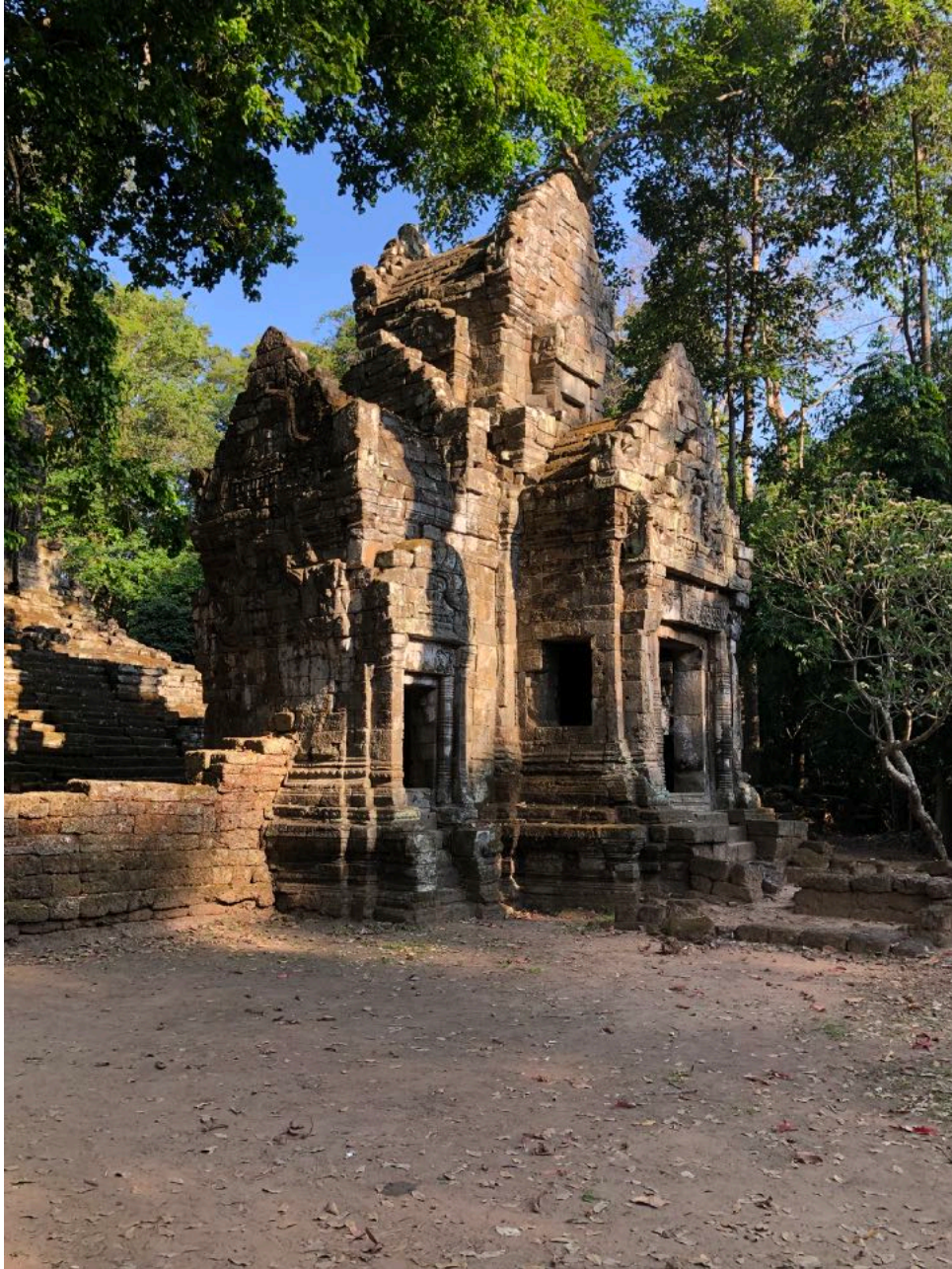


These orange lilies (above) are flowering at the moment. They are often planted around pagodas and are commonly called Monk's Lilies. They grow just past the pagoda (which uses part of the Tep Pranam Temple long laterite walkway to house the modern Buddha statues).

Hippeastrum tunisiu



Naga at the long eastern walkway to Palilay Temple.



Eastern gopura of Palilay.



A Blister beetle (or Rove beetle). There were hundreds of them eating the fallen figs.



Some have no red at all!





Temple grounds.

I have sat on that seat and watched the gibbons play on those trees above.

