

Ratanakiri Minitour

Itinerary: Phnom Penh, Ratanakiri, Phnom Penh

Duration: 4 Days/3 Nights

1ST DAY: PHNOM PENH - RATANAKIRI

⇒ Early morning departure to **Ratanakiri** along National Road 7.

⊗ First stop in Kampong Cham to visit **Wat Nokor**, a 12th century temple built under King Jayavarman VII and subsequently renewed in 16th century. The temple is located in the centre of a huge compound, surrounded by many religious monuments and rooms to accommodate for a great number of monks. In the centre, a modern Vihara (place of prayer) has been built, giving the shock of ancient and modern architecture side by side. Then in **Chhlong**, a pleasant little town on Mekong banks, to visit **Wat Rokakanda** (“100-Column pagoda”), before proceeding to **Kratié** for lunch. Afternoon continue to **Banlung**, the capital of Ratanakiri province, nicknamed “**The Red City**” because of the omnipresent laterite. Check-in at the lodge, a beautiful tek house on the lakeshore, in the heart of a garden.

🍽 Lunch and dinner included

🏠 Overnight at the lodge

2ND DAY: RATANAKIRI: TOTEMS & WATERFALLS

⊗ Direction northwest today, cross bamboo forests before reaching the village of **Voene Sai**, located on the



left bank of the Sé San river ; the view on the Chinese village on the other side of the river is quite pretty. Besides, this place is nearly a Chinese enclave in Cambodian territory, most villagers, who are there from the thirties, don't even speak Khmer. Upstream of the Se San are a certain number of **Tampoun** villages, that practice funeral statuary ; depending on road and water conditions, proceed by boat or 4x4 to the village of **Ka Choan** to admire some superb totems. Drive through rubber plantations along a dirt and very bumpy track to discover some nice **waterfalls**. **Teuk Cha Ong** is the biggest and most famous. Back to the lodge before sunset.

☉ Lunch and dinner included

↪ Overnight at the lodge

3RD DAY: RATANAKIRI: THE KROEUNG TERRITORY & YAK LAOM

⊖ Full day northbound heading towards Lao and the **village of Taveng**. Cross **Veyrum Plang**, a round lava



field in the forest; a few steps away there is a small waterfall (in the rainy season only) surrounded by tigers caves. Later on, stop at some nice **Kroeung villages** located in the forest on both sides of the road. The more North we go, the more beautiful the forest. In some Kroeung villages, depending on the season, it's possible to watch some impressive houses, built very high on stilts: these are the bachelor houses. When the young man has become head of a new

family, the house has no purpose any more, and is destroyed. Younger men will have to build a new one the following season. End up with a detour to **Yak Laom Lake**, a beautiful and perfectly round freshwater pool surrounded by forest, for a late afternoon swim.

☉ Lunch and dinner included

↪ Overnight at the lodge

4TH DAY: RATANAKIRI - PHNOM PENH

⇒ Early morning departure for a quick visit to Banlung market, before proceeding back to Phnom Penh.

⊖ Stop at **Kampi**, take a boat trip to spot the largest Mekong colony of freshwater **dolphins**. Afternoon, **Chup Rubber Plantation**, one of the world's largest until the time of the Khmer Rouge, during the 1970s. It still remains the largest active plantation in Cambodia with 13,250 hectares, and the country's only rubber processor. During the visit, all phases can be seen, from growing the trees to finished product. Back to town, visit **Phnom Pros** and **Phnom Srei** (Men's Hill and Women's Hill), whose name comes from a very old Khmer legend, and continue to Kampong Thom. Last stop at **Skun**, a village famous throughout Cambodia for its delicacy: black giant spider, which can be tasted roasted or fried. Arrival in Phnom Penh late afternoon. **End of services.**

☉ Lunch free or included