

Part 381 forCathy's blog

Thursday 30th and Friday 31st of July, 2026.

Thursday 30th July, 2026.

Temple Day : Preah Khan

Every time we go to a temple, we see new things.



A big tree had come down and had hit some of these pillars along the western walkway into the temple.





Another grey day, but you can see the western gopura reflected in the water in the moat.



One of the 72 Garudas that guard the temple.

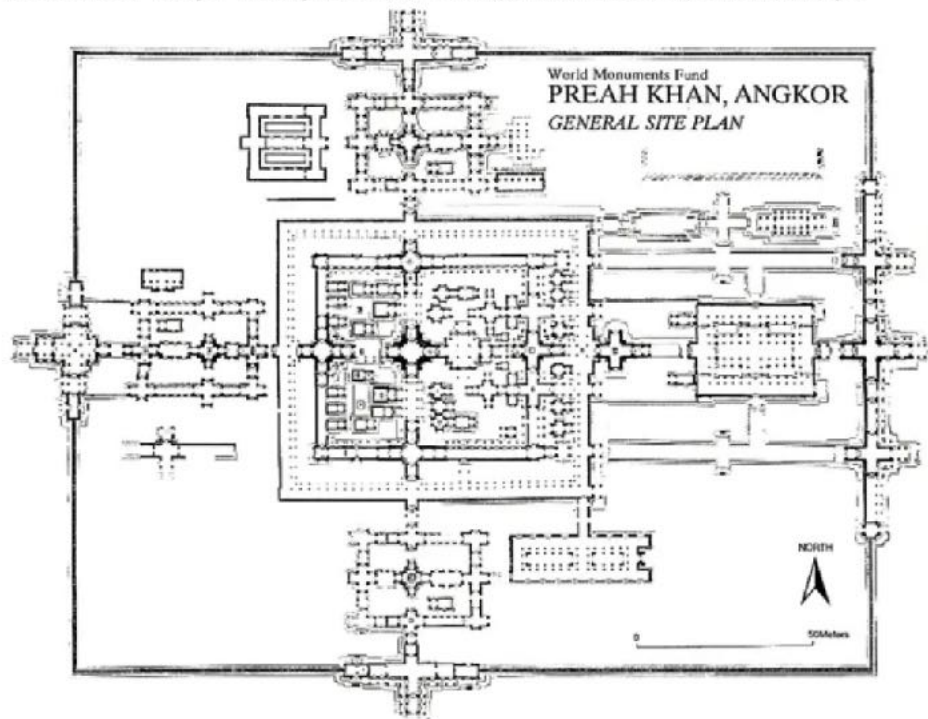


Inside the temple, the walls and doorways each have their own carvings of Devas and Devatas and religious stories. There are many smaller buildings.

Here is a floor plan to give you an idea.



Preah Khan Temple at Angkor: 12th Century Ruins Rescued from the Jungle



World Monuments Fund General Site Plan of Preah Khan, Angkor



A warrior / guard.



There has been movement of the stone blocks since repairs (the site was initially cleared starting in 1927, had a restoration project in 1991 and further works done in 2022 / 2023).



There are many blocks lying in the courtyards.



Many areas are inaccessible due to the fallen blocks.



Many of the carvings are hidden.



You can get to some with a bit of climbing.



Who knows what lies hidden? It is not a case of simply digging the dirt away.



We are impressed with the carvings.





