

Part 376 for Cathy's blog

Thursday 16th, July, 2026

Temple Day : Banteay Srey



Obvious signs of rain (and poor drainage).



It is a long walk through exhibition space (and past toilets and souvenir stalls) before the ticket control at Banteay Srey.

Before you even get to the temple, Banteay Srey has carvings on display.



The detail in the carvings is amazing. What can you see?



The Eastern Gopura (outside wall and entrance to Banteay Srey).



The the guardian lions at the base of the door frames are present as expected, but they have been elaborately carved.



Windowsills are carved.



Inside the gopura, there is a long, wooden boardwalk flanking the laterite walkway built in Angkorian times. There are matching outer buildings on each side of this walkway.



Some of these buildings are in ruins.



Even these lesser buildings are carved.



The pediments tell religious stories.

They also show signs of wear and looting and vandalism.



The details of the carvings is amazing.

Even AI finds it hard to give beings five fingers.



The carvings have special stories. You can come and see them for yourself (or you can look them up).



There is another gopura and the moat before you get to the entrance to the temple.



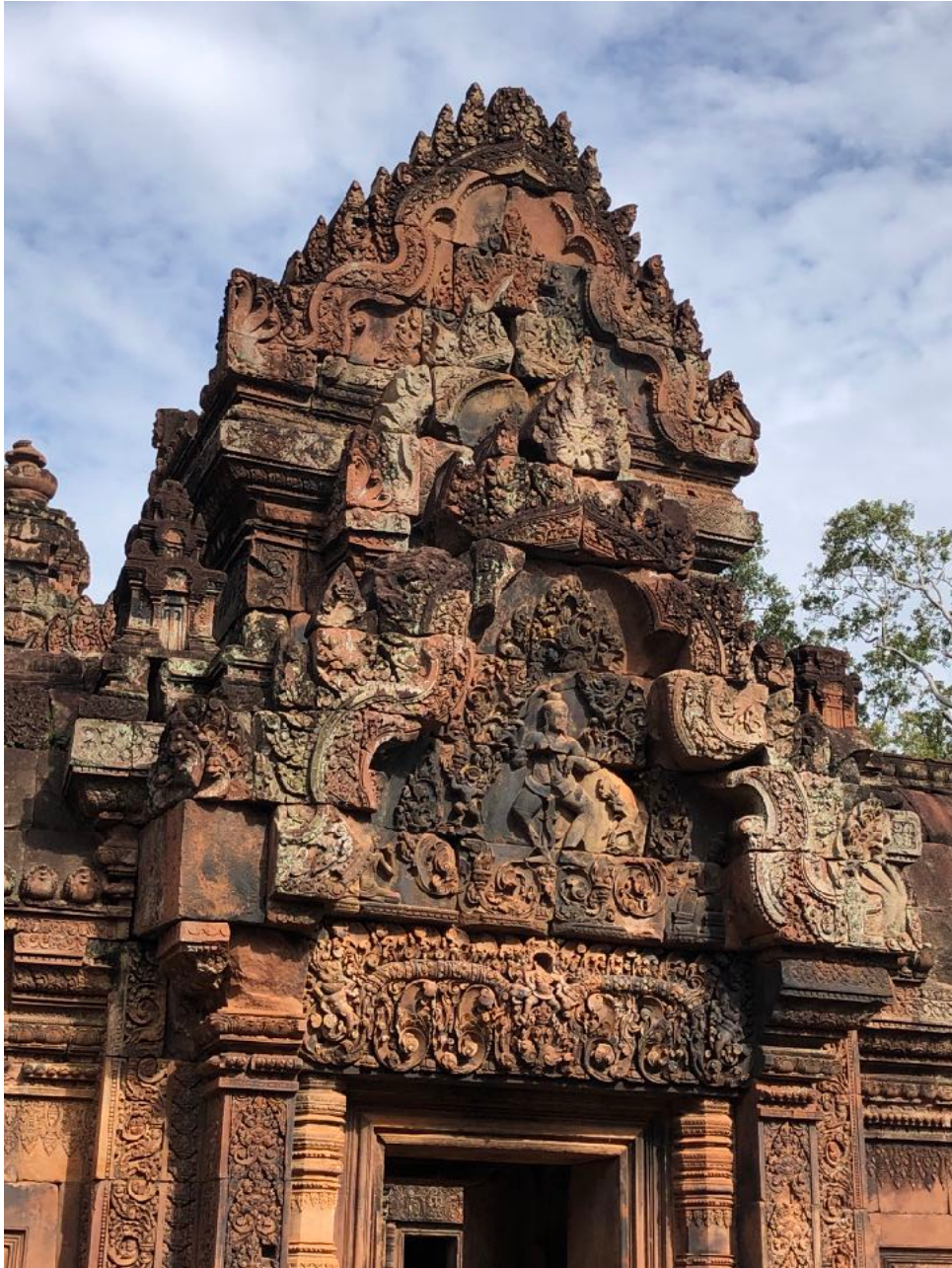
Outside the temple.



Story carved on the pediment at the entrance.



Look at the details of the carvings.



Inside this wall, there are several small outer buildings (the libraries and such) and the inner religious buildings with elaborate carvings.



Even when there is no story, the carved patterns are impressive.



We are roped off from these central buildings.

They are guarded by Hanuman, kneeling around the steps up to the buildings.



