Part 398 for Cathy's blog

Saturday 17th to Tuesday, 20th, October, 2026

Saturday 17th October, 2026.

We caught a Tuktuk both ways to the supermarket.

I was "tricked" into believing it was getting cooler in the mornings. It isn't. I shut the curtains on the east side of our apartment to keep the sun out. I put the washing in the sun in the mornings. We have had some cloudy mornings and days, but today the sun is hot!

At the supermarket, we bought two torches. The torches do not have batteries. They have a "push out" twin pin set up and plug directly into the wall sockets. They have "charging" and "charged" lights. They are quite strong too and you can have a wide or a narrow beam.

But one of them doesn't work. We will head back to the supermarket tomorrow (on the bike) and exchange one.

Workers are clearing the vegetation from the short stretch of our road that always floods. They will be concreting the area soon.

Sunday 18th October, 2026.

More work is happening on the new stretch of our road.



Vegetation at the side all cleared. Now the sand is being laid. It is hard to see, but some of the local kids are playing on the sand pile.

We exchanged the torch. We also dropped in to the new Lucky Supermarket. In Phnom Penh, Lucky Supermarkets have a (quite large) prepared food area. This one doesn't.

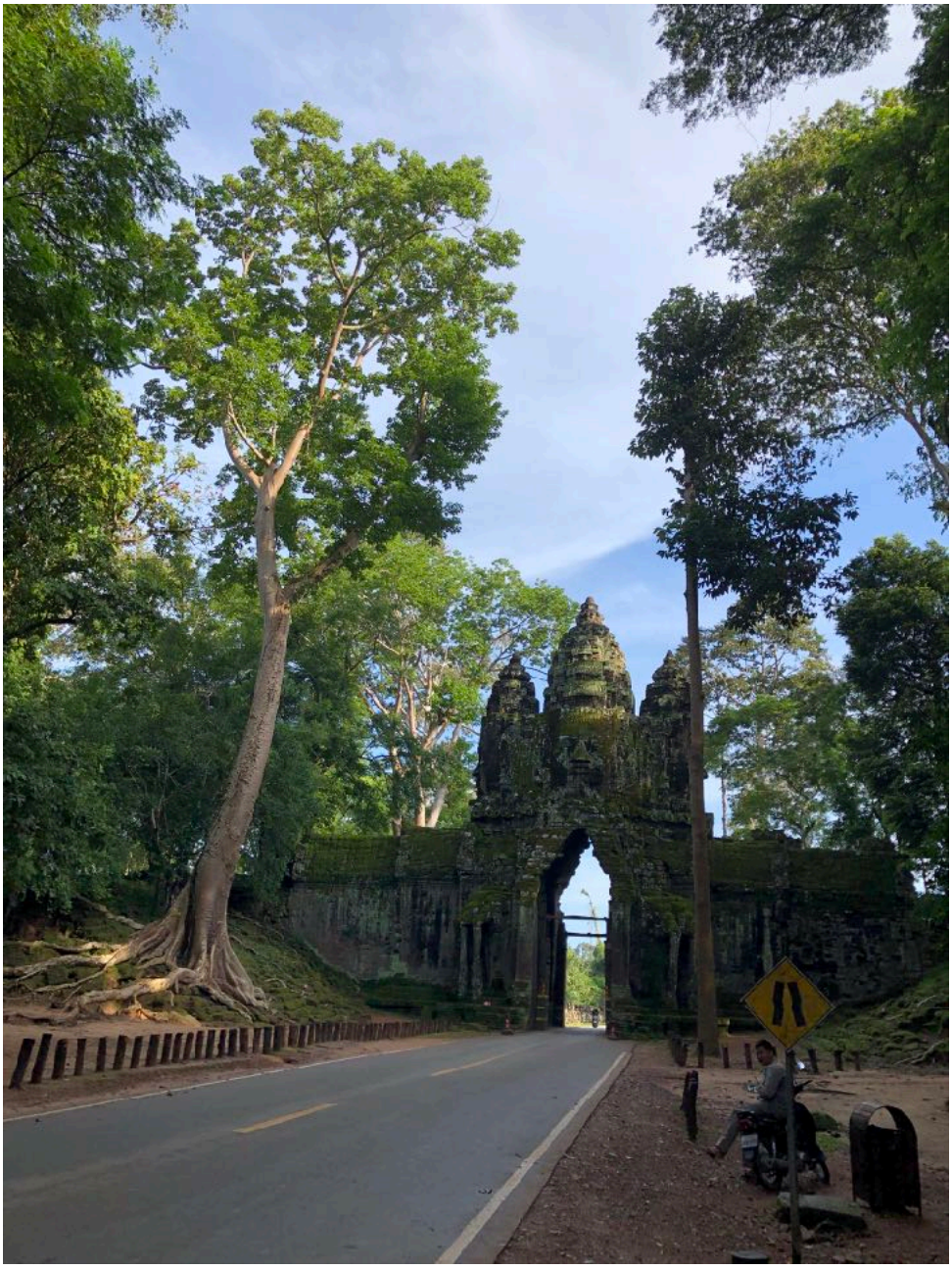
It is a small supermarket but they haven't clogged the aisles and corners with extra stands and boxes of products (at least, not yet). Even without doing a weekly shop, we can tell there are things that aren't available. I still think any (reasonable) opposition to the existing supermarkets is a good thing.