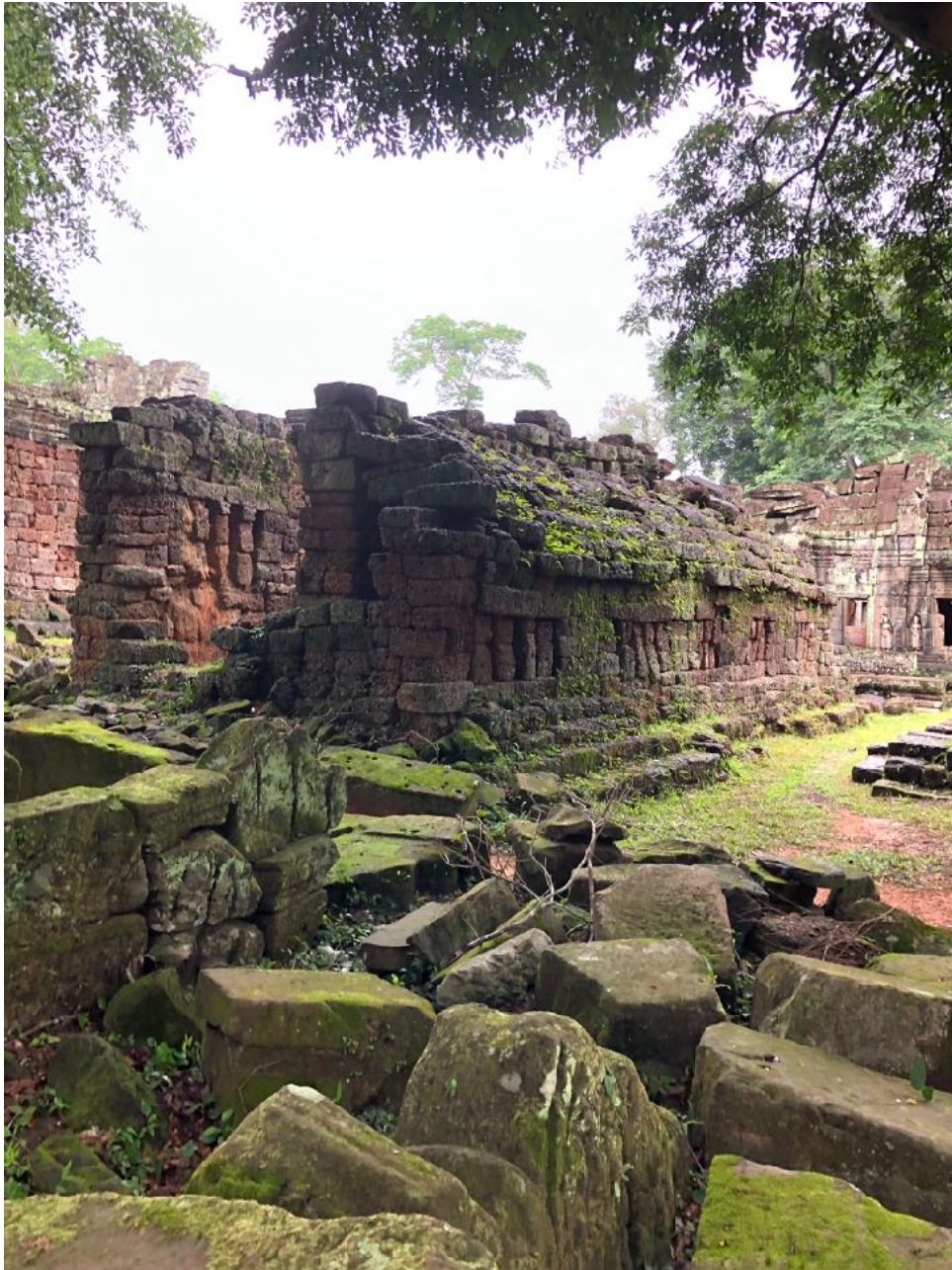
No carvings in this building, but evidence of stucco (the holes). Inside the central tower, looking up.