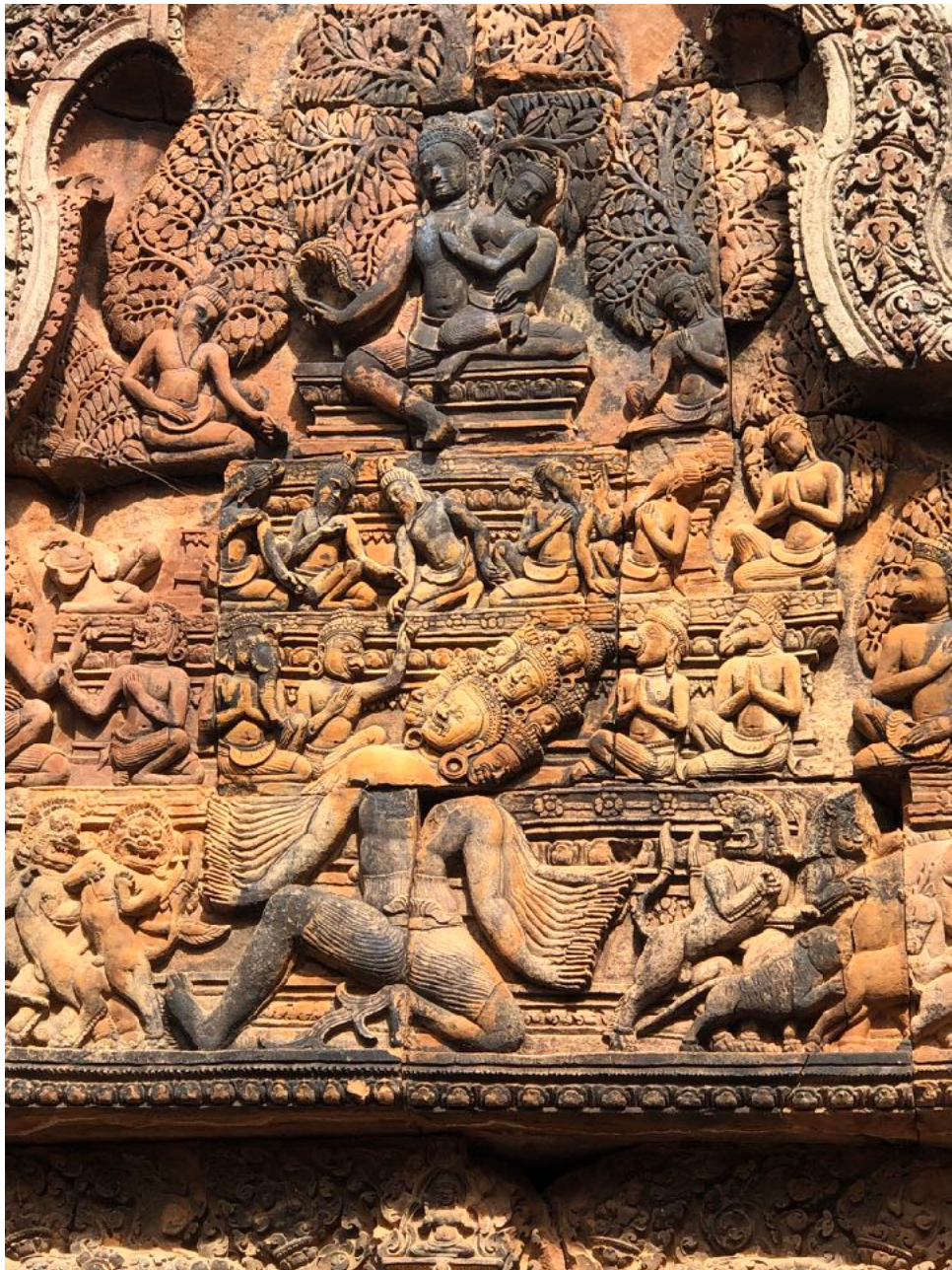
The buildings have carved “tiles”.



Devatas stand by the doorways.

Note the Hamas (geese).

And Devas protect the doorways too (supported by Hanuman figures?)



Is this Bodhisvatta, the many armed god (the many arms representing grace and action)?



Hanuman appears as statues and in the carvings.



Although built with the famous pink sandstone and laterite, some of the Banteay Srey buildings are made of brick.



We often see stories. We sometimes see horses and carts.

We don't often see a carving of a temple.



Looking into the central buildings of the temple.



Carved pediment.



Indra riding the three headed elephant Airavata.

They are above the roof of a building.

Underneath are forest trees and mythical animals.



A local family, dressed up and setting up a special offering.



Outside the temple are rice fields.



The walkways are well shaded and have pretty flowers in gardens on each side.



There is a water reservoir with water buffalo.

There is also a photographic exhibition showing the discovery, digging up and restoration of the temple. There are photos showing the carved pediments and explanations of the religious stories.

Banteay Srey, well worth a Tuktuk trip.

And you can stop at the Silk farm and weaving business, the Landmine museum and the Banteay Srey butterfly farm.

On the way back, you can stop in Preah Dak for roast pork, spit roasted by the roadside (I counted 17 whole and two half sides of pork as we rode through), and steamed sugar palm buns, coconut waffles, palm sugar, woven baskets and cotton Kroma scarves.