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*Wishing you a very merry Christmas and peace and joy for the New Year !*

## MESSAGE FROM THE MOUNTAINS . . .

From the desk of our General Manager, Craig Walker

A hotel that is undergoing renovations always produces a disconcerting time for staff – as hoteliers, our ambition is to exceed our guest's expectations, and although this task is daunting enough during normal hotel operations, it is made far more so when the curve-ball of renovations comes into play. The quandary is, of course, that if one doesn't renovate and keep abreast with the times, then in the long term guests will be disappointed anyway. So it gives me great joy to let you know that we are now well into the final stretch of the renovations, and our current "ugly ducking" will soon be transformed into a graceful swan! This year has seen the completion of the renovated lounge, Harry's and Albert's Bars, as well as the public toilets and several of the public areas. Shortly to be completed and ready for occupancy within the next few weeks is the new row of rooms that will replace the old "200's". I am confident that the minor inconvenience to guests during this time will translate into a sought-after new room set, and a refreshed looking hotel that still offers the same old Berg hospitality charm. As always, our motivation for the changes was to delight our guests, and so far feedback on the changes has been positive. We look forward to hearing your views when next you visit us, as many of the good suggestions we have received from guests have been implemented in the various changes that have been made.

In addition to these changes, we have been working hard behind the scenes on bedding down the new computer system that will enable us to provide a more seamless operation. An online booking component is in the development cycle, and we eagerly await the user-friendly facility that this will create for guests.

Right now those staff who are not involved in the finalising of the building project are focusing on the countdown to the Christmas season. Menus are being planned, special treats are being ordered, entertainment programmes are being scheduled, the golf course is ready and waiting ... and the general hive of activity that precedes the Christmas spectacle annually is well underway. At times like this, one really feels the strength of the team of staff we have assembled here, as each and every person proudly plays their role in delivering the ultimate holiday experience to our valued guests.

The team and I are (almost) ready and waiting for your arrival. Escape the city and turbulent markets ... bring your smiles and laughs, and don't forget your camera to capture the many happy memories you will create.

*Craig*



## MERRY CHRISTMAS . . .



Stay at Cathedral Peak Hotel this festive season and you will be spoiled for choice by the extensive range of entertainment on offer. Activities include a moon-light walk, bingo, karaoke, night golf, tractor rides, Children's Nativity Play with Carols by Candlelight and Christmas Day service in our stone-and-thatch chapel. Look out for the birding walk, the soccer match, art exhibitions, whisky tasting and guest speakers and musicians.

Long summer hours mean you can pack loads of activities into the day, and the typical afternoon thunder storms can be a wonderful display from the hotel's terrace. The extravagant Christmas Day and New Year's Eve dinners are sure to be a highlight and this year's theme evening is the "Wild, Wild West", complete with mechanical bull to ride. Guests are encouraged to put as much effort into their outfits for the formal dinners and theme evening as the staff put into preparing the buffet feast!

Of course the general programme of events also continues with free daily guided walks, and access to the mountain bike trails, quad bike rides, helicopter sight-seeing trips, horse & pony rides, mini adventure golf, and there is one cold and two heated pools for the whole family to enjoy.

Much of the hotel is booked but there are still some gaps so enquire as soon as possible.

[enquiry] | [specials]



## HAVE TASTEBUDS, WILL TRAVEL . . .



Our highly talented chef has implemented regular Theme Evenings where guests can sample culinary delights from around the world at our superb buffet. There is no need for guests to dress up, but the food and buffet areas are decorated appropriately, allowing you to try out some adventurous, exotic and simply delicious cuisine from other cultures. On selected nights, the hotel also offers a stir fry option where guests can select their own raw ingredients and watch the Chef as he expertly produces a meal to suit your tastebuds.

The hotel tariffs include dinner and breakfast served from our sumptuous buffets – and also include mid-morning and mid-afternoon tea/coffee and bakes served on the hotel terrace.



[ENQUIRY] | [SPECIALS]



## BREAKFAST ON THE TERRACE ...



In a continued effort to improve the Cathedral experience, the hotel has opened terrace tables for breakfast. Guests come to Cathedral Peak Hotel to enjoy the exquisite beauty of the surrounding mountains, and the early summer mornings can be perfect for this. Weather-permitting tables are set on the terrace between the dining-room and Alberts Bar, where guests can enjoy breakfast al fresco!

Other upgrades include the recently re-opened lounge with elegant wing-backed chairs and couches, perfect for an indoor gathering spot during the day, or a family game of draughts, dominos or scrabble!

And then of course there are the brand new upgraded deluxe rooms. These 22 rooms feature a king size bed facing the private veranda, with lovely views through a glass sliding door. A flat-screen television, solid wood furnishings, a soft carpet and plush leather tub chairs complete the décor! As with all our rooms, a walk-in shower and bath are standard, as are tea and coffee making facilities. Families with older children may find these rooms suit them best, as there are interleading doors between rooms.

