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The Central and Northern Drakensberg is an excellent springboard to one of South Africa's most significant historical experiences. This experience is perfect for a slightly misty or rainy day in the Drakensberg.

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The Drakensberg: An African Adventure Capital.

The Drakensberg, particularly the Central and Northern Drakensberg, is without a doubt one of the most significant adventure tourism destinations in Africa. This area is thus a centre for motivational meetings, adventure sports get-togethers and incentive programmes.

The Central and Northern Drakensberg has a wide range of adventure pursuits. The following list is an

inventory of some of these tourism activities:

- Abseiling;
- Para-gliding;
- Gliding;
- Horse riding and trails;
- Mountain biking;
- Scootours;
- Zip Lining;
- Hiking;
- Mountaineering;
- Rock climbing;
- Seasonal white river rafting;
- Mountain biking,
- Trail Running;

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WHAT TO DO ON A RAINY DAY:

- Visit the Winterton Museum;
- Pop into one of the many craft centres in the area;
- Take an outing to the Cathedral Peak Wine Estate;
- Visit the Ardmore Art Gallery and enjoy a cup of coffee in their restaurant,
- Watch sport in one of the many pubs in the area. It is always fun to be part of the community;
- Visit the Drakensberg Brewery;
- Enjoy the local cuisine there are many excellent eateries in the area; and
- Attend a Drakensberg Boys Choir Concert on a Wednesday afternoon.
- Visit the Ladysmith Siege Museum

- Paint Ball;
- Quad biking;
- Fishing;
- Park runs;
- Hot air ballooning;
- Helicopter flips... and so much more.

This area has a range of adventure centres, tour operators and guides to ensure that you pursue these activities as safely as possible. Please see the directory at the end of this publication. Also, view https://youtu.be/RdR_RSspW_ac.

One of the most exciting developments in the Cathkin Valley area has been the development of a dedicated mountain biking and trail running circuit. This trail is known as Cathkin Trails. Belinda Spence, one of the 'architects' behind this initiative, stated, "Cathkin trails was started and now maintained by a few outdoor enthusiasts in the valley. This is purely a community project. The committee does not get paid, and they are actually at the moment the main source of the club's income. The club is fortunate at this stage to have some private companies paying the salaries of the trail staff, as well as assisting in the surplus needed for the signs and equipment required for the trail maintenance. This will, however, not be an ongoing situation. The club is very proud to announce that they have five previously unemployed gentlemen that cut and maintain the trails. These gentlemen are also learning a new skill as the paths need to be cut correctly to avoid erosion and dangerous areas to avoid injury of trail users. We would also like to inform all interested parties that we are an officially registered club, we are a registered NPO and we have an independent accountant that monitors the bank account and controls payments with at least two committee members always approving any payment required."

"From a LOCALS USING THE TRAILS point of view, Please can we urge you to be compliant with 'paying your way.' The rates are currently R20 per runner for the day and R50 per rider for the day. A week's pass is R200, and the annual fee is R700. The annual fee allows you use of all the trails whenever you want, as long as you have your board on your bike or your band for runners. Remember, this is for the community, and it is not fair to cheat the system. Please pay your way, be legal and safe. The indemnity only covers paid-up users of the trails."

"Traveling – it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller." – Ibn Battuta



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View to the Sentinel, from the Witsieshoek Road (Source: Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge)

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DISCOVER ADVENTURE



The "Kaalvoet Vrou", the story of this moving monument will be described in the Winter Edition.

SOME REGULAR EVENTS:

Every Wednesday during Term time the Drakensberg Boys Choir Wednesday Concerts – Every Wednesday during the school term at the Drakensberg Boys Choir School – Info: 036 468 1012. Ticket Bookings: www.dbchoir.com

Every Saturday: Winterton park run at 8am at The Waffle Hut. ww.parkrun.co.za

Cannibal's Cave park run at 8am at Lizzie's Store near Royal Natal National Park.

Every Tuesday: 7am in summer and 8am in Winter **Champagne Valley Walking Club**.

CATHKIN TRAILS FOR MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND TRAIL RUNNERS.

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The Cathbrew Trail Run takes place on the last Friday of each month at 17.00 in summer and 16.30 in winter.

(Source: Ann Gray)

IN STEPS OF THE SAN A FASCINATING CENTRAL DRAKENSBERG TRAIL

The Drakensberg area is steeped in both the history of the original inhabitants of Southern Africa - namely the Stone Age Koi San (Bushmen) and the Nguni tribes- as well as that of the early white settlers. The Heritage Trail, in Bush Reserve no 2, is a seldom-used trail in the uKhahlamba World Heritage site which brings the relatively recent history of all three of these groups together in a path of considerable historical importance.

