

Part 377 for Cathy's blog

Friday 17th to Tuesday 21st, July, 2026

Friday 17th July, 2026.

Temple Day : Palilay and Phimeanakas

We decided to re-visit the works at Phimeanakas.
It is always nice to walk past Palilay temple. Even with the trees cut back, it is still cool and green around Palilay, with the single temple tower now more in the sun.



The scaffolding is still there, so more works to be done. You can see the central tower of Palilay Temple behind the small, modern shelter, protecting a statue of Buddha.



Evidence of tree branch cutting at the eastern end of the short walkway to Palilay Temple.



A photo with David, just to show the size of the trees (and the temple tower slightly to the right in the photo).



When we first walked through to the Phimeanakas grounds, this whole area was just forest /jungle. Then came the first trenches uncovering the carvings, (with the boats and the crab holding the goose by the neck).

Now it is fully excavated and the recent rains have done their best to fill it in.



This was looking across the basin to where the above photo was taken from. This is April, this year.



Another of today's photos. The lady on the previous photo in the orange hat (April photo) would be standing somewhere past the steps in the centre of this photo.



This is inside the Phimeanakas grounds (there are two fancy gopuras in the wall between these two basins) and the first thing we notice is all the framework and blue tarpaulins are gone. There are no workers here.

So we head off to the right (away from the Royal Palace and temple itself) to see the lovely horse and elephant carvings.



A horse following an elephant. The mud has splashed up over the carvings.



On the other side are more horses and elephants. These have been dug out to foot level (the ground was up to their hips).



Here are the workers in June this year, carefully excavating these carvings (under the careful supervision of the Chinese sponsors). Note : we were

asked not to post any photos from here, at this time in June.

