

This is a scene of a busy market with happy traders. This might have reflected well on Jayavarman VII, the king responsible for building the temple, because it shows the wealth and prosperity of his empire.

Buyers, perhaps bartering or haggling, are dressed differently in shirts, suggesting they are foreign (perhaps Chinese).

Female traders are depicted with their hair tied up on their heads, and jewellery and garments tied around their waists.

These fish are confusing – they are not actually part of the market scene. Maybe they are part of another scene that is not shown in this photograph.

This scene probably extends beyond the edges of the photograph, showing more traders and products.



Stalls are out in the open, with some shelter provided by what looks like a canopy. The canopy looks quite low (making the woman crouch) but this could be because the whole scene needed to fit a narrow panel of sandstone.

One trader appears to be preparing something, perhaps fish.

Source 1 A stone carving of a Khmer market scene