

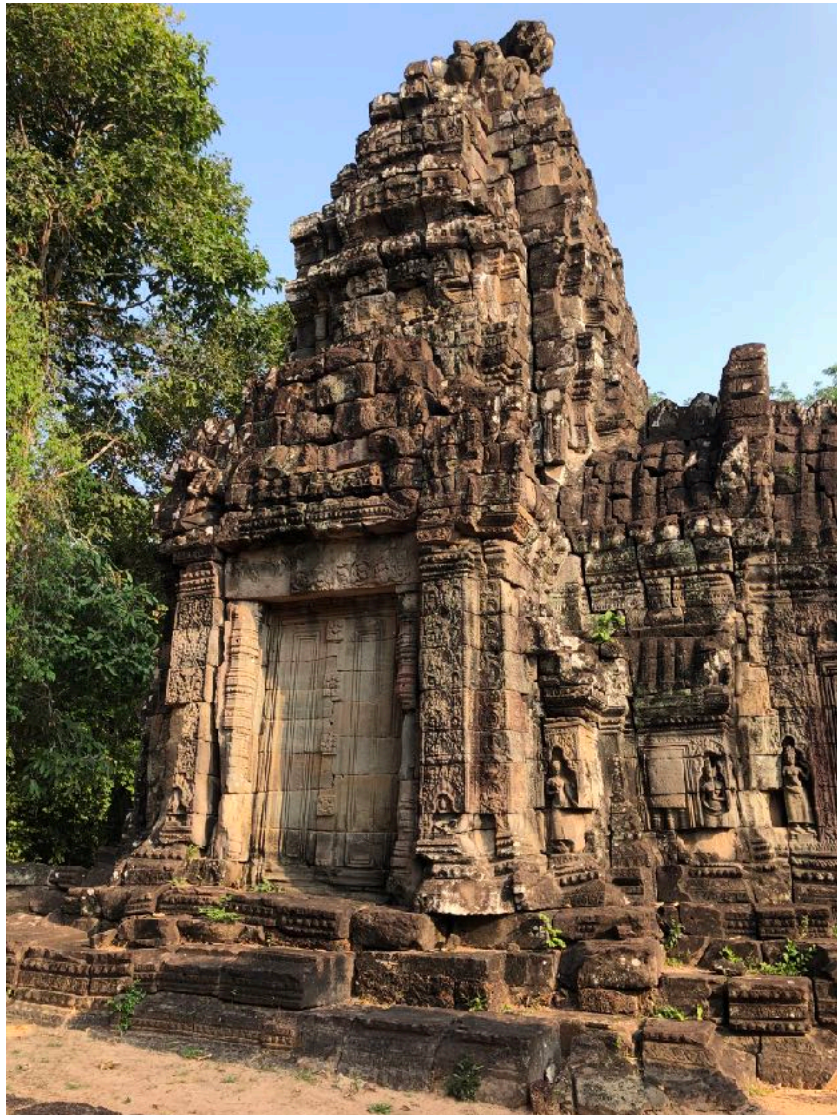
**Part 344 for Cathy's blog.**

**Friday 10th April, 2026.**

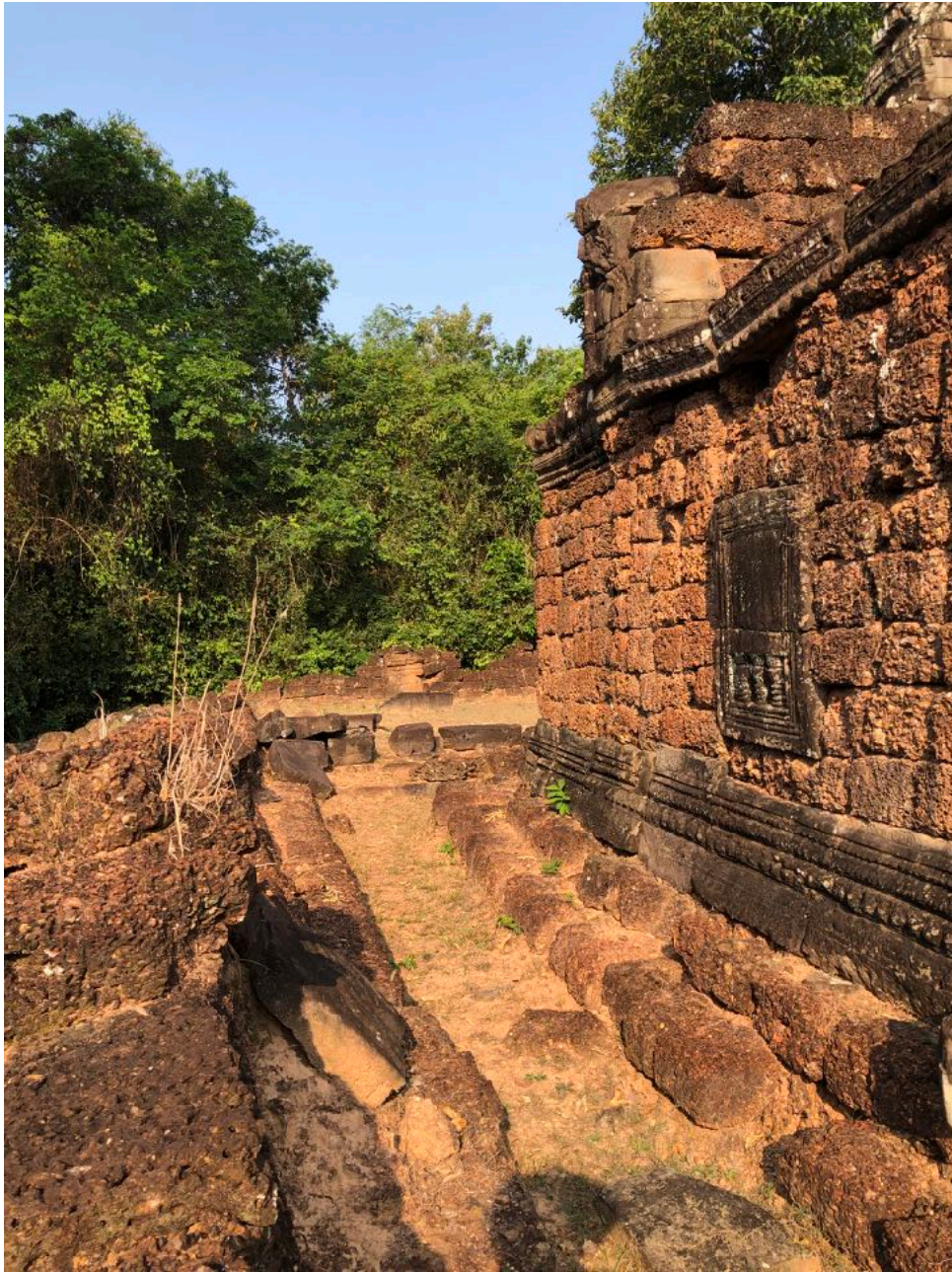
**Temple Day : Prei Temple**

Prei temple is a small temple on a small hill, just north of Preah Khan. At the moment, the small hill stands in a dry water reservoir.

Prei Temple has a lot of good carvings (for its size) and is worth a visit if you have 20 minutes or so to spare while on your journey around the Grand Circuit of temples.