Monday 19th October, 2026.

Wall Walk : North Gate to NW Prasat Chrung



They are building a stage and seating area at the Terrace of the Elephants for a big boxing / kick boxing tournament.

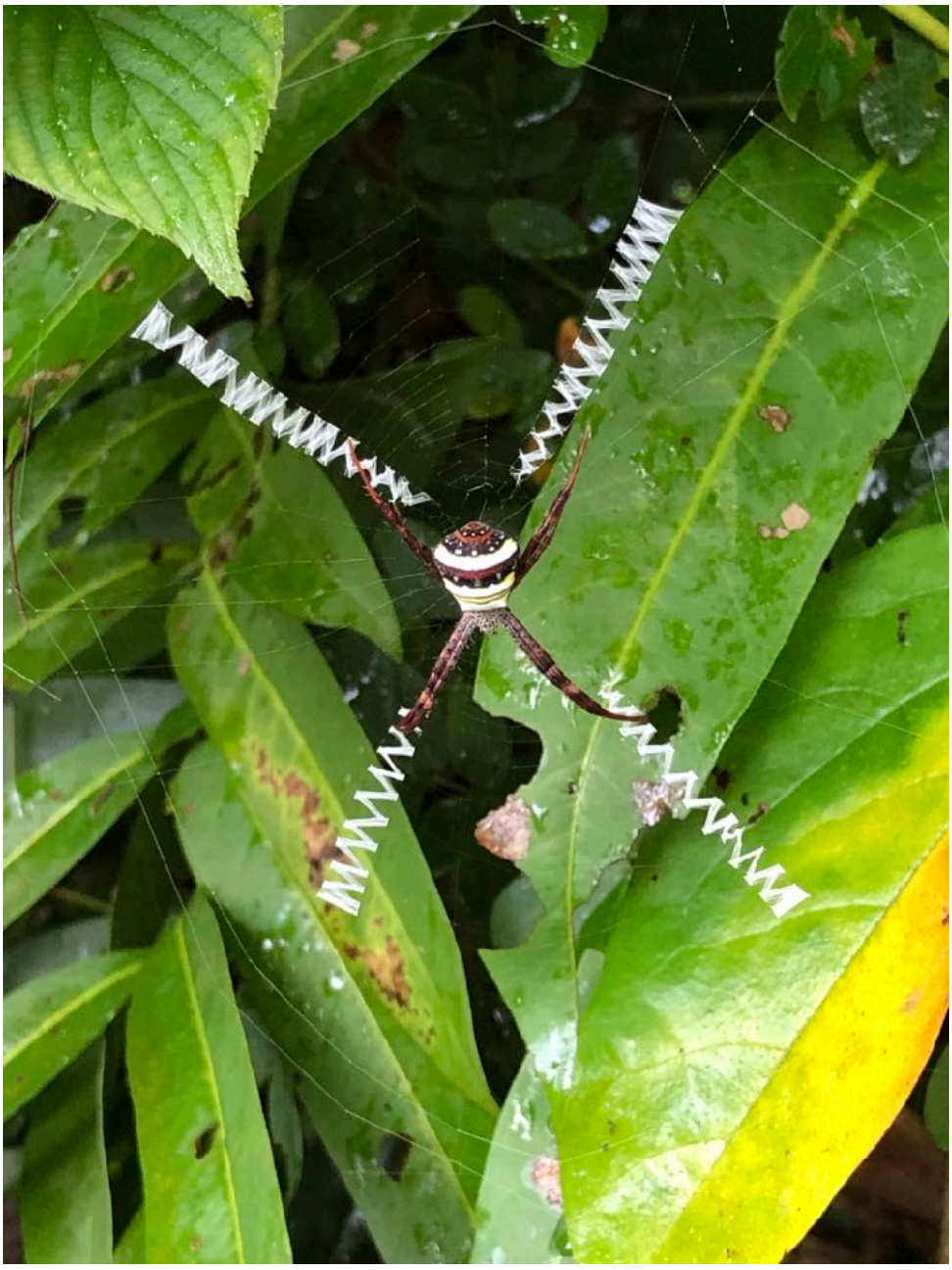


The North Gate.

In Khmer, the North Gate is Dei Chhnang (= dirt cooking pot = which means a big earthenware casserole pot).



The serene face of Jayavarman VII, peeking through the tree branches.



Impressive orb web spider (Saint Andrew’s Cross).



Berries… these will turn red.



Eye catching red bug.



A snail slowly crossing the path.



Now that is what I call a dramatic hair-do.



A common dragonfly.



This is quite a common bush. It is commonly called “flame of the forest”. Its flowers can be more orange than these.



Carvings on the reinforced remains of the west gopura of Prasat Chrung NE.



The west gopura.



(Part of) A big tree growing by the moat and towering above the wall (the wall is 8m tall).

