

= Chau Say Tevoda =

Chau Say Tevoda (Khmer : ចៅសាយតេវ៉ុដា) is a temple at Angkor , Cambodia . It is located just east of Angkor Thom , directly south of Thommanon across the Victory Way (it pre-dates the former and post-dates the latter) . Built in the mid-12th century , it is a Hindu temple in the Angkor Wat period . The temple is dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu , and with unique types of female sculptures of devatas enshrined in it . The Buddha images in the temple have been interpreted to have been built during the reign of Dharanindravarman , father of Jayavarman VII , who ruled from Preah Khan of Kompong . The temple was in a dilapidated state with 4,000 of its elements lying scattered on the embankment and in the Siem Reap River . Many of these elements were used in the restoration work carried out by a Chinese team between 2000 and 2009 under a restoration project sponsored by the People 's Republic of China . The temple was reopened in late 2009 .

= Location =

Chau Say Tevoda is a temple at Angkor , Cambodia located just to the northeast of the ancient capital Angkor Thom 's east gate , directly south of Thommanon across the Victory Way (it pre-dates the former and post-dates the latter) . It is on a road which has the Thomannon temple on its opposite side , 500 metres (1,600 ft) from the east gate , and a further away by 200 metres (660 ft) to a bridge built with carved stones from temple ruins in the vicinity ; the bridge is without any river flowing beneath it in view of the shifting nature of the course of the Siem Reap River .

= History =

The temple was reconstructed on the basis of several elements (about 4,000) of the temple which were randomly lying around at the site . This restoration was done by a Chinese team between 2000 and 2009 under a restoration project sponsored by the People 's Republic of China . Originally this temple was partly built in the mid-12th century under the reign of King Suryavarman II . Further supplementation of structures was done under the reign of Jayavarman VII . Though the temple was built under Hindu kings during the 11th and 12th centuries with predominantly Hindu deities such as Shiva and Vishnu , representation of Buddha images was interpreted to have been built during the reign of Dharanindravarman , father of Jayavarman VII , who ruled from Preah Khan of Kompong .

= Features =

The Tevoda is built to a cruciform plan and linked to an entrance hall , similar to the Hindu temples built in India , particularly in Odisha . The temple has four gopuras or towers on the four cardinal signs with an entrance from the east through a raised bridge . The long hall , which links the gopuras and central chamber of the temple , has very elegant flower decorations . The temple consists of a central tower with an attached mandapa , which is achieved through an antarala chamber of small size , and with two libraries on its southern and northern sides . It is enclosed by a compound wall which has four gopuras or towers . To its east , there is a raised causeway that leads to the Siem Reap River . Many of the sculptures depict Vishnu , and are in a fairly good condition . However , the main deity of the temple is Shiva . Some of the sculptures in the temple are also of Buddha but disfigured totally . With time the ceiling has collapsed and led to further deterioration . The defaced Buddhas , which are deified in a lotus posture , flanked by devotees , are in a mandapa behind a pediment from the entrance door which leads to the antarala . The incomplete eastern Gopura I , which is oriented in the western direction , has a roof which is part of the second " pediment of the lateral southern extension " which is not fully restored . The main figure here is of Buddha in a cross legged posture seated on a high platform and is flanked by disfigured carvings which are interpreted

as that of Garuda and the king of Nagas . The top pediment of this Gopura I with figure of Buddha has an umbrella cover of a Bodhi tree . Carvings depicting episodes from the life of Buddha are seen on the northern door of the eastern Gopura I. A notable bass relief here is of Sita (heroine of the epic Ramayana) in a seated posture over an altar flanked by rakshasis (female demonesses) . Hanuman , in a small monkey form , is carved in sitting posture facing Sita and offering her Rama 's ring . A wall built with laterite stones enclosing the temple , which had existed in the past , has disappeared .

The temple was in a dilapidated state with 4 @, @ 000 of its elements lying scattered on the embankment and in the Siem Reap River . Between 2000 to 2009 some of these elements were put together under a restoration project initiated by the People 's Republic of China . The temple reopened in late 2009 and is fully accessible .