**This is Prei Temple from the south.**



**Building walls of laterite, surrounded by another laterite wall.**



**This is unusual to us.  
Having an Apsara inside this “arch” isn’t common  
(usually it is a “hermit” figure).  
The pattern around the arch is unusual and quite pretty.  
The sandstone is weathering away.**



**Carved medallions, but the blocks are no longer in place in the temple.**



**Female figures by the false doors of the temple.**



**This one is beside a false window.**

**We think the “windows” remained as solid stone to support the structure of the lintel and roof.**



**At first glance, this looks like a “witch” wringing her hands. When I look more carefully, I see it is a heavenly dancer, an Apsara.**



**Inside part of the temple. I think some of these blocks are in the wrong places.**



**Of course, where there are rocks and sunshine, there are lizards.**



**Then it was time to ride the long way home (today's trip was about 42km on the motorbike).**

## **Saturday 11th April, 2026.**

Our weekly shop at the big supermarket. There is a limited range of coffee. There is no Vegemite and no Weetbix! Oh no! What is an Australian supposed to do?

Don't worry. The stocks return, sooner or later.

## **Sunday 12th April, 2026.**

A quiet day at home.

We have rearranged our days so that we swim at 10:00am (or thereabouts). The water is cooler then and about half of the pool is in the shade. (I wear my old straw sun hat while swimming and sunglasses, so the sun doesn't affect me the same. Otherwise, it is hot on your head as you swim!)

