



CATHEDRAL PEAK HOTEL

Drakensberg

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Message from the General Manager Charles Preece

As we approach the 2010 Soccer World Cup extravaganza it is not yet apparent whether it will live up to its hype as far as foreign tourists are concerned.

We are not jumping on the bandwagon with ridiculous rates, and look forward to welcoming many familiar faces to the hotel during the school holidays. In the meanwhile, don't forget that the best time of year in the 'Berg is during April and May, when, as winter approaches, we have glorious warm sunny days and just enough chill in the evenings to justify lighting a fire!

In my last letter I mentioned that we would be registering a charity to raise funds for the needy in our local area, especially for the education and betterment of the many orphaned children. At this time we await the acquisition of a shell company so that we can register an official fund raising NGO. At this time of the year many of our senior staff are already busy knitting scarves and blankets for the local youngsters. Any suggestions with regards to possible fund raising will be most welcome.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS SPECIAL

Just in time for the school holidays Cathedral Peak Hotel is offering discounted rates during 5 - 22 April. With a wide range of activities and facilities, guests can enjoy golf, trout fishing, quad and mountain biking, archery, helicopter flips, children's playground with trampoline as well as FREE daily guided walks and hikes. To slow it down & unwind, hire a babysitter and lounge by the heated outdoor pool or indulge in a treatment at the Vitality Centre.

5 - 22 April: stay **any 3 nights**
(excluding peak periods) at the following rates:

family thatch room R670
deluxe room R870

Rates are per person sharing per night, including dinner and breakfast as well as mid-morning and mid-afternoon teas served on the terrace

CHILDREN under 6 stay FREE
& all children receive a Li'l Peakers activity pack & T-shirt

Jam-packed holiday entertainment programme
including evening activities for the whole family!

Terms & conditions apply, min 3 night stay, excl peak periods & Easter

Attitude at Altitude Mountain Bike Weekend

Bike amongst the clouds and eagles reaching up to 2,000 m above sea level.

This year join us on the weekend of 21-23 May for a challenging and fun social rides.

Starting with our nite-ride on the Friday (remember your head lamps), climbing up Mikes Pass on Saturday for lunch at the top and finishing with a cross-country chase on our technical single-track trails, there will be something for everyone.

Day riders welcome on Saturday at R150, including lunch.



It's **HOT** that we're **NOT** going to add "soccer-surcharges" to our tariffs for South African residents.

Kick off your mid-year winter holiday planning with a money-saving goal in mind ... book your stay at Cathedral Peak Hotel.

While the whole of the country goes on a 6-week football holiday, the domestic holiday market will score from the glorious crisp winter weather, and from the hotel's normal accommodation rates.

(That's right, we're not even charging peak season rates!!!)

Rates per adult sharing per night will start at R790 in a family thatch room. This includes dinner and breakfast served from our fabulous buffets, as well as mid-morning and mid-afternoon teas which are served on the terrace.

Winter attractions include cosy fires in the evenings, crystal clear nights for star-gazing and two heated outdoor swimming pools! There are loads of activities on offer and a full holiday programme for young and old alike.



Horse Riding ... fun with added benefits!

While therapy experts write about the benefits of horse-riding, we know it's just plain fun, and that's enough for us!

Cathedral Peak Hotel has a stable of 21 horses and a programme of activities starting with supervised pony rides for little ones and "How To Ride a Horse" lessons. From there you can graduate to the daily hour-long beginners or intermediate rides. Our experienced guides will take you into the foothills of the Drakensberg mountains where you can experience the breathtaking scenery. And in addition to all that fresh mountain air you'll have the soothing benefits of bonding with our gentle horses (it's good for your muscles, posture, and your heart-rate)!

Drakensberg Boys' Choir
presents

Music in the Mountains 2010

23 – 26 April 2010

Spend a long-weekend at Cathedral Peak Hotel and visit this world-renowned school for a long-weekend of fabulous music.

The programme kicks off with a



ANIMAL PLANET

In the past few weeks the hotel has had a couple of more unusual guests ... a dassie (Rock Hyrax or *Procavia capensis*), has been seen in the front car park, taking full advantage of the warm tar!