This trail is somewhat forgotten as it is not accessed through the ordinary Monks Cowl access point, as it is a dogleg sticking out from the heritage site, and yet it sits right in the middle of the most developed area of the Champagne Valley. It is easily accessed from The Oaks Supermarket and, although access to the trail is through several private properties, access is expressly permitted as it is a long-established access route going back to the 1850s. There is no proper access gate as such, only a sign; however, access fees must be paid at the Monk Cowl office before entry. The local Honorary Officers Group maintains this trail, so it is in excellent condition. The trail is mostly forested and begins a short distance up the Sterkspruit River from the Mount Champagne Resort. The access point is somewhat hidden, so it is best to speak to the locals first to avoid getting lost. The other end of the trail can also be accessed from the top of Bergview, and this option is perhaps a bit easier and more well defined.

Of interest in the first part of the trail are the saw pits dug by the early white settlers in the mid-1800s. These enterprising loggers would fell an old yellowwood tree, dig a pit underneath it and then saw it into planks from top to bottom with a bow saw. The trail passes one of the remaining old yellow woods which is thought to be more than 600 years old. To put this in perspective perhaps it is helpful to note that this tree is older than the establishment of the first white settlement by Jan Van Riebeeck in 1652 at the Cape of



Starlight splendour, hiking in the Drakensberg (Source: SAT)



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Good Hope. The trail passes very close to one of the best preserved Bushman rock art sites in the area which, unfortunately, is on private property and, due to excessive visitation abuse, has been closed by the landowner in conjunction with AMAFA. The site, which is named "Cow Cave", has a large panel of various antelope such as Eland, Reed Buck and Bushbuck. Of particular significance, however, is a lone painting of a cow, which is an indication of a likely liaison with either the Nguni people or possibly even the white settlers, as the Bushman never kept cattle. As a matter of interest, the Champagne Valley below the Little Berg has numerous rock art sites, unfortunately, all of which are on private property and closed to the public.



Cow's Cane Panel (Source: Graham Barry: Wits End)

Towards the end of this trail, one reaches Kaybar's Cave and Cleo's Pool. One might merely pass through this cave hardly giving a cursory glance at the pile of rocks in one corner. However, there is great significance in this inconspicuous pile of debris... To fully appreciate its importance it is necessary to first understand something of the history of the people of this area. It has long been believed that the remnants of the Bushmen people disappeared from the Drakensberg area in the mid-1850s, either through displacement by the expanding Nguni tribes or due to their extermination by the white settlers (who took exception to the rustling of their cattle by the Bushmen). Traditionally, these hunter-gatherers would move over large areas hunting game. By the 1800s their hunting grounds had become extremely limited, and so the farmer's cattle became an obvious target. Naturally, this was a cause of much animosity, and as a result, the 1800s was a period of virtual civil war between the groups - the bushmen often rustling large herds of cattle, only to slaughter them pointlessly

along their escape route. A common belief is that the Bushmen people were virtually exterminated from the area; however, the pile of rocks at Kaybar's Cave may tell a slightly different tale... It is likely that very few Bushmen survived from about the turn of the 19th century, but remnants must have existed into the early 20th century as a new bow and quivers, and hunting pouch was found by a farmer hidden away on a rock shelf in Eland cave in the first half of the 20th century. In addition to this, Kaybar's cave offers a new slant on the story as the pile of stones in the one corner is, in fact, the remains of a burial site. These graves were discovered in 1931 when a group of researchers, under the guidance of Professor Wells of the department of anatomy at Wits University, found this site, together with others in the Valley. According to tradition, these cadavers were buried in a seated position and then covered in rocks.

ROCK ART PROTOCOL:

- only AMAFA registered open sites may be visited;
- visits are with the approval of the custodian of the site. Custodians are the landowners or other appointed bodies (e.g. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife) who have a responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the site.
- visitors must be accompanied by an AMAFA registered guide; and
- no more than 8 people may enter the site at a time.

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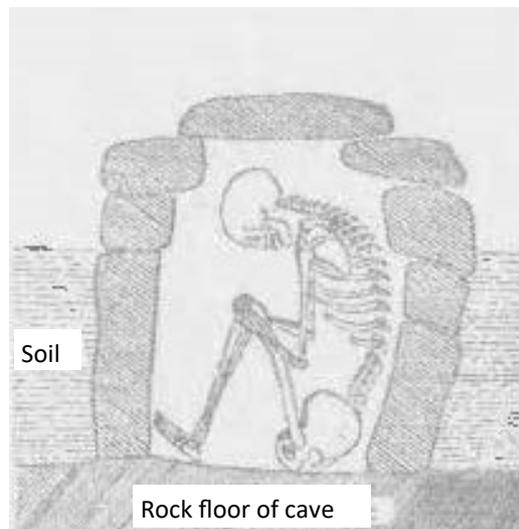
The remnants were removed to Wits University for further examination and revealed that they were the remains of a male, a female and a child as well as various other bones. The bones were examined and proven to be a mixture of Bushman and Nguni offering another slant on the disappearance of the Bushmen - that they were simply integrated into the local tribes. There were traces of probably eight skeletal remains in the cave and the bones were also shockingly thought to show signs of cannibalism (which was practiced by some tribal groups). Emerging from Kaybar's Cave, having seen first-hand the sinister remnants of the tragic past of a people and culture now lost forever, one would be well advised to have an exhilarating dip in Cleo's Pool where one can slide down a natural rock slide into the icy water of this lovely deep mountain pool.