[enquiry] | [SPECIALS]



## STUDENT SPONSORSHIP ...

Scholarship students Londiwe Mdhluli and Mseshi Shabalala have joined the Cathedral Peak Hotel staff fresh from end-of-year exams to continue with their in-service training.

As top students from Mhlwasini High School's 2007 matric year, the duo were offered full payment of fees & books for a one-year Diploma in hospitality services at the Durban Institute of Technology's ML Sultan campus. In-service training at Cathedral Peak Hotel during July and December was part of the package.

Pupils are selected at year-end, based on academic results and language skills for this scholarship programme each year, as part of Cathedral Peak Hotel's social responsibility programme and as part of ensuring service excellence in the industry.

During peak periods, the hotel also offers casual employment to Grade 12 pupils nominated by school principals from the adjacent valley, offering young adults an opportunity to broaden their employment horizons.



## OUR DISAPPEARING HERITAGE ...



Cathedral Peak Hotel falls within the Ukhahlamba World Heritage Site, so claimed for the magnificent pristine mountain scenery and vegetation, and the priceless rock art left by the San People.

These "bushmen" were hunter-gatherers who lived from around 2-3000 years ago up to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in caves and rock shelters throughout the region where they left thousands of rock paintings. This is the largest concentration of early rock art in Africa south of the Sahara.

However these sites are under severe threat by natural weathering of the rock, and vandalism. The principal threat is the irreversible and ongoing process of the weathering that created the rock shelters from the softer sandstone amongst the mountain-forming basalt cliffs in the Drakensberg.

The impact of human activities has been reduced in the Drakensberg – and access to the sites is strictly controlled: the location of most painted sites does not appear on maps available to the public and at Cathedral Peak Hotel, guest may only visit sites in the presence of a trained guide. Certain of the hotel's free daily guided walks include a visit to these precious sites including Doreen Falls and Procession Cave. Hotel décor and furnishing colours have been chosen to reflect this special part of the area.

Guests are also able to visit the nearby Didima Rock Art Interpretation Centre, where artifacts about the San People are on display and a professional audiovisual presentation is available.

While enjoying the outdoors it is not uncommon to catch a glimpse of the Eland which played an important part of the San People's life and folklore.

[enquiry] | [SPECIALS]



## FEATURED WALK ... LAKE WILLIAM



Some of the most rewarding walks at Cathedral Peak Hotel can be the most under-rated. Take the stroll to lake William, a dam on the northern boundaries of the hotel estate, under Baboon Rock.

A late-afternoon stroll from the golf course club house will allow you enough time to complete the 7km walk, and be back at the club-house for sundowners on the club-house terrace! Or you could take along a packed lunch, and turn the walk into a longer outing.

The terrain was formerly part of a pine plantation which the hotel is slowly rehabilitating to natural grassland. A maze of cycle paths cross through the area, and maps for our mtb trails can be obtained from Reception. Guided quad bike rides are a fun alternative to explore the side of the mountain!

Along the Lake William walk you will have unusual views of the whole hotel property, with Cleft Peak as a backdrop. There are also magnificent opportunities for photographs of the Cathedral range of mountains. Closer to the ground, there are a number of tiny streams creating delightful little vleis (patches of damp soil, usual along a small water-course, and often covered with bracken) where different frog species can be heard singing. You are also likely to see two of the local buck species which are commonly seen in the area: the tan and dappled bushbuck and the much greyer mountain reedbuck,. The walk itself is well sign-posted, and the path very clear, using both single tracks as well as an old jeep track. Lake William itself is at the half-way point, where benches and tables present a magnificent picnic spot, and two wooden jetties offer fishermen a chance to try and bag a trout or bass.

[enquiry] | [SPECIALS]



## Cathedral Peak Hotel SPECIAL OFFERS . . .

All specials must be requested at the time of booking & will not be awarded on check-in or departure.



### WEEKEND SPECIAL ...

Stay Friday, Saturday **AND SUNDAY** and receive **10% discount!**

Min stay 3 nights, excludes Peak Periods, Exec and Pres Suites. E&OE

[\[BOOK\]](#)



### HONEYMOON SPECIAL ...

Stay 4 nights & only pay for **3!** **FREE** bubbly & fruit basket on arrival.

Excludes Fri, Sat, Peak Periods. Only applies to Executive/Honeymoon and Presidential Suites. E&OE

[\[BOOK\]](#)



### MIDWEEK SPECIAL ...

Stay 5 nights & only pay for 4 !

OR

**STAY 7 NIGHTS & ONLY PAY FOR 5 !**

5NS excludes Fri, Sat. Offer excludes Peak Periods, Exec and Pres Suites. E&OE

[\[BOOK\]](#)



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