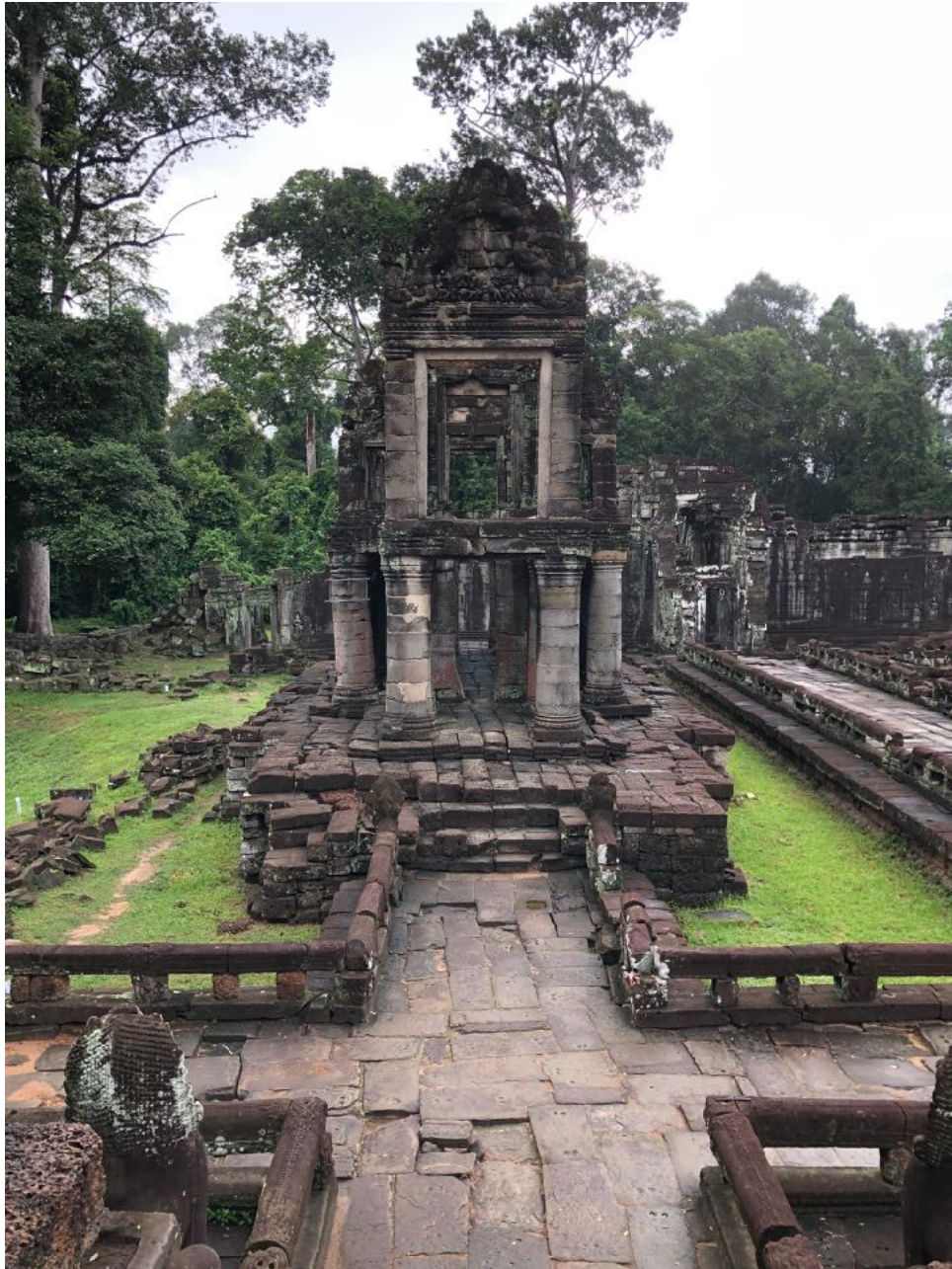
Looking north from the central tower.



Religious carvings on the pediment of a small building. Those are bulls lying down under the main character (a man with a weapon and a smaller “sidekick”).



A laterite outer building with vertical slits for windows.



The (quite) famous two storey building (with no steps). There is no clear answer as to its purpose, perhaps a library, or a grain storage building, or even a viewing platform (watch the Apsara dancers). There is no matching building (or ruins) on the other side of the walkway.



It is an impressive building (with round columns... the only Angkorian building with round columns).



Another view... some of those columns are not quite vertical.