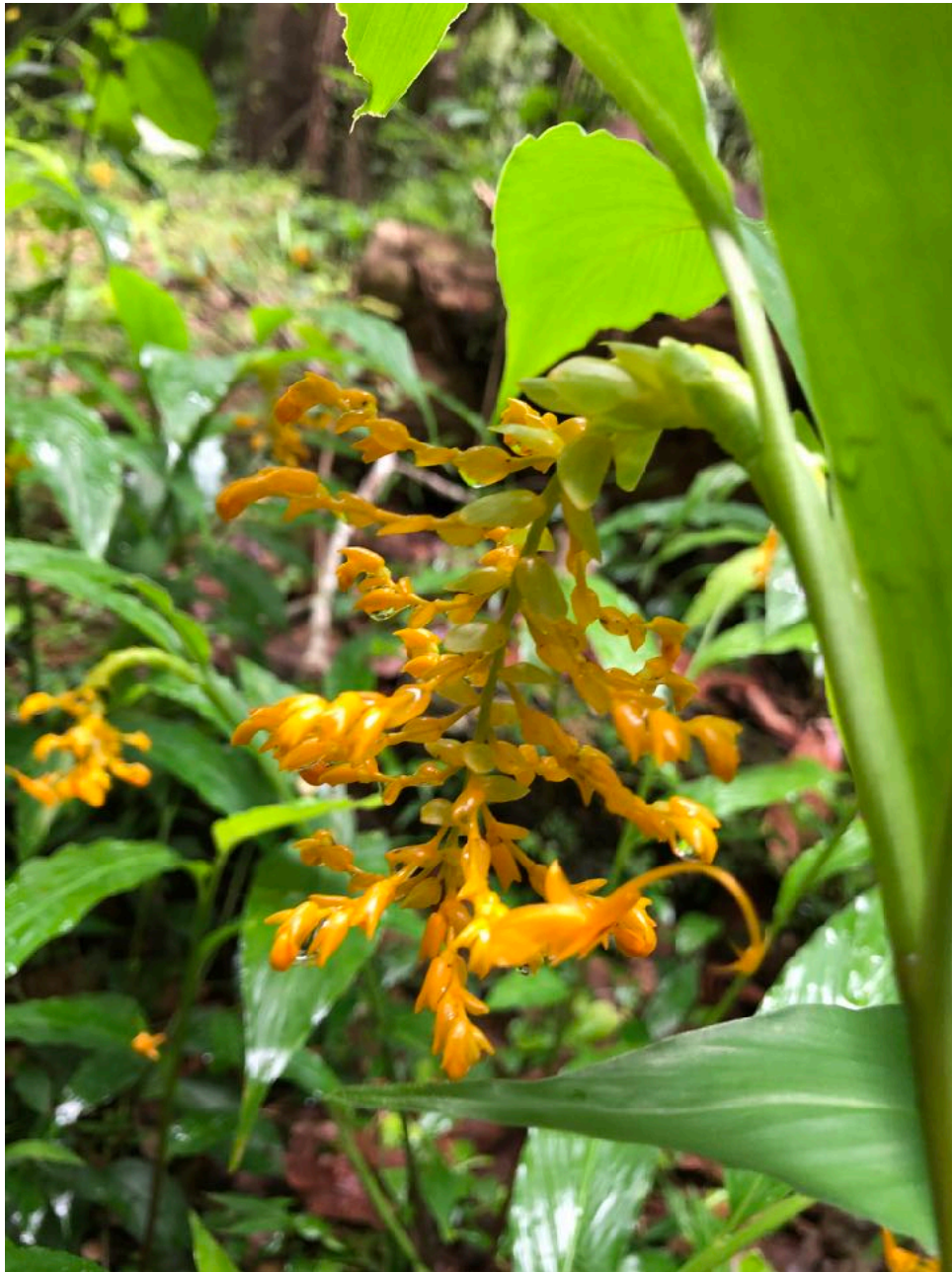


An interesting mix of elephants and horses, beautifully carved along the outside of a raised platform (with no temple ruins above them).



In amongst several other water basins (with laterite steps) we came across this ... well?

It was deep with slanted walls. No carved sandstone.



There are many big trees here and it is shady. The grass is overgrown with small plants and flowers.



Work continues on the northern gopura.

We walked on around the Royal Palace grounds. New fencing is going up around the Phimeanakas temple.





**Dogs continue to lie on the builders's sand, where ever
you are.**



Carved blocks lie around on the ground around the temple.



Sorting, cleaning and repairs to these carvings would provide another collection of heritage items to look at.



A raised platform in the Royal Palace Grounds.

The Palace itself would have been built of wood. The temples, places of worship, were built of stone (and /or bricks).



There are a series of small temple ruins.



The eastern gopura of the Royal Palace grounds has no carving, no religious story.



Just through the eastern gopura and you come to the Elephant Terrace (half way along). You can see the eastern gopura from the road that runs between the Elephant Terrace and the Suor Proat towers.

