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MESSAGE FROM THE MOUNTAINS ... introducing our new GM

Returning to KZN, and in particular to the Drakensbergis, to me, like coming home and the Cathedral Peak Hotel is certainly one of its foremost resorts where rich family tradition combines with warm hospitality. The recent and current refurbishment programmes will, combined with these qualities, add new levels of luxury. I am looking forward to being a part of a highly motivated team in this most beautiful of places and being a part of the Hotels success into the future.

Charles Preece



Born in Scotland to English parents, Charles Preece started in the hospitality industry in Salisbury (England) as a management trainee. He then completed an HND in Hotel and Catering Management at the Oxford Polytechnic. Charles moved to SA in November 1979 as part of the opening Sun City team. After a year he returned to the UK, but South Africa drew him back and he took up a position with Holiday Inn group in February 1982. From there he moved to Karos Hotels and then the Southern Sun Group during which time he spent 7 years as General Manager of the Drakensberg Sun. He is married to Monique and they now have two adult children. For the past 2 years Charles was GM at the Hans Merensky Hotel and Golf Estate in Palaborwa and now the family has re-located to the Drakensberg.

"My most vivid memories of my time in the 'Berg involve mountain rescues, thunder storms, epic parties, children growing up and, by and large, the happiest time of my life," says Charles. "Golf has a special place in my life, not really for the game itself, but for the friends I've got to make over the years as a result of playing golf."

HARRY'S VISIT ...



The rich history and heritage at Cathedral Peak Hotel is not confined to the magnificent mountains and precious San (Bushman) art in the surrounding hills. Family and staff give the buildings life – and place names reflect this. Harry Singh, now 80 years old, came to the hotel as a young "bell-

hop” and graduated to become the hotel’s most famous barman, and to have HARRYS BAR named after him.

Recently Harry’s grandson Sandeep brought Harry from his home in Ladysmith to see the refurbishments completed last year. The renovations received Harry’s approval, although his present church work now forbids him to drink alcohol. Harry took the time to reminisce about several characters with William van der Riet and other staff & many old stories were re-told. A great deal of guests (& staff) were considerably less well-off after challenging Harry to a game of matches, cards, darts or horse racing. Good fortune stayed with Harry long after his many years at Cathedral & he even won the National Lottery some years ago!

With two plasma TVs, Harry’s is the perfect place to watch big games and matches and opens early for all major sporting events. As an after-dinner party destination, Harry’s Bar also offers darts, pool, and the famous “nail game”. Sports memorabilia, including original international jerseys form part of the interesting decor.

FOUR FUN ...

Family fun is a priority at Cathedral Peak Hotel and added to the extensive range of activities is a new kiddies quad bike circuit.

Presently under construction below the golf course, this will allow smaller children to enjoy the thrill of riding 4-wheeler bikes on a circular route under supervision.

The longer quad bike rides continue to be very popular, as riders are guided round rocky mountain terrain and past Lake William.



FEATURED WALK – RAINBOW GORGE ...



Rainbow Gorge is a beautiful walk through indigenous forest along the bottom of a steep gorge. Ferns, mossy boulders and magnificent yellowwood trees contribute to a magic feeling as the walk moves from the open grassland into the woods.

Once in the bottom of the gorge (much more easily navigated during the drier winter months) the path takes you over stones and small rapids, along and through the riverbed.

On the way a gigantic boulder has wedged itself between the gorge walls, providing comic photo opportunities, and further up the sunlight catches waterfalls, creating the rainbows which give the gorge its name.

A set of suitable river shoes, or at least a spare pair of socks is recommended, as is a small towel for those tempted to take a dip in the dear spring pools! Lunch and Picnic packs can be booked through the hotel so there is no need to rush back and families can enjoy this as a day outing.

VELD FIRE ALERT ...

The dry winter months bring an increased risk of veld (bush) fires. Some indigenous vegetation is considered to have adapted to fire, and now depends on the fires to ensure the germination of seeds. Because they are generally less woody than invasive alien vegetation, the fires do no real

damage and are usually sparked by lightning. However, where there is a risk of runaway grass fires, Cathedral Peak Hotel in conjunction with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife does burn fire-breaks, so during winter periods hikers are urged to be aware of any fire-break activity in areas where they hope to walk.

WINTER SPECIAL ...