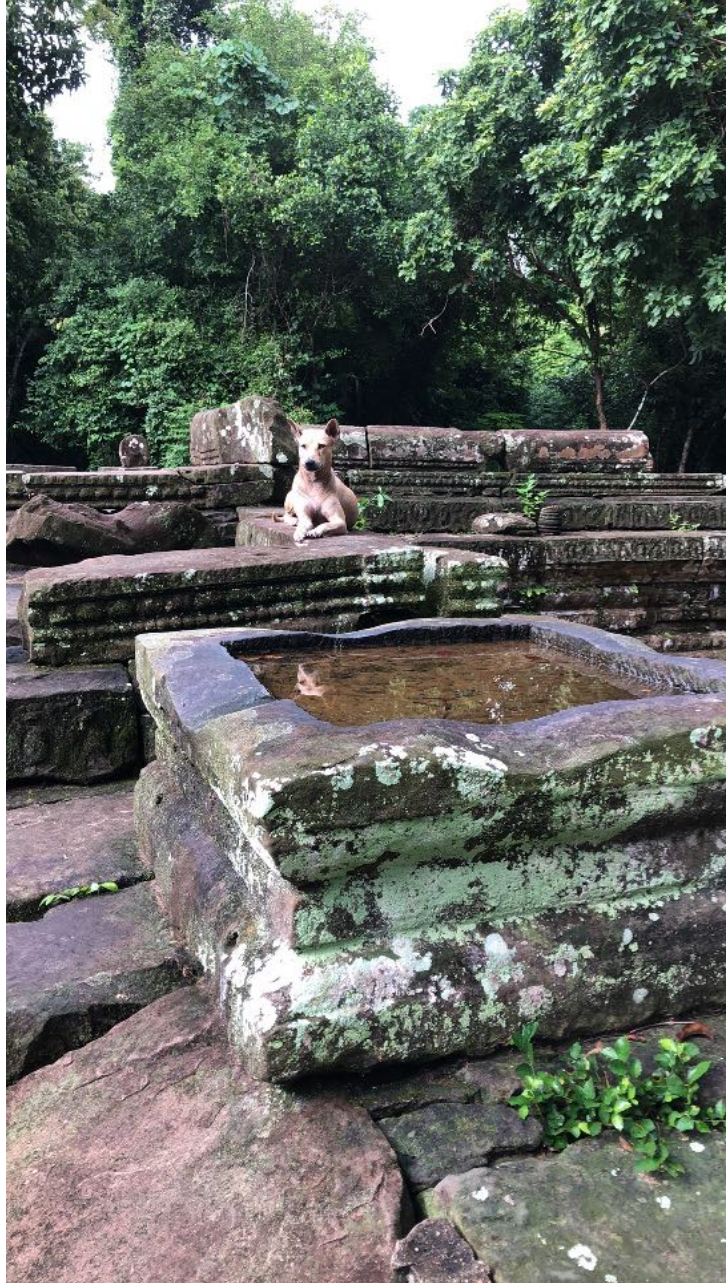
We walked around to the north gopura, where both naga and Garuda are found on the ends of the balustrade.



I did find a dragonfly.



And a flower.



And a dog.

Then it was time to ride home.

Friday 31st July, 2026.

Temple Day : Phnom Kroam

This is both a temple visit and a motorbike ride. We can take two roads to Phnom Kroam, one through the “suburbs”, just behind our house.



Just a “stone’s throw” from our gate, we found this cow on the road. It watched us as we rode by.

Then we ride on a modern road built high above the rice paddies down to the village at the foot of Phnom Kroam.



Situated at the top of an isolated hill, Prasat Phnom Kroam is exposed to wind and rain. It is still being repaired.



The sandstone is worn.



You can see the Tonle Sap lake from the hill. The flooded rice paddies are planted and growing. The brown line on the horizon is the lake. It will expand over the next three months, covering perhaps half of the dark green “forest” (you can take a boat tour through the flooded forest).



No goats this visit, but we did see this pig... actually, we think it is a wild boar (we could see the stripes along its back and it has quite short legs).

On our return, we stopped at the local 2500Riel store. Everything is 2500R, or is marked otherwise. We are always under shopping instructions for branded (fake) sunglasses and jewelry. We bought eight things, which cost a total of 23 000R.

As you can imagine, the quality is poor.

I wouldn't trust any of the plastic toys with small children (due to small parts and being easy to break).

Then it was time to ride home along the Siem Reap River.



Extensive works have seen new river banks, new bridges and a walking path installed. The water flow is controlled by locks, but all the rain water in Siem Reap town will flow down here and then on into Tonle Sap (Lake).

At home, and we have our last washing, cleaning and packing before we leave for our Melbourne trip tomorrow morning.