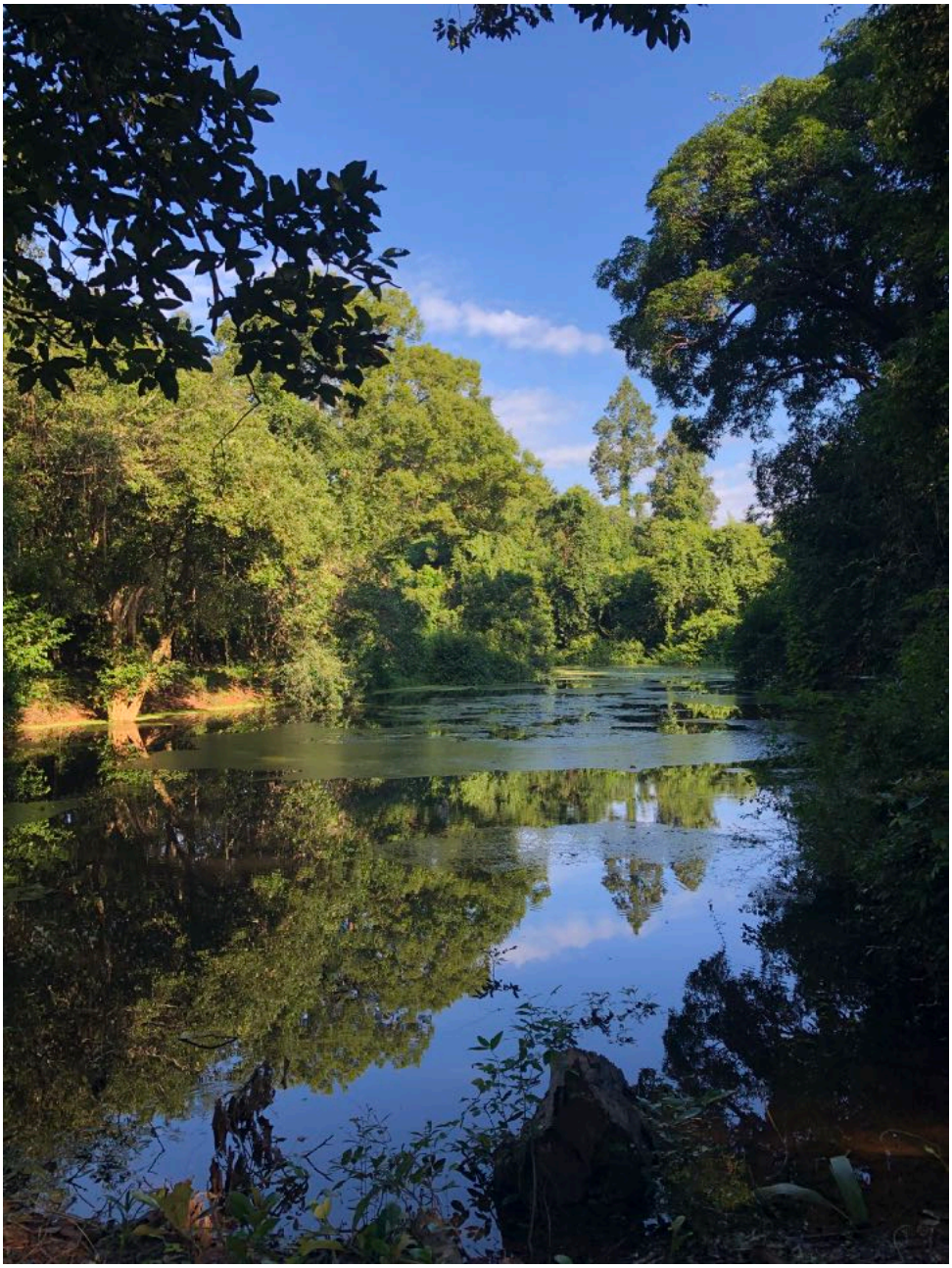
Another morning of exercise, fresh air and searching for insects.

Tuesday 20th October, 2026.
Temple Day : Banteay K'Dei

Today we decided to go to Banteay K'Dei temple. Jayavarman VII built this temple for his parents (respect for parents is an important part of culture in Cambodian society even today). Note : he built Ta Promh temple for the parents of his wife.



The big trees are kept, where possible, even when roads are built.



Reflections in the moat at Banteay K’Dei.



Monks taking photos at Banteay K’Dei.

This is the eastern gopura, in the second wall (inside the moat).



The remains of the two storey library. Note this building has square columns.



Large square windows of the hall of dancers.



Carvings in the blocks that are stacked around the remaining buildings.



Laterite walkways (to the side of the main walkway through the centre of the temple) running east west.



This walk way runs north south. The wooden timber supports keep the walls in place. The roof has fallen (and the blocks are removed).