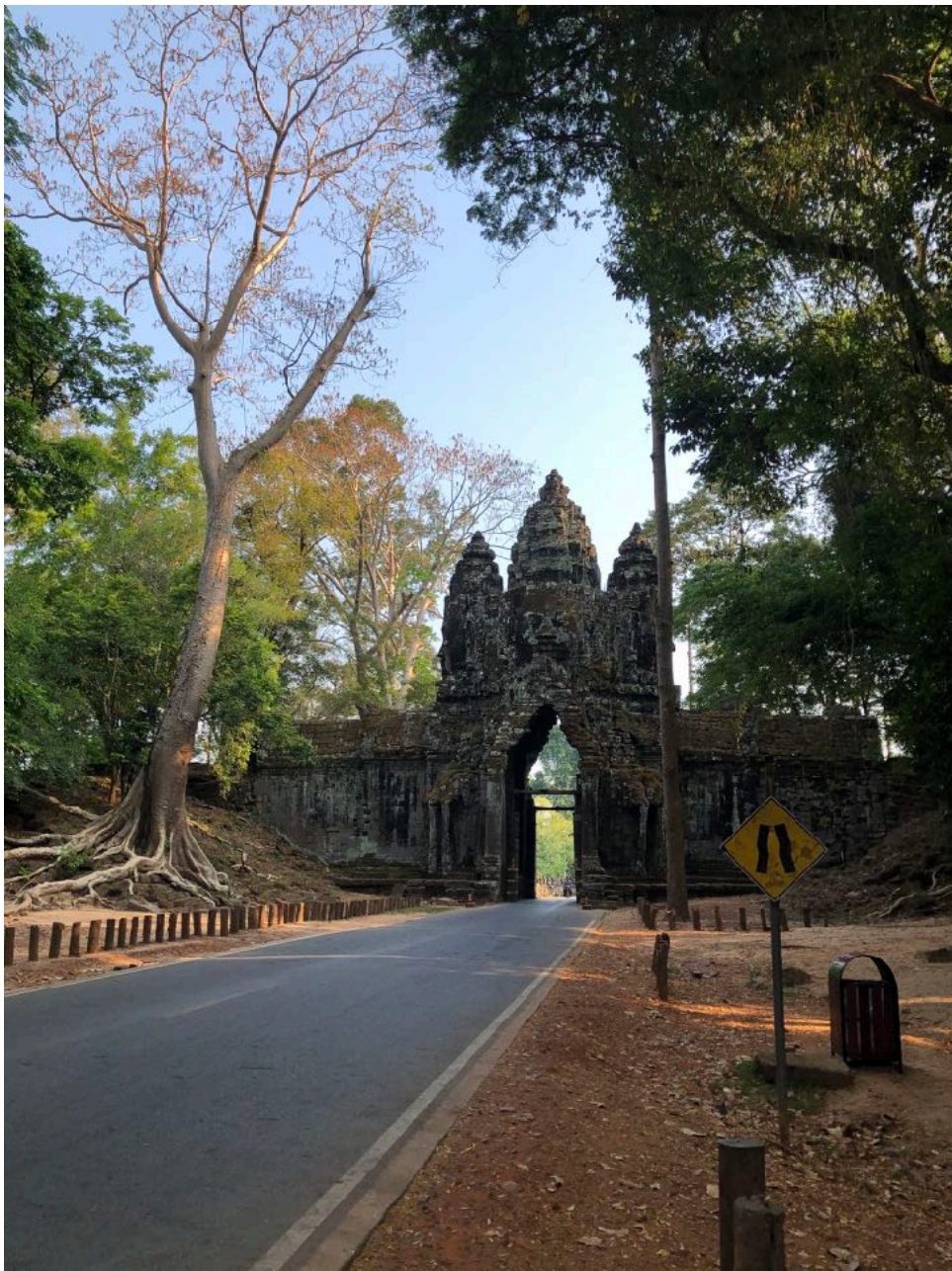
## **Monday 13th April, 2026.**

### **Temple Day : North Gate and moat**

Today we rode to the North Gate and walked along the causeway over the moat and down the side to the edge of the moat.

The North Gate is called “Dei Chhnang” which means earthenware pot (think baking dish). We are not sure if this is because it was the pottery making area, or because there is a lot of broken pottery in the rubble.

The walls of the “city” of Angkor Thom were built with laterite and sandstone and with earth dug from the moat. It would not be surprising to find a lot of broken pottery in areas where people lived while the walls were being built.





Along the edge of the water of the moat is quite a lot of land, often with good green grass and buffalo.

In the rainy season, this area will fill with water.



