



CATHEDRAL PEAK SELF-CATERING & BACKPACKERS

DISCOVER. EXPLORE. STAY

HOTEL GUIDED WALKS & HIKES

Cathedral Peak Self-Catering & Backpackers is surrounded by the majestic Drakensberg mountains offering over 18 hiking and walking trails of varying difficulty, all starting and ending at the Backpackers. Guests can choose hikes based on their fitness level and desired challenge.

Daily guided hikes are available at an additional cost through the hotel, featuring activities like tea & coffee in the mountains, bird watching, and visits to Bushman San Art Sites (only permissible to visit with a guide).

Private guides can also be arranged.

Basic snacks, cold drinks, and maps can be purchased at the hotel's TryMe Store.

DAILY GUIDED WALKS & HIKES

Monday

08:00	Guided Hike to Neptune's Pool (H): 4 Hours Explore grassy plains, cross rivers, and hike riverbeds marked with stone cairns to reach a magical spot. Enjoy sunny rocks, cool shaded forest, and a deep pool ideal for swimming or wading.
09:00	Highlighted Hike to Ribbon Falls (H): 3.5 Hours Heading past Doreen Falls into the Drakensberg foothills be rewarded with stunning valley views, explore Ribbon Falls cave, and reach the impressive waterfall within an indigenous forest. Enjoy the novelty of tea, coffee & rusks in the mountains.
13:30	Guided Walk to Belinda Falls (H): 30 minutes Spend quality family time climbing rocks and streams in the mountains. Belinda Falls, named after the hotel's owner, is the closest waterfall to the backpackers and can be stunning after heavy rains.

Tuesday

08:00	Guided Hike to One Tree Hill (H): 3.5 Hours Going along the Oqalweni Fern Forest route, cross the uMlambonja, and zigzag up the foothill to the top of One Tree Hill. At the summit, enjoy breathtaking views from 1958m altitude—488m above the hotel.
09:00	Highlighted Hike to Doreen Falls (H): 1.5 Hours Named after Albert van der Riet's wife, Doreen Falls offer a shady, spacious spot at their base with a deep pool ideal for swimming. You can also scramble behind the falls for a unique view. Enjoy the novelty of tea, coffee & rusks in the mountains.

DAILY GUIDED WALKS & HIKES

Wednesday

07:10	Guided Hike to Cathedral Peak Summit (F): 9-10 Hours One of the district's top climbs, reaching 3004m with a 19km round-trip, takes up to 10 hours. It features steep rock scrambles and challenging sections like "Swine Hill" and "Buggers Gully." Summit climbers enjoy stunning views and a great sense of achievement. NB this hike is for the fit only.
08:00	Guided Hike to Barker's Chalet Cave (H): 3.5 Hours A right turn on the Cathedral Peak path leads to Barker's Chalet Cave, named after famed climber Harry Barker. The cave offers views of a scenic gorge with a waterfall and bubbling stream.
15:30	Highlighted Sunset Walk to the Golf Course via Lake Jarred (H): 2 Hours The Sunset Walk to the Golf Course via Lake Jarred (named after the owner's son) offers a scenic, relaxing route with beautiful views, ideal for a peaceful evening stroll. Enjoy the novelty of tea, coffee & rusks at the Golf Clubhouse.

Thursday

08:00	Guided Hike to Lake William (H): 3.5 Hours Lake William, named after the hotel's owner, lies under Baboon Rock on the estate's northern boundary. The walk offers unique views of the hotel property, Cleft Peak, and great photo opportunities of the Cathedral range.
09:00	Highlighted Walk to Albert Falls via Doreen Falls (H): 2.5 Hours Head past Doreen Falls and climb the rocky path until the ground levels out, where you'll discover the stunning Albert Falls, named after the hotel's founder. Enjoy the scenic waterfall and take a refreshing dip in the natural rock pool beneath it. Come with us and cool off by the falls whilst enjoying the novelty of tea, coffee and rusks.
13:30	Guided Walk to Blue Pools (H): 2.5 Hours Located in the Tseketseke Valley, this special spot offers a refreshing dip in a bubbling stream and stunning views of the Drakensberg escarpment. Its flat terrain makes it ideal for a family outing.

DAILY GUIDED WALKS & HIKES

Friday

08:00	<p>Highlighted Hike to Rainbow Gorge (H/F): 4.5-5 Hours Hike through grasslands and a shady forest below Tryme Hill, cross the river, and discover a boulder wedged between rock walls. Further up, sunlight on waterfalls creates rainbows in the gorge. Enjoy the novelty of tea, coffee & rusks in the mountains.</p>
09:00	<p>Guided Walk to Umlambonja Valley & The Bushman Paintings (H): 2 Hours After the climb to the helipad and soccer field, enjoy an easy walk with stunning mountain views. See a beautifully preserved collection of San Art paintings before returning via Lake Byron (named after the owner's son).</p>
13:30	<p>Guided Walk to Fern Forest (H): 2.5 Hours This scenic hike leads you through an indigenous forest under the shadow of Cathedral Peak, with impressive ferns, tall yellowwood trees, and natural pools. Climbing higher along the river provides beautiful views of the local flora and fauna.</p>

Saturday

07:10	<p>Guided Hike to Cathedral Peak Summit (F): 9-10 Hours One of the district's top climbs, reaching 3004m with a 19km round-trip, takes up to 10 hours. It features steep rock scrambles and challenging sections like "Swine Hill" and "Buggers Gully." Summit climbers enjoy stunning views and a great sense of achievement. NB this hike is for the fit only.</p>
08:00	<p>Highlighted Hike to Baboon Rock (H): 4 Hours A rock formation resembling a baboon's head offers stunning views. Hike through grassy hills, rocky areas, and forest to reach the top. Don't forget your camera! Join us for a beautiful afternoon walk & enjoy novelty of tea, coffee & rusks.</p>
15:30	<p>Guided Sunset Walk: Lake Byron via Ashlea's Amble (H): 1.5 Hours The Sunset Walk to Lake Byron via Ashlea's Amble (named after the owner's daughter) is a delightful, easy trail along the uMhlonhlo River.</p>

DAILY GUIDED WALKS & HIKES

Sunday

08:00	Guided Hike to Mushroom Rock (H): 3.5 Hours This hike features a natural sculpture created by wind and rain erosion on golden sandstone. Bring your camera to capture the unique rock formation and stunning views of the Cathedral Peak mountain range from the ridge.
09:00	Highlighted Walk to Doreen Falls & The Bushman Paintings (H): 2.5 Hours Named after Albert van der Riet's wife, these popular falls feature a shady, spacious area with a deep swimming pool. You can scramble behind the falls for a closer look and then head up the hill to see a well-preserved collection of San Art paintings. Enjoy the novelty of tea, coffee & rusks in the mountains.

GUIDED HIKES COSTS

Hotel Daily Guided Hikes

(H) Half day	R345 per person
(F) Full Day	R695 per person

Private Daily Guided Hikes

(H) Half day	R895 (4 pax) Max (8 pax)
(F) Full Day	R1655 (4 pax) R150 (extra pax) Max (8 pax)

Please kindly book and pay at the hotels reception in advance as spaces are limited. All hotel guided hikes leave from the Sundial located near the outdoor chess within the main hotel.

All rates valid from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025. T's & C's apply