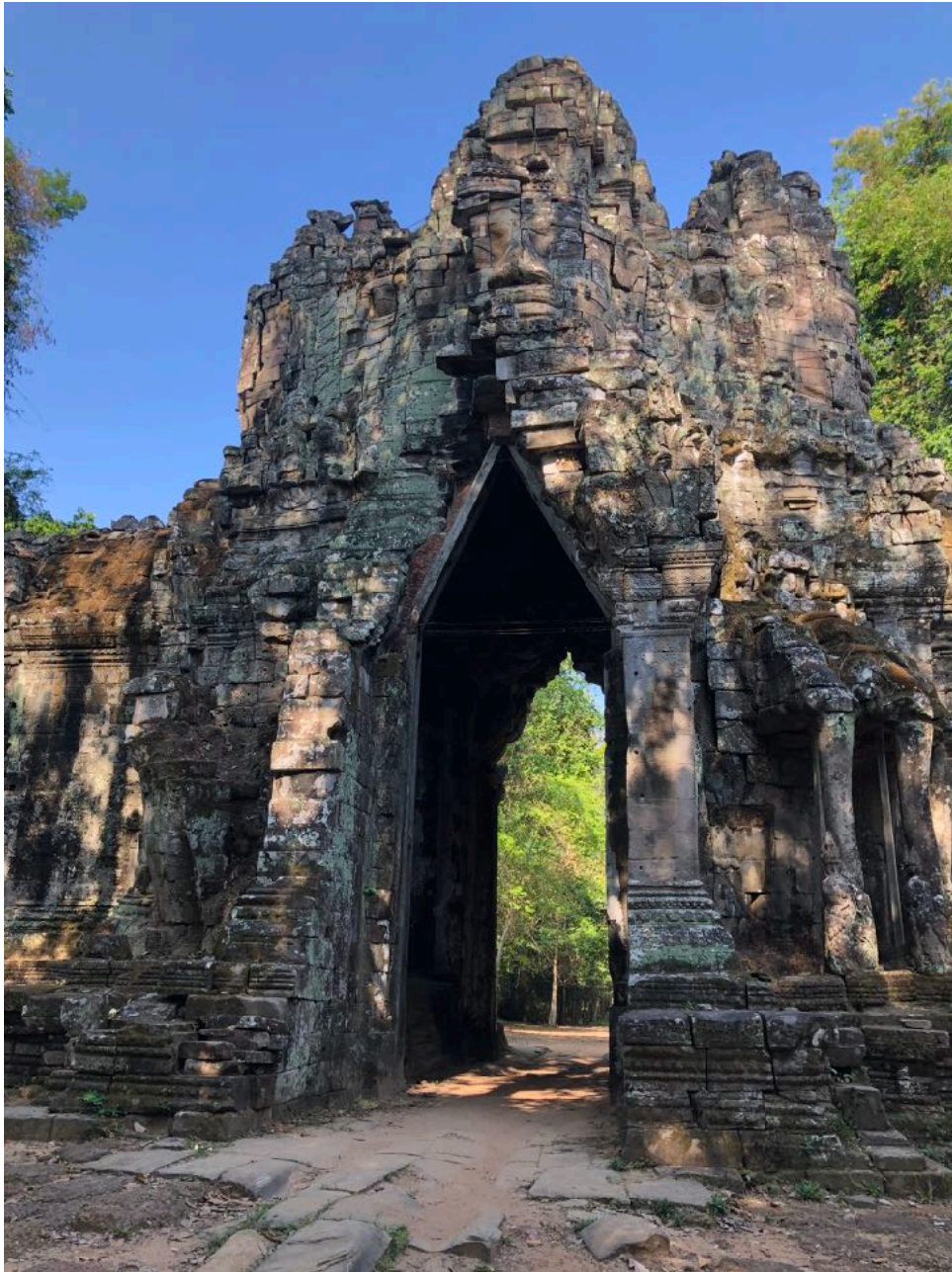


Side view of Palilay. The three trees were cut to protect the temple ruins. They have regrown.



Riding back past the modern pagoda, we saw these sand castles. They are getting ready for Khmer New Year.