**The Avenue of Asuras and Devas, holding the Naga, and the road out of Angkor Thom to the north.**



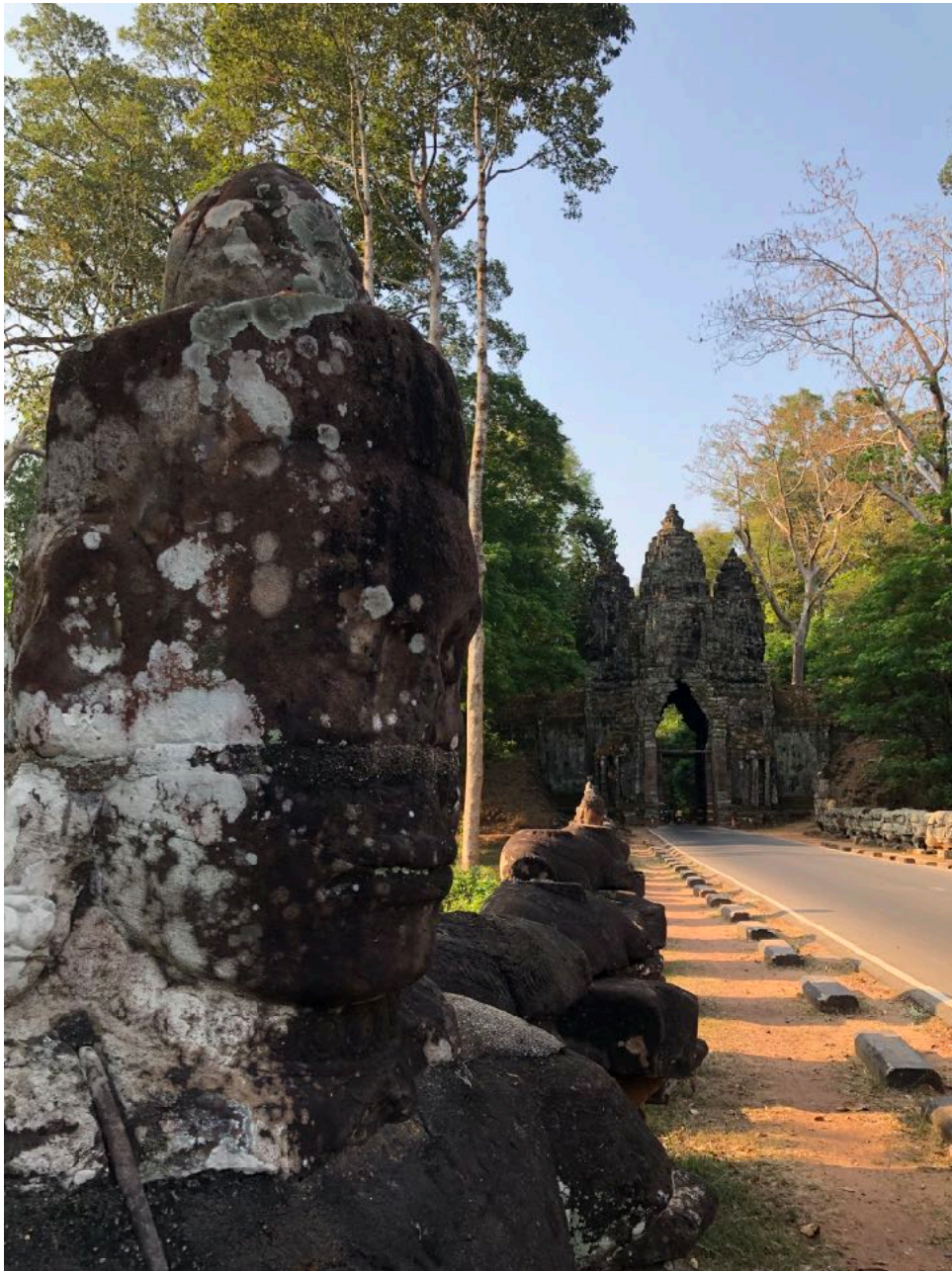
**Holding the body of the naga.