The excavated San Graves (Source: Graham Barry)

From Cleo's Pool the path goes up a steep incline, and, using the tyre and chain ladder installed by the Honorary Officers, one reaches the top of Bergview residential area a few kilometers further on. This trail is not particularly strenuous and takes about 4 hours. If you don't want a long and not particularly interesting walk back to the starting point, arrange for a pick up at the top of Bergview or from Drakensberg Sun Hotel car park.

Source: Graham Barry: Proprietor Wits End Resort and an Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Honorary Officer responsible for monitoring San Rock Art in the Central and Northern Drakensberg.



Traditional San Burial Site



Cleos Pools (Source: James Seymour)



Conferencing in the Drakensberg

The central and Northern Drakensberg have a wide range of conference facilities, so much so that the Cathkin Valley is referred to as **Convention Valley**. The most significant of these venues are without a doubt, **Champagne Sports Resort** and the newly established multi-function Sport and Conference Centre in Bergville. The Champagne Sports Resort, for example, has two plenary venues that can seat up to 1,000 delegates in theatre style.

Other venues that deserve special mention include Alpine Heath, Cathedral Peak, Didima, Champagne Castle Hotel, Dragon Peaks Resort, The Drakensberg Sun and The Nest. However, numerous smaller venues are ideal for small corporate “bosberaads” and motivational meetings.

One of the key unique selling points of this area is the fact that it offers excellent pre, during and post tour opportunities. The Drakensberg is also easily



accessible from both Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Johannesburg by luxury coach. Many people are not aware of the fact that it is possible to fly in 50 seater aircraft to Pietermaritzburg and it is a relatively short drive to the Central and Northern Drakensberg.

Besides, there are excellent caterers, tour operators and important transport companies to ensure the success of such events. For more information on conference venues in the Central and Northern Drakensberg, please visit <https://thedrakensberg.net>.

In addition the Central Drakensberg has more than 8,000 rooms of a variety of types and rates. It is a perfect location for association, government and association meetings.

One of the substantial plenary venues of the Champagne Sports Resort (Source: Champagne Sports Resort)

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WHAT YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE DRAKENSBERG

- The Drakensberg has one of the world's most well known hiking trails, the 'Grand Traverse' - a trail of some 240km. It is South Africa's longest hike;
- This region has South Africa's largest concentration's of hiking trails;
- The Drakensberg hosts one of the coldest swimming events the "Polar Bear Swim Challenge"; and
- The Central Drakensberg is often used as a base for participants in the Midmar Mile, South Africa's most significant aquatic event.

THE BATTLE OF WILLOW GRANGE AND THE WINSTON CHURCHILL CAPTURE SITE

At the start of the South African War or the Second Anglo Boer War in the latter quarter of 1899, the Boer generals made a strategic decision to invade the British Colonies of the Cape and Natal. This resulted in the famous battles of Talana (20 October 1899) in the Dundee area and Elandslaagte (21 October 1899).

On the 15th November 1899 Winston Churchill, a Morning Post war journalist persuaded his friend Captain Haldane to travel on an armoured train on a reconnaissance along the rail line between Estcourt and Colenso. The train went as far as the Chieveley station and returned. On the return journey, the train was ambushed by the Boers Forces and derailed. Churchill and 74 soldiers were captured as a result.

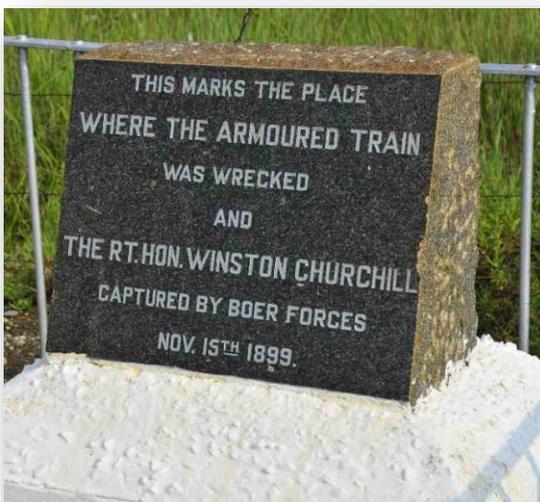
He was interned as a prisoner of war in Pretoria, but later escaped to Delagoa Bay and rejoined the war effort, to for example cover the Battle of Spionkop. A memorial that commemorates this event was placed on the old Estcourt road close to N3. The GPS coordinates of this site are -S28.8750814, E29.7680724.