Cathedral Peak Hotel offers the perfect mid-year Winter Holiday break. With a host of leisure activities including golf, heated outdoor pools, horse riding, adventure golf and more there is something to keep every family member busy. Additional holiday activities for young and old are offered during peak holiday season.

From 28 June to 16 July stay 3 midweek nights and receive 10% discount. Or you can stay 5 nights (Sun-Thurs) and only pay for 4. All children receive a FREE Li'l Peakers T-Shirt and a activity pack.

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BEST BERG OFFER ...



Perfect for the 3-term school holidays, the best special in the 'Berg is available from 3 August to 22 September. With a chance of snow, but the worst of winter over, Cathedral Peak Hotel offers an ideal opportunity for a memorable mountain holiday.

Guests may choose to stay any 3 nights at the following rates:

R615 – Standard Room

R785 – Deluxe Room

Rates are per person, sharing, per night, including dinner, bed & breakfast. Above rates exclude KZN Wildlife park entry fee and tourism bed levy.

Terms & conditions apply.

Children younger than 6 stay free & all children receive a FREE Li'l Peakers T-shirt & activity pack.

The hotel's family rooms offer parents the assurance that little ones are safe and snug close by. Babysitters are for hire, mealtimes are made easy with the custom children's dining room opening at 5:30pm and our new restaurant opening time at 6:30pm to allow families the chance to have dinner together.

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INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION ...



Cathedral Peak Hotel receives international recognition from visiting members of the media – last year National Geographic's Adventure Magazine sent a team to the hotel and featured the magnificent scenery (one picture by Steve Casimiro featured above) in the April edition, as well as praise for the hotel and its surrounding pristine wilderness.

A new project by the Green Vision Foundation will feature Cathedral Peak Hotel's unique scenery in the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site along with other World Heritage Sites throughout Africa as part of the "African Heritage Epic". The journey will see 6 women travel from Cairo down to the Cape documenting on camera and on film the precious heritage of ancient civilisations including the Timbuktu Scrolls and the Egyptian Pyramids and of course Robben Island.

BBC4 has also commissioned a series through renowned production house Skyworks about walks in Southern Africa, and intends to film the Cathedral Peak hike, presented by Julia Bradbury. The Southern Africa walks series is a continuation of successful programmes such as Wainwright's Walks and Railway Walks. Filming is scheduled for September this year.

EXTREME ALTITUDE MTB WEEKEND ... 29 – 31 May 2009



The hotel's popular Extreme Altitude social mountain bike weekend saw riders navigate the hotel's cross-country track by torchlight on Friday night, followed by complimentary gluwain at the golf club house. On Saturday the riders conquered Mikes Pass with the more experienced riders opting to do an extra 16km loop at the top which features a high altitude of 2037m. This was followed by a sumptuous lunch surrounded by panoramic views of the mountain! Sunday morning saw the riders tackle the hotel's challenging cross-country course and a great weekend's riding was had by all.

Lucky draw winners went home with some fantastic prizes, including a midweek stay for 2 nights at the hotel and all riders were guaranteed an entry for the over-subscribed berg 'n bush race which runs in November.

With wide open vistas the hotel's cycle trails offer excellent altitude training opportunities as well as sheer exhilarating fun!

SPECIAL OFFERS ...

Please remember to request your special on booking.



Winter Special

26 June – 16 July 2009

Stay 3 nights midweek and receive 10% discount

OR

Stay 5 nights and pay for 4 only!

Children receive FREE Li'l Peakers T-shirt
& Activity Pack.

Min 3 night or 5 night stay. Excludes Fri, Sat, H/moon & Pres
suites.

Terms & conditions apply.

[[BOOK](#)]

Best Berg Offer

3 Aug – 22 Sept 09

Stay any 3 nights at the following rates (pp. pn.
sh, DB&B)

Std rooms R615

Deluxe rooms R785

Children under 6 stay free.

Children receive FREE Li'l Peakers T-shirt &

Activity Pack.

Min 3 night stay. Includes weekends. Excludes Peak Periods, H/moon & Pres suites. Terms & conditions apply.

[[BOOK](#)]



Honeymoon Special

Stay 4 nights and only pay for 3 in one of our newly refurbished honeymoon suites set apart in seduded gardens with magnificent mountain views. Or choose the opulent Presidential Suite with Jacuzzi and electric curtains.

Min 4 night or 5 night stay. Excludes Fri, Sat. H/moon & Pres suites only.
Terms & conditions apply.

[[BOOK](#)]

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