**



**A lock on the main Channel of the moat allows water to be moved or stored as needed.**



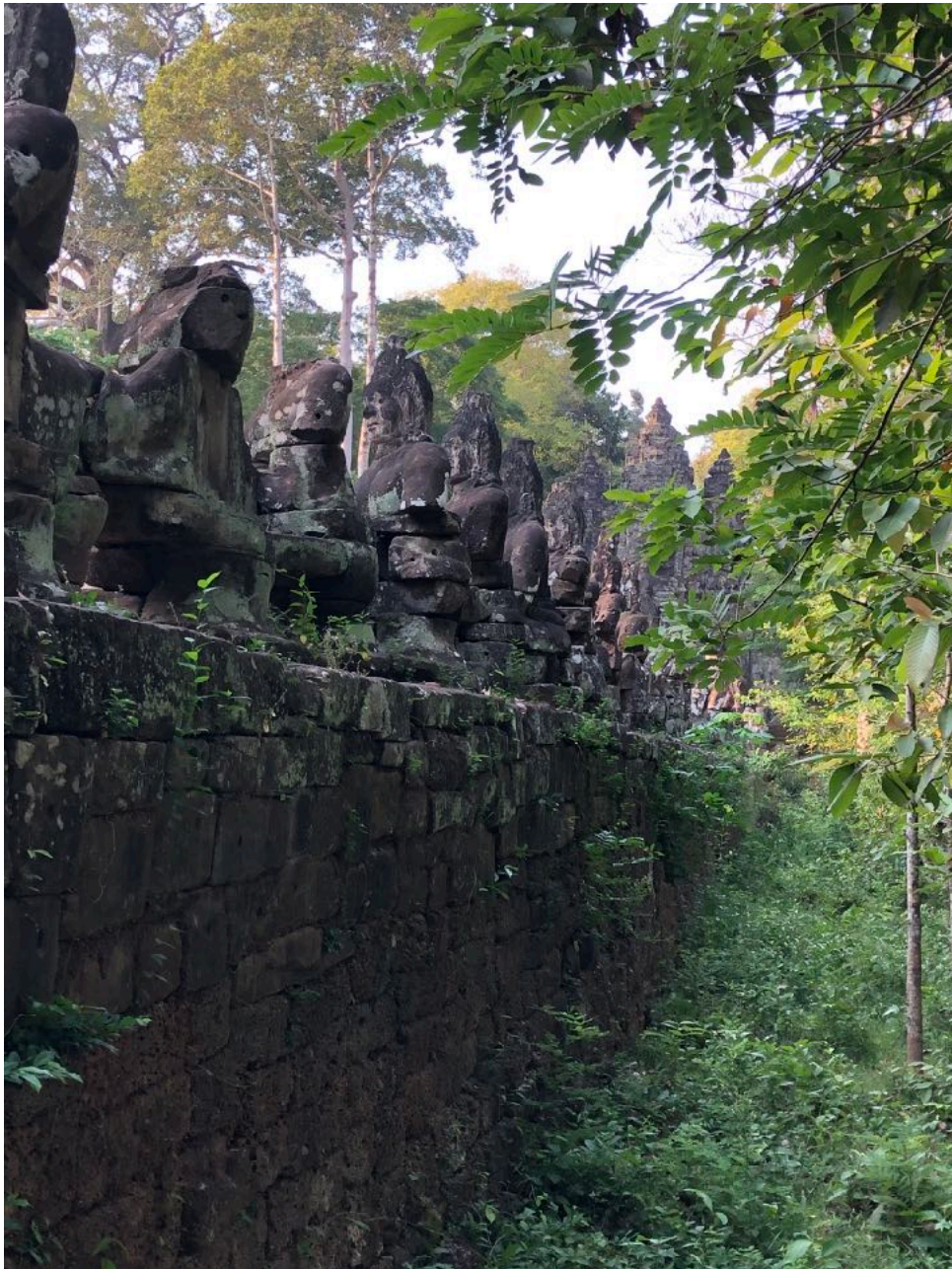
**The moat, half overgrown, looking east.**