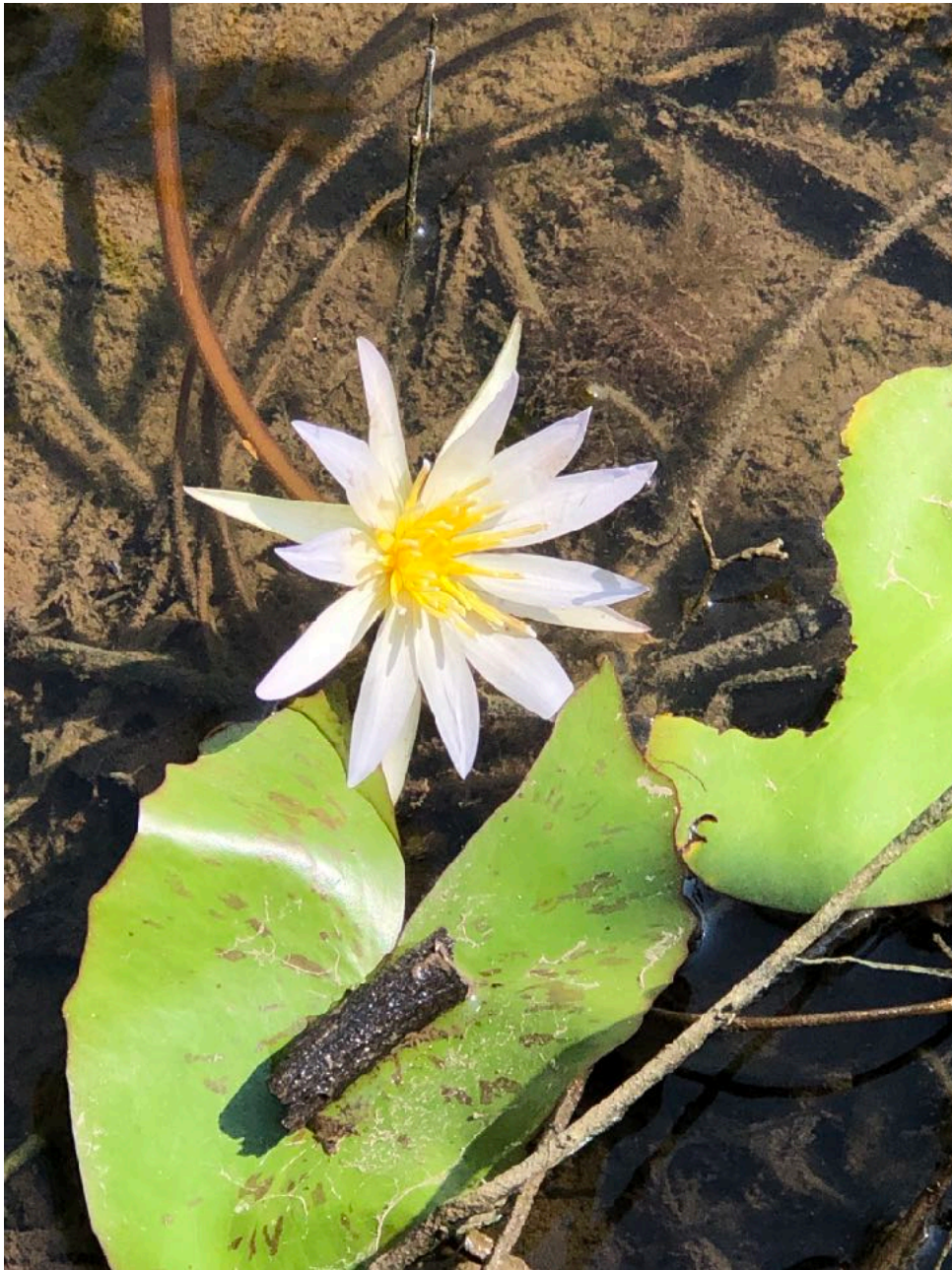
Then it was on to the Gate of the Dead. (You never know if you are going to see the otters.)



Looking in through the gate.



Bee.



Water Lily.



White herons flying away over the overgrown moat (east side of Angkor Thom).

There are water channels through this “weed” and the otters can make their way around quite easily.
(No otters today.)

Thursday 9th April, 2026.

Temple Day : East Top Temple them on to Don Mao (to see how the excavations are going).

East Top (“east” inside Angkor Thom) is a small temple about 100m off the road to the Victory Gate. It is well shaded and has some nicely carved blocks lying around.



Part of a lintel (naga on the left but missing on the right).



Another lintel.



Fallen gardenias (the tree was too tall for me to get a photo of flowers on the tree!).



East Top Temple.



The doorway.



Statue pedestal.



More Blister Beetles.



Mosquito relative.

On to East Baray Terrace and Pier (near Don Mao) and it is quite a transformation



When we first visited East Baray Terrace and Pier, this area was “jungle” with some laterite showing in the leaf litter.

It has been completely dug out (with trenches about 3m deep, showing the laterite foundations and walls).

A lion statue was dug up (and one was already there, lying on its side).

Now, these steps have been rebuilt and one lion replaced in its original position.



A small crane is used to move the blocks.



The second lion (in the shade of the green umbrella) is being restored. The workers show the size of the site.



Numbered blocks, with interesting carved patterns.



One lion in place and the pedestal ready for the second lion.



Equipment.



Evidence of other statues.



Seed.