A young Diederik Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx caprius*) was brought into reception by well-meaning guests. The little fellow was almost certainly booted out of its host parents nest (usually a weaver) where he had probably killed off his competition! Old enough to fend for himself, he was photographed (see left) and placed safely back in the hotel gardens.

Friday-night concert by pop star Kurt Darren. Saturday's line-up includes a massed choir with members from Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool and Seunsskool in Pretoria, Grey College Bloemfontein and the Northern KZN Youth Choir. This is followed by the exciting and innovative PUPPET IDOLS. Late afternoon and evening entertainment come from piano man Charl du Plessis & Band and the Drakensberg Boys Choir themselves.

On Sunday the gala concert features soprano Rene Hugo, piazza jazz and legend Chris Chameleon. The final events on Monday are an afternoon roast spit – accompanied by folk band Hairy legged Lentil Eaters and the Drakensberg Boy's Choir in concert with male quartet Romanz.

The boy's choir school is set in Champagne Valley, an hour's scenic drive from Cathedral Peak Hotel, and bookings for the shows are taken by the school itself.

As the leaves change colour and the rains dry up, the Drakensberg mountains unveil the best time of year to visit. Mild sunny days and cool evenings ensure that guests can spend long hours outdoors.

AUTUMN SPECIAL

During May receive 20% discount off any 3-night stay,

plus FREE unlimited golf.

(excluding club & cart hire)

The 9-hole mountain-side country course is in excellent condition, and boasts alternate tees for a full game. Philip's Pholy club-house is the 19th hole, which features full change-rooms, a comfortable lounge (with a fireplace in winter!) a pub and veranda with panoramic views of the Drakensberg mountains and hotel estate. The golf course was opened in January 1996 by Dale Hayes after being designed and built by Roly Taylor with the collaboration of his well known brother, Reg. The official par is 71 and holes range from 102 – 477 meters to create a course that will satisfy any golfer. Golf clubs and carts are available for hire.



Don't walk your feet off!

Cathedral Peak Hotel has 18 walks and hikes to choose from, and nothing ruins a holiday quicker than sore feet, especially blisters. Every bit of literature on blisters states that prevention is better than cure! Caused by friction, the main culprits are ill-fitting footwear (including your socks) and moisture (even from wet grass, rivers, or sweat)! If you are tempted to "pop" or drain the blister, make sure you don't remove that top layer of skin and do everything possible to prevent infection. ...

Tougher feet will have fewer problems with blisters than soft, tender feet. So, wearing sandals or going barefoot occasionally (instead of always wearing closed shoes with socks) could help toughen your feet a bit and reduce the chance of blisters. It is advisable to take along spare socks so if yours get wet you can change. If you know you are going to be walking in rivers, consider taking along river sandals to wear in the wet, chancing back into your hiking shoes after drying your feet off!

The hotel's more extreme routes, like the 9-hour hike to the summit of Cathedral Peak itself are most likely to see blistered feet, but don't let that scare you ... the satisfaction is well worth it! For the less adventurous we recommend the ever-popular Doreen Falls trail or Mushroom Rock, where a scramble up a short wooden ladder adds to the excitement of the views and interesting rock formations.



Cathedral Peak Hotel will be exhibiting at the Wedding Expo on 10th and 11th April in Northgate's Dome. Meet us to discuss your dream wedding requirements, and even plan the perfect mountain honeymoon! Marketing Manager Shona Lawson will be on hand with prices and menu options, alternatively you can e-mail the hotels banqueting department directly on confwed@cathedralpeak.co.za and ask about packages and other options for your special day.

Africa's top travel trade show, Indaba, takes place from 8-11 May this year, spreading over the ICC and the adjacent Durban Exhibition Centre. Cathedral Peak Hotel will once again have a custom-designed corner stand in the DEC Hall where General Manager Charles Preece and Marketing Manager Shona Lawson will be available. Contact the hotel directly on marketing@cathedralpeak.co.za to book an appointment.