**A worn Deva, with repair work, looking back at the gate.**



**Holding the naga is like a tug-of-war. You have to plant your feet and take up the strain!**

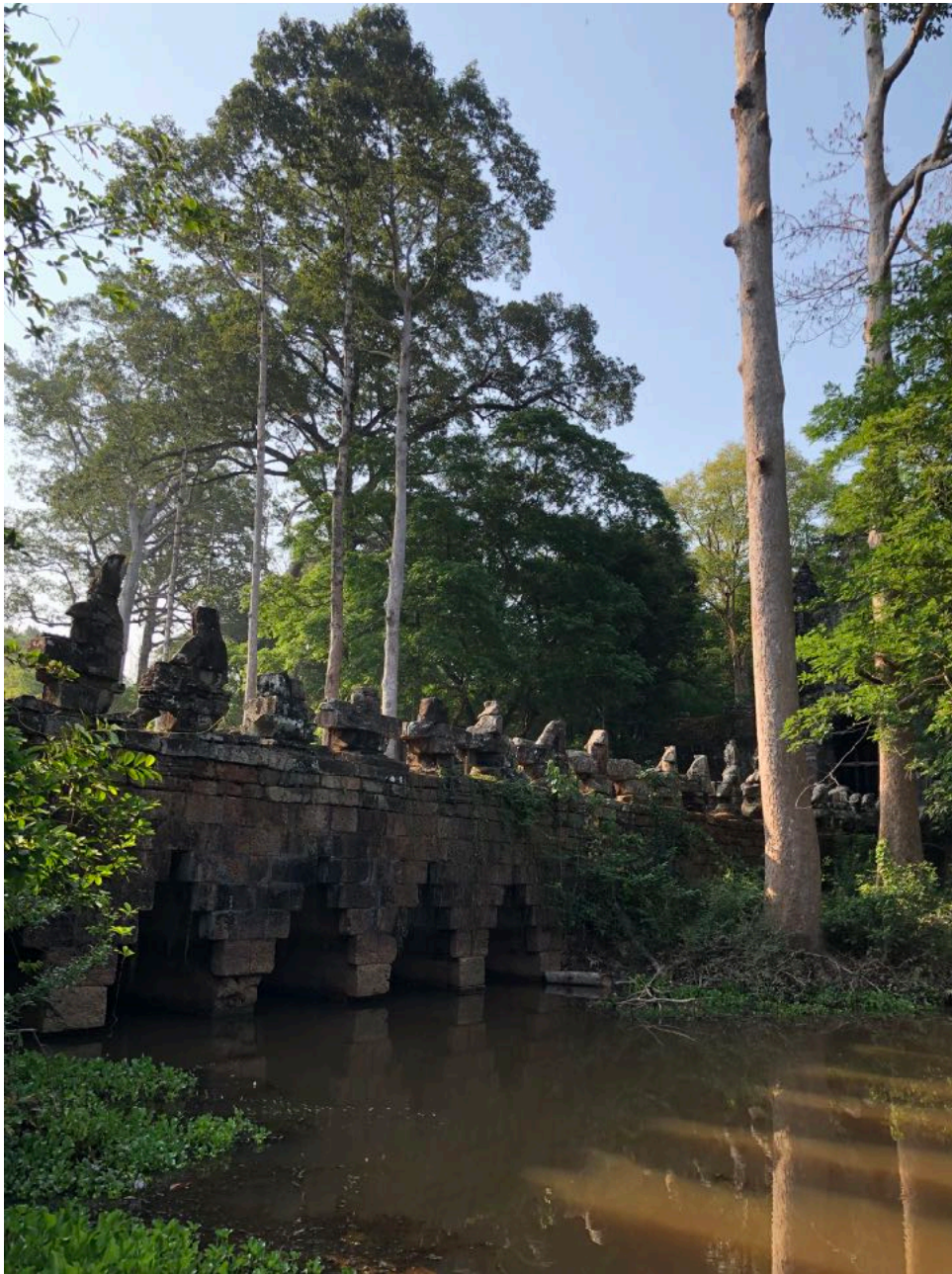


**The west side of the causeway.**

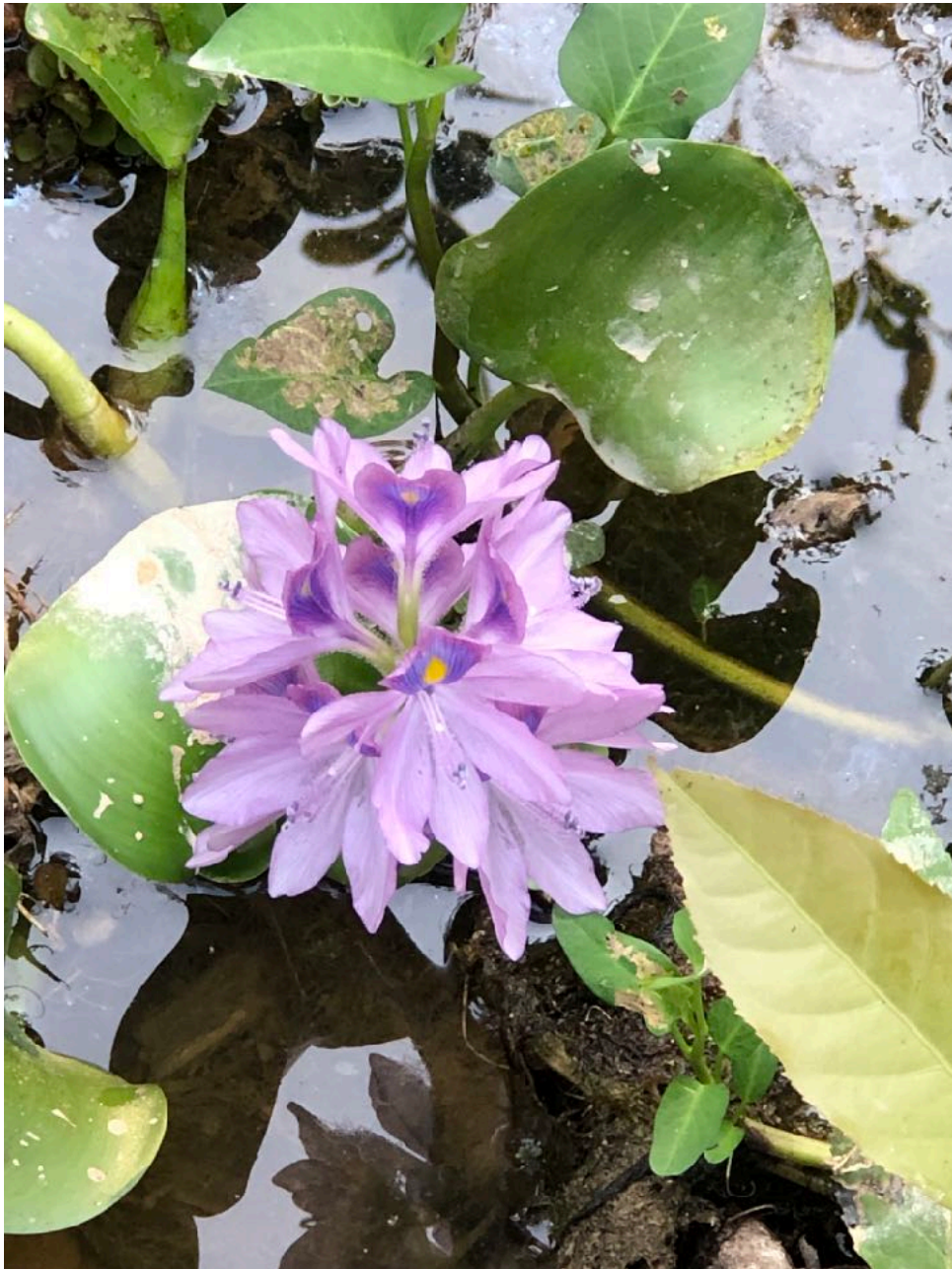


**It is more overgrown this side, and we found a lot of insect life.**

**An interesting caterpillar.**



**The lock is the other side of the causeway. These are the Angkorian arches, used to allow the rivers to flow and also the traffic to pass over.**



**Water hyacinth. It is a weed.**



**These little tents are made by bees. They cut the leaf and wrap it around themselves.**



**... just another minute and this butterfly would have been completely in the sunshine.**



**Asuras holding the naga.**



**This is down at moat level, with the Wall of the causeway and the row of Asuras. The North Gate rises tall above David in the distance.**



**A frog in the grass by the water.**

There was time for a quick visit to Krol Romeas, the Elephant Circle (yes, even though the name refers to rhinoceros!).



**The curved laterite wall of the Elephant Circle.**



**Spaces for wooden supports, perhaps to allow for shaded areas or perhaps to separate pens for the elephants. There is not much information about Krol Romeas.**



**David across the other side of the central area of Krol Romeas. Some of the trees have grown.**

It is Khmer New Year, so many people are on holidays. The government sponsors buses to enable people to travel back to their home villages for the holiday.

Others travel and stay in hotels and guest houses and with friends. Everyone needs to eat, so food carts are set up along the roadways.





**The top photo shows a cart set up along the road out to the temples. This photo is along Preah Sihanouk Avenue and this stall is selling battered, fried bananas (and other snack foods).**