

## **Part 361 for Cathy's blog**

**June 2026**

**Monday June 1 and Tuesday June 2nd, 2026**

### **Temple Day : the Baphuon**

The Baphuon temple is tucked in behind the Bayon. It is the start of the Elephant Terrace, but you can only see a glimpse of the (impressive) eastern gopura and behind it the temple mountain. By the time you can see through the trees, you have passed it.

To visit the Balhuon, you park near the Bayon (outside the "ring road" around the Bayon). It is quite a long walk through piles of carved sandstone (and laterite) blocks.

The Lost and Found Office (Angkor) and a toilet block are tucked away in here too (not that they are well sign posted).

We spent some time watching the monkeys playing and swimming in one of the water basins behind the Eastern gopura, but in front of the Baphuon temple. Walking back, we found these huge piles of blocks and we decided we had to return and systematically look at them all.

Remember, the Baphuon was rebuilt, having been completely dismantled, and it is not surprising that some stones didn't make their way back into the temple building.

To complicate our visit more, workers are “digging” up these blocks and moving them (further out the back of the Baphuon).

Here are some photos of carvings that we found.



**The start of the blocks with the Baphuon in the background.**



**This fellow makes me think of Stig of the Dump.**



**These are “roof tiles”. Their ends have been carved with nagas .**



**A seven headed naga... an unfinished carving.**



**These carvings are well worn.**

**You can still see a wild pig and a deer.**



**Different carved naga on these “roof tiles”.**



**Beautiful patterns.**



**We saw this monkey first. And then we found the people feeding them. There are signs saying do not feed them. There are signs warning they bite. What can you do...**

And to make matters worse, these people who feed them leave their plastic bags behind.



**More patterns.**



**And more unfinished carvings.**





**Is this a horse?**



**This is certainly a single axle cart.**



**This is an interesting carving. There are a lot of stories that would fit.**





**Walking back to the bike, we found this lady selling bananas by the “ring road” around the Bayon.**

**Tuesday June 2 , 2026.**

**Temple Day : Preah Khan swing bridge and Ta Nei**

Perhaps it would be better to describe today as an adventure day. We headed out to Preah Khan and then rode south along smaller tracks and across the swing bridge over the Siem Reap River.

We have been this way before.

We first rode past one of the many tree nurseries. Then there were some paths to the edge of the North Baray and even some “beach shelters” (and piles of take away food container rubbish).

We stopped for pictures.



**The water channel leading to a lock (feeding water from the North Baray).**



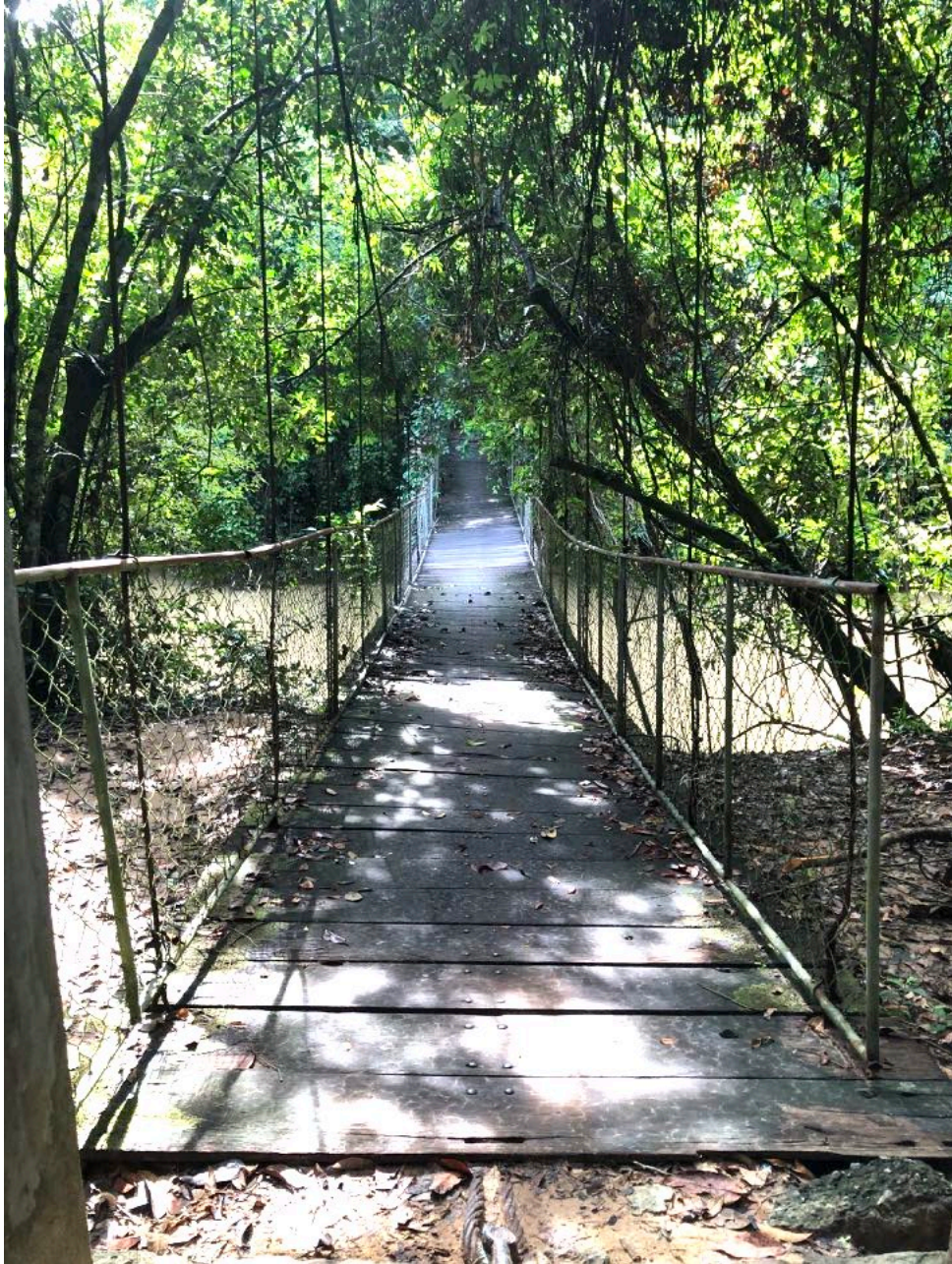
**These lift the concrete wall (gates) to allow water to pass.**



**Phnom Bok and Neak Poan island in the Baray.**



**Pretty butterfly.**



**The Swing Bridge.**



**The Khmer Rouge Canal (quite over grown and not holding water).**



**Berries.**



**Following these paths, you end up at the north east corner of Ta Nei Temple.**



**Ta Nei is a beautiful temple to visit.**



**Giant “Speung” tree, at Ta Nei.**

***Tetrameles nudiflora***