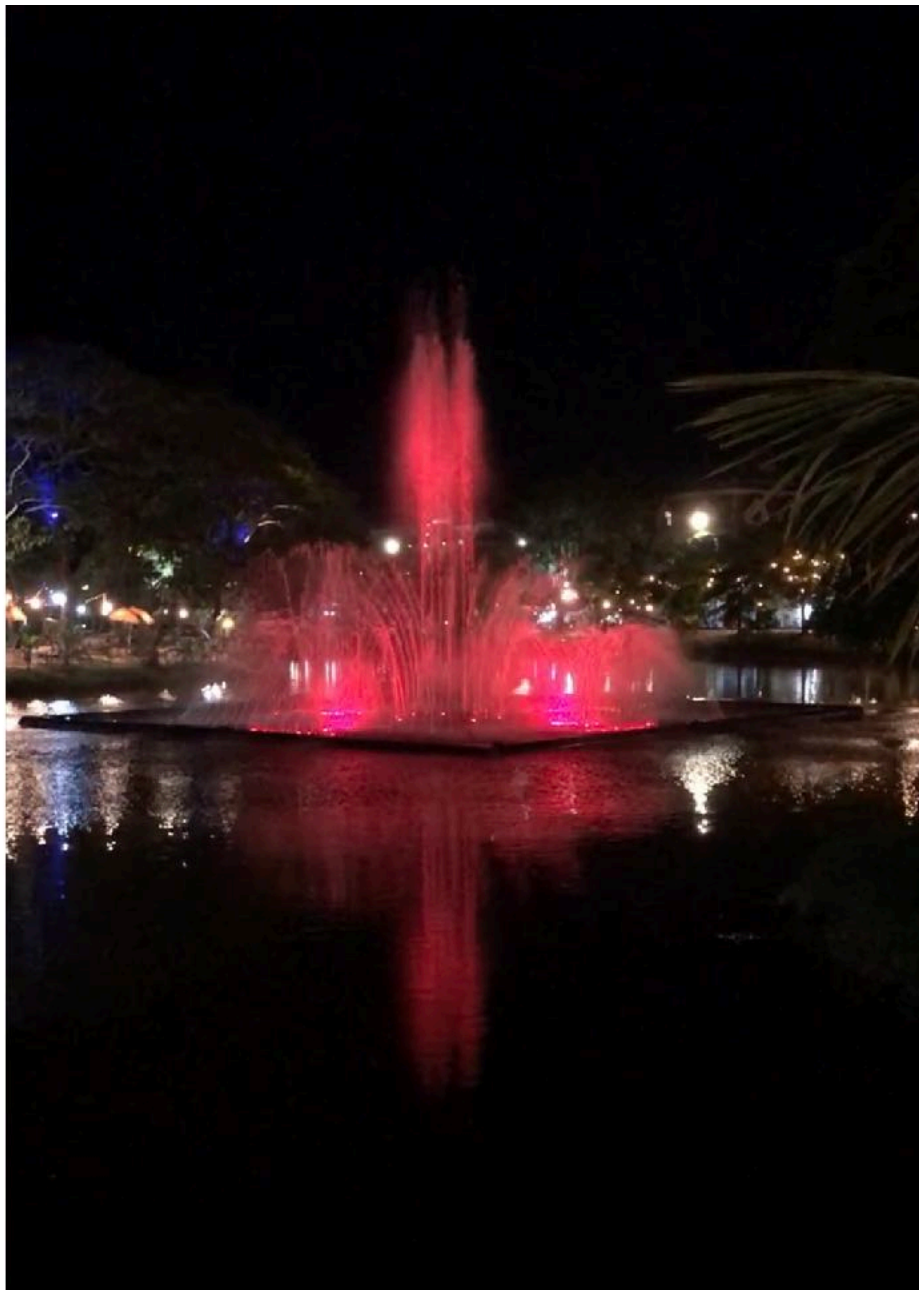


**This is the neat, but undecorated first northern gopura.
Through here, you come back to the newly excavated
basin.**

And past here, you walk along a jungle track to Palilay
Temple.



The gibbons play in these trees. We watched and listened.



On Friday evening, we went into town for tea. The fountain in the Siem Reap River was on.

Saturday 18th July, 2026.

Saturday comes around again and we walked in to the Angkor supermarket.

Back home, and part way through the washing, the water goes off... again. The washing machine has a little hissy fit, singing a little tune to itself.

Not that much of a problem, but with more rain expected in the late afternoon, I did want to get the sheets washed and dry.

Sunday 19th July, 2026.

A Spean Chivit morning and my two girls are done. I spent some time listening and making them practise pronunciation and some more time working with a girl who was still translating her essay into English.

This third girl had a good clear voice. We went through the whole essay. She will be ready.

Monday 20th July, 2026.

Temple Day : Don Mao and East Terrace

A less strenuous outing today, back to see how the wet weather but still hot sunshine is causing growth around the new works.



The head of this insect is actually tiny. The shape of it's "shoulders" makes it look like it has a huge head.



A long horned beetle (this one was a good size, but we have seen them bigger).



Lovely patterns on the wings of this moth.





Another new insect for us. This one is about 3 cm across the wings.

Different long horned beetle.



We rode on to Prasat Top West, a small, almost octagonal temple.

Not many people here in Siem Reap even know of these two temples. They are a short walk from the main circuit road (opposite Ta Keo and south of Ta Nei).





We like them because hey are surrounded by the natural forest /jungle. We get to see many insects.

This is the Blue Moon butterfly, sunning itself on a vine near Prasat Top West.

We stopped at the Sivutha Road Angkor Supermarket to get a “slab” of Coke Zero.

Interesting range of snacks available.





DJ&A

CRISPY
BROCCOLI
FLORETS

LIGHTLY COOKED & SEASONED

45 g (1.58 oz) NET WT

\$5.70

I think I would choose the mushrooms.

Tuesday 21st July, 2026.

Wall walk : North Gate to NW Prasat Chrung

With the intermittent rain making the dirt roads and tracks less passable (even for a motorbike) we have been a bit limited in our temple visiting lately. Walking the wall of Angkor a Thom is a great fallback. We get exercise. We are not too far from home. We have good (sealed) roads to get to the gates. We get to see lots of insects.



The roots of the SraoLao tree just inside the North Gate.



