



CATHEDRAL PEAK HOTEL

Drakensberg • South Africa

NEWSLETTER

December 2010

January 2011

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Seasons' Greetings, from the desk of GM Charles Preece ...

Firstly I should like to wish all of our loyal friends and guests a very merry Christmas and a prosperous year to come.

2010 has been an extremely challenging year for Cathedral Peak, the Soccer World Cup did not seem to benefit those of us who trade away from the main centres of the country. Domestic economic challenges also undoubtedly played their part and it is apparent that most of us have had to tighten up on expenditure, particularly on luxuries such as weekends away! We have been able to offer some really good specials over the last few months and many of you have taken advantage of them. We trust that 2011 will see a recovery in the economy and some relief from the current downswing in business confidence.

The rains have finally arrived and the Cathedral Peak Wilderness area is looking stunning, so green that is it hard to remember that we just went 6 months without any rain at all. We look forward to welcoming many of you back to our little piece of paradise in the forthcoming year.

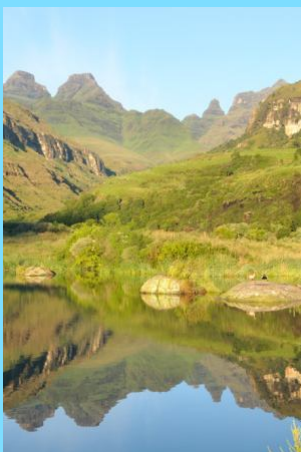
Charles.

We still have a few rooms available for the peak Christmas and New Year holiday dates. Book urgently to join the hotel's holiday fun.

*In addition to our traditional formal dinner & dance evenings on **Christmas Day** and **New Year's Eve**, we also have arranged a fabulous theme party for Tuesday 28th December (see box below).*

*For children of all ages we have a **Nativity Pageant** and **Christmas Carols** followed by Santa's visit. The daytime programme includes clown shows, treasure hunts & tractor rides. Teenagers can enjoy the re-furnished games room with bright beanbags, play-station, pool, table tennis, air hockey, foozeball and play-station consoles. Adults have not been forgotten, and there will be the ever popular and competitive music and trivia quizzes, interspersed with evenings of live music.*

Outdoor activities include an "Amazing Race", volleyball competitions and soccer match to name just a few.





HOLIDAY SEASON - Tuesday 28th December 2010

We are having a party – you “**Creatures of the Night**”,
So come dressed up and give us a fright.
We’re looking for bats, and Vampires in black,
For watchmen and robbers or tramps in a sack.
There’ll be astronomers, moon-men, disco dancers & pimps,
Even prostitutes and priests and night party chimps.
Night owls are welcome, howling wolves too,
even Cinderella and her prince with that classic glass shoe.
It will be one thrash of a party, with prizes to win
So dig into your cupboards or even your bin!



This festive season **PAINTBALL** will be added to the extensive list of activities at Cathedral Peak Hotel. A brand new arena is being set up at the Quad Trax headquarters near the banks of the Umlambonja River. Participants will be issued with appropriate safety gear and able to try their skills in teams in the arena, or shooting at targets. Already available are mountain bikes for hire, archery, guided quad bikes and a special kiddies quad track.



Zamori update

Last newsletter we introduced you to the community trust jointly set up by Cathedral Peak Hotel and neighbouring villages. The launch appeal produced a pleasing response, particularly from UK guests who arranged to ship clothing and toys. These were distributed to the children’s section at the Emmaus Mission Hospital and to two orphan boys (who have been taken in by neighbours). The boys are also now receiving food parcels.

Donations can still be made to the community trust called: ZAMORI.

Current account # 622 7100 8809. FNB Bergville branch # 220625.

Tax certificates are also available on request from: wendy@cathedralpeak.co.za

Sun & skin care

Summer holidays are all about fun in the sun, but we recommend you don’t go outdoors without sunscreen, a hat and protective clothing. If you do burn, initially you could cool yourself with an icy dip in one of the mountain rivers, or the hotel’s main swimming pool! One website even recommends adding rooibos tea to a tepid bath for relief. Other tips are:

- Avoid the sun for the next 48 hours
- Drink plenty of water
- Cool the affected area with cool water, damp cloths or take a cool bath or shower
- Apply a soothing lotion to affected areas, but not any petroleum-based products which will not allow the skin to breath and aggravate blistering
- Take paracetamol for headache, pain or fever.



Nature News ...

Baboons - you either love them or hate them. Troops of these large monkeys forage round the Cathedral Peak area. Some guests have even been lucky to spot “No-Arms”, a large male who has only stumps for arms. His remarkable lifestyle has been the subject of various scientific studies. The reason for his lack of arms remains pure speculation at this stage. Generally very healthy looking, he is able to easily climb and fend for himself! A favourite night-time roosting spot for some baboons is in tall trees on the roadside, and in the mornings and afternoons the baboons laze about on the warm tar. This makes for fabulous photo opportunities. Baboons will eat just about anything, and these intelligent creatures quickly learn to associate humans with food. Apart from endangering their health, such feeding also encourages baboons to aggressively hunt food from other humans, and the resulting clashes can have unpleasant consequences. These creatures are wild animals and should be treated as such at all times. Feeding of baboons is strictly forbidden and KZN Parks could impose a hefty fine.



Featured walks: Neptune's Pools & Blue Pools.

One of the rewards of a mountain hike must be a dip in a cool bubbling stream. Neptune's Pool in the Xeni River valley and Blue Pools in the Tseketseke valley are special destinations well worth the 90-minute walk to get there. Spectacular views of the Drakensberg escarpment include Cleft Peak and the sheer wall of the uMlambonja Buttress as well as smaller peaks like the Pyramid and Mount Helga. Sunny rocks alternate with cool shaded indigenous forest, and best of all, the deep pools in smooth river stone. (We recommend you take a guided walk there, or pack a picnic and make an all-day outing.)



NEWS FLASH NEWS FLASH NEWS FLASH ...

The uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site ten years ago, in November 2000, recognizing the importance of the Bushman rock art as well as the diversity of plants and animals. Cathedral Peak Hotel recognizes the struggle between conservation and tourism, trying to find a balance between protection the region as well as exposing it's beauty to as wide an audience as possible. After an incident of senseless vandalism, the hotel fully supports a decision to close one of the precious Bushman painting sites which was featured in regular hotel walks. The culprits were successfully prosecuted and fined (they left their names across the priceless painting). Cathedral Peak Hotel will still host guided walks to other Bushman painting sites. Guests are advised that it is an offence to visit Bushman paintings without a qualified and accredited guide.



ROMANCE SPECIAL

10-28 February 2011

Stay **3 nights** & receive **20% discount**
PLUS a bottle of bubbly and picnic pack.



HONEYMOON SPECIAL

Stay **4 nights** midweek & **only pay for 3!**
PLUS receive bottle of bubbly & fresh fruit basket on arrival.

Terms & conditions apply,
excludes peak periods and only valid for presidential & honeymoon suites.



MIDWEEK SPECIAL

Stay **7 nights** & **only pay for 5**
or stay **5 nights midweek** & **only pay for 4**

Terms & conditions apply,
excludes peak periods and presidential & honeymoon suites.