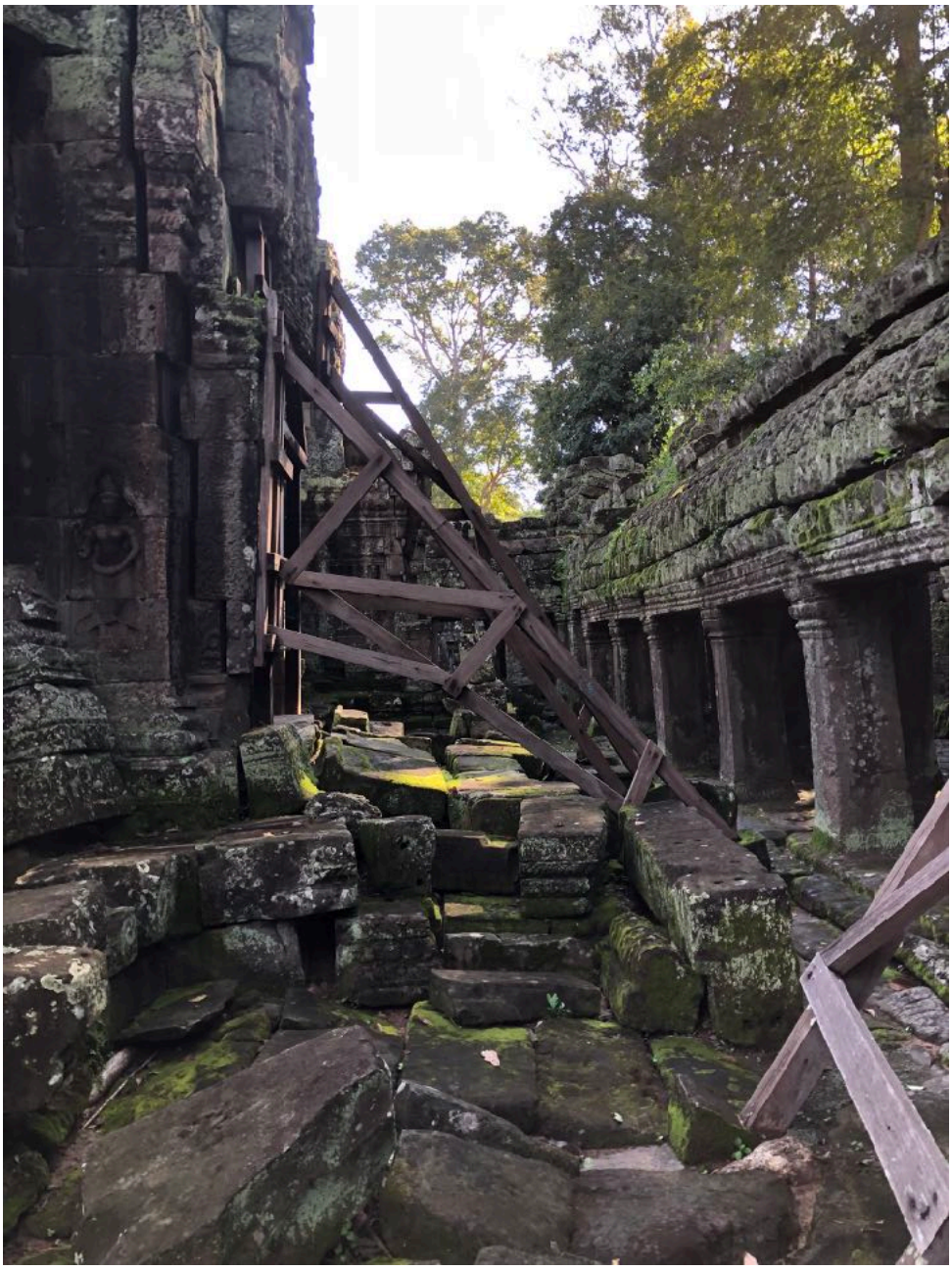
One of the towers of the central temple building. The bands keep the stones in place!



Detailed carvings.



A dragonfly resting on the sandstone.



The supports are necessary. Here, the smaller tower is being held up. If it falls, the covered walkway will fall too.



To the west of the main temple buildings, there is a big tree.