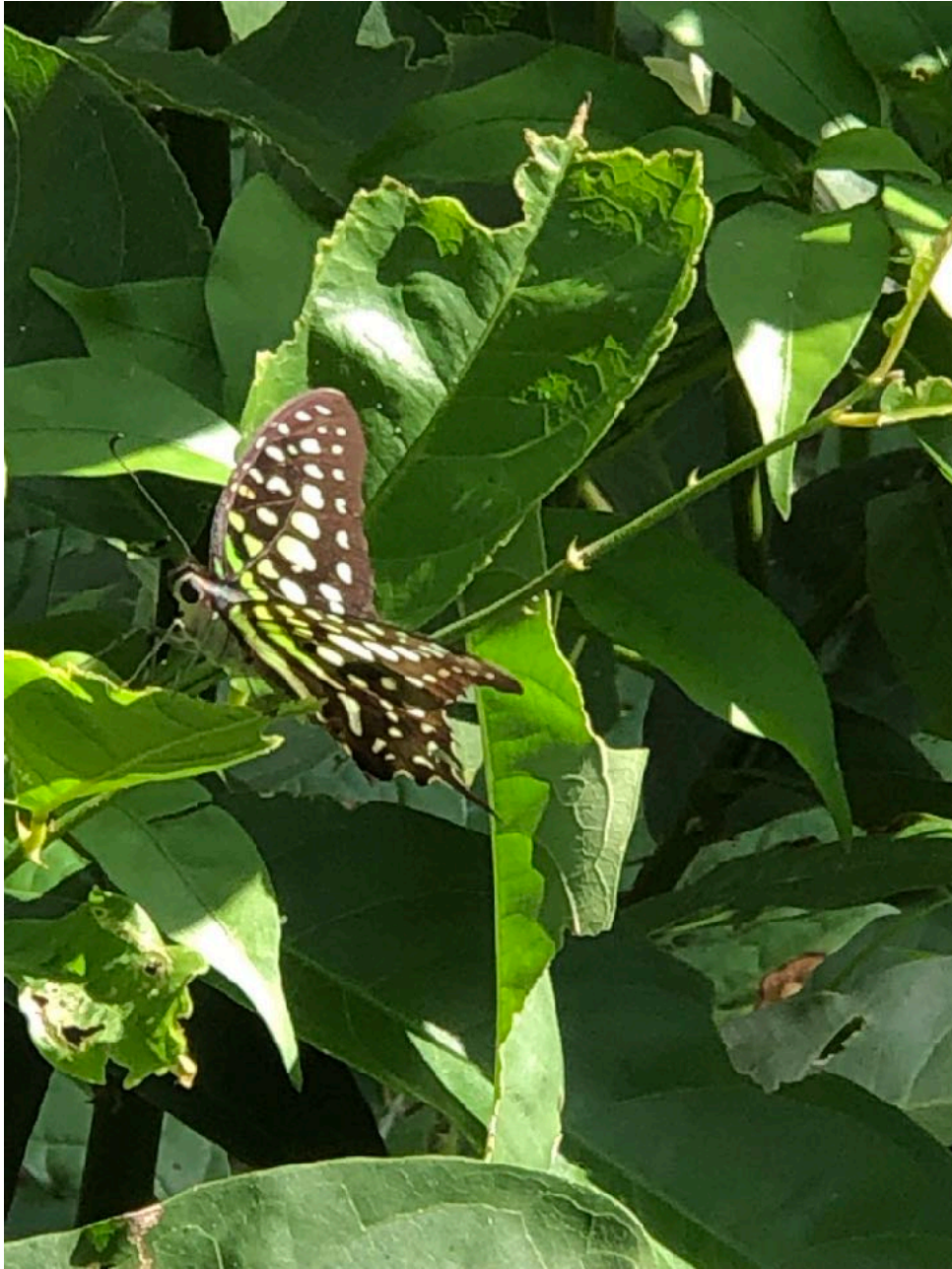
These butterflies are like White Cabbage moths on steroids, larger and always flitting about... except for this one! I do like the pale green eyes.



**Another green insect... a cross between a grass hopper
and a praying mantis.**



An orange butterfly in the sun.



Large black and green butterfly.

Graphum Agamemnon



Flower (and young fruit) of the *Monstera deliciosa* plant.



Another usually very shy butterfly.



**Sometimes there are lots of one type of butterfly,
crowding around the flowers on one plant.**



**This is a glow worm larva. We see them perhaps twice
a year. They actively walk around, searching for insects
to catch and eat!**



The sun rises higher as we walk and by the time we get back to the gate, the faces are in the sun, watching

**calmly put over the new people living in, working in and
visiting Angkor Thom.**