

Part 370 for Cathy's blog

Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th, June, 2026

Temple Day : East Top Temple, Leak Neang Temple (near Ta Keo) and Banteay K'Dei (West entrance).

Our morning excursion today was a bit of a mixed bag of temple visits, all quite small in themselves and all to the east of Angkor Thom (and Angkor Wat).

East Top Temple lies within Angkor Thom and is somewhere near the Gate of the Dead, but with no road (or track) connecting them.



Above. A small carving, placed respectfully in front of the steps at the east entrance of the temple.



The east entrance.



Time has damaged this carving. I do not know what this is!



It is part of a larger pediment. A large important figure, with a weapon, stands above the smaller group. People kneel at the sides and a row of people are underneath (worshippers).



A once beautiful naga rests on blocks. These carvings are no longer part of the temple building, but have been set around it so that we can see them.



**More carvings on blocks around the temple.
These are Apsaras, heavenly dancers.**



East Top temple remains and the blocks set around it.



Then it was riding on to Leak Neang Temple, just outside Angkor Thom and over the river.

This temple has loose blocks set around in the yard too.



Tall trees keep both these temples well shaded for most of the day.



The shadows make some photos hard to work out. This pediment (now only part of it), has the large figure standing and a person sitting and worshipping. Here, you can also see a deer sitting down.



The single central tower (bakhan) of Leak Neang Temple.



Fancy scrolls carved for decoration (not story telling).



A row of worshippers. There would have been some larger figure carved in the block that sat on top of this one.



Happiness?



You can just see the temple at the end of this path (behind David on the motorbike). If you went behind the temple, about 100m, you would be standing in the Siem Reap River.

Behind me, less than 100 m away, is Ta Keo Temple (which is so big it needs its own blog entry).

Time to ride on to the West entrance to Banteay K'Dei.



This was not a good plan for a sunny morning, as the western gopura is in shadow.



**We ride back into town along Preah Sihanouk Avenue.
We often see people travelling in the little carts pulled
along by motorbikes.**

(And yes, those are eucalyptus trees planted along the nature strip.)

Friday 26th June, 2026.

Wall Walk : West Gate to SW Prasat Chrung



A new sight near the West Gate, another piglet. This one didn't have any road sense, so I wonder how long it's life will be.



Storms (and rain) can be quite localised here in Siem Reap. Winds have brought down this tree on the west wall of Angkor Thom.



This tree reminds me of “Alien”, but perhaps the Strangler Fig is protecting the tree underneath... until it all becomes too much.



A well-earned rest at Prasat Chrung South West.



Looking over the corner of the moat. Just beyond the trees on the other side, people have rice fields.



Temples open to the east (except Angkor Wat itself!). So even Prasat Chrung SW has a walkway and a (now fallen) eastern gopura.



Not as big or as famous as the trees at Ta Promh, Prasat Chrung SW has its own tree, slowly but surely growing and taking over.



A dragonfly enjoying the sunshine.



Sculptors used the face of King Jayavarman VII himself as models for the famous four sided heads over the Gates of Angkor Thom. This is the West Gate in the morning sun.

After getting home, exercising and doing the washing, we went to Harry's bar for a late lunch. There is a steak special and we decided to treat ourselves. I quite enjoyed my steak (a bit tough, but easy enough to cut and chew). David didn't enjoy his... considerably tougher!

Well, we expect Khmer beef to be tough... but...

Saturday 27th June, 2026.

We walked to the Angkor Supermarket. The last bit of the walk, east along Highway 6, is hot, with the sun shining on our backs.

The supermarket is air conditioned.

And we catch a Tuktuk home.

Back home, and the pool repairs are finished, it is refilled and we had a good swim.

Sunday 28th June, 2026.

Today was our second Spean Chivit volunteering morning.

We met another Australian there, also volunteering.

The speeches are slowly taking shape.