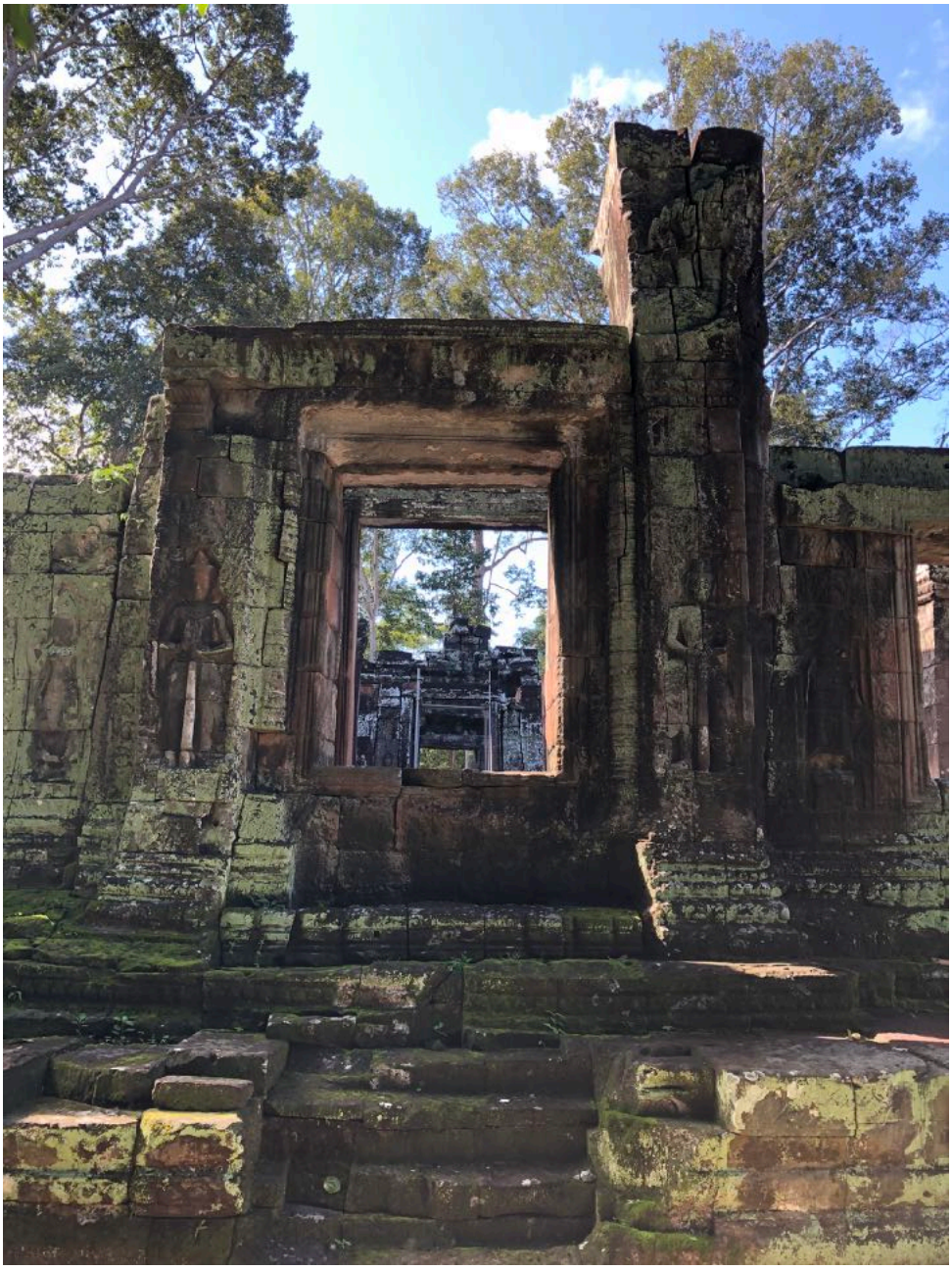


The clearest of skies and the bright sunshine actually make the photograph too dark. The newer phones have cameras that do these scenery shots better.

I think my phone camera is good (perhaps I am just being loyal, or not “speaking too soon”) but a camera with a better “macro” setting (for the insects) and a better panorama setting for scenery would be good.



I cannot get far enough away to capture the tops of the trees!



Looking in to the Hall of Dancers



In the weeds growing around the stacked blocks, I found this butterfly. Although the wings are tattered, this shows the beautiful colours that some butterflies have.



The east gopura of Banteay K'Dei. You can see this gopura (and the Garudas) from the road.

These were some pictures from our quick walk around part of Banteay K'Dei, before riding home.