The initial Boer invasion of the Natal Colony resulted in the most southern fought battle of this war on the 23 November 1899. This battle, the Battle of Willow Grange was fought along a stone wall on a ridge, just above the current Willow Grange Hotel. This ridge is located on the southerly outskirts of Estcourt and can be clearly seen from the N3. The site can be reached on the District Road off the R103.

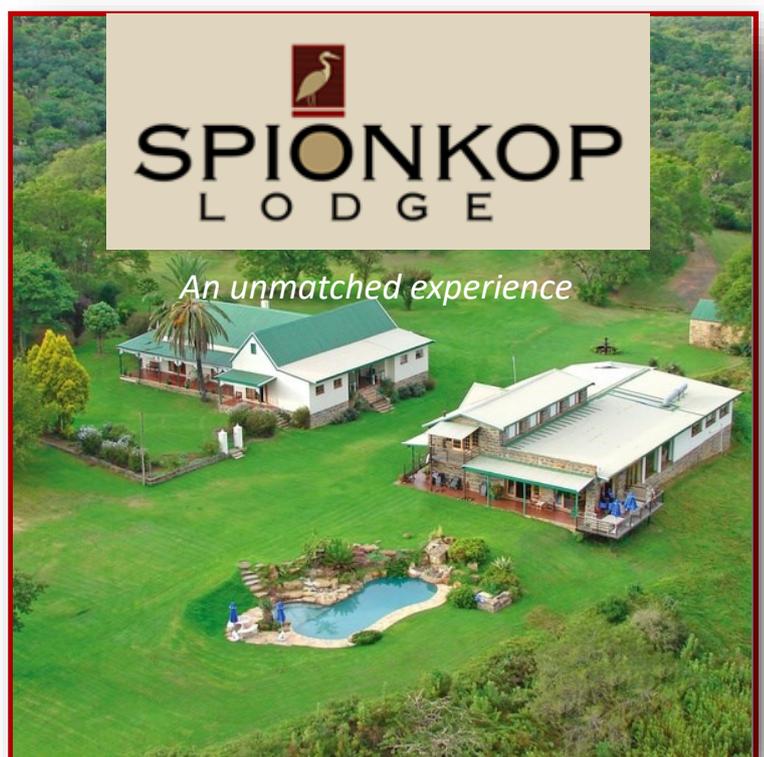
The Boer forces secured a distinct advantage during this battle. However, they decided to withdraw back to the Thukela River line and to give up their aspirations to capture the Port of Durban. Commandant General Piet Joubert was wounded during this battle.

It is worthwhile visiting Fort Durnford as part of a trip to visit the Winston Churchill Capture Site and the site of the Battle of Willow Grange. It is also worth visiting the Willow Grange Hotel. This hotel has much character and artwork that reflects some of the critical battles of the South African War. The GPS coordinates of the Willow Grange Battle site are -29.1035493, E29.8906882, 13. A useful website is <http://www.battlefieldsroute.co.za>.

It is recommended that you engage a tour guide to recount the fascinating story of this area.



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WEENEN – “Place of weeping”

The Drakensberg and the surrounding area has many fascinating villages and towns to visit. One of the lesser known, but none the less exciting towns to visit is Weenen.

This town is the second oldest European Settlement in KwaZulu-Natal and was established in 1838 on the banks of the Bushman's River. Pietermaritzburg, being the oldest. The meaning of Weenen - 'The Place of Weeping' in memory of Zulu-massacred Voortrekkers. KwaZulu-Natal's, Weenen today is a fascinating mix of history and eco/cultural-tourism...plus a myriad of opportunities for daredevil thrill-seekers in this aptly-named Adventure Valley. Weenen Primer is also the second oldest Primary School in KwaZulu Natal.

Attractions in and around Weenen are:

- *The Museum* over the years served as a Court House, Jailhouse, School House, Trading Post, and Post Office. Not to forget the Office of, Voortrekker, Andries Pretorius;
- *The NG Kerk* built in 1894 boasts with a beautiful Pedal (Wind) Organ with its beautiful Pipes reaching up in the gallery; Two Indian Trading stores, buildings dating back to 1910 and 1920 respectively;
- *The Walking Cane (isiVivane)* approximately 6,5km's from The Owl and Elephant Lodge toward Muden on the R74;
- *Illusion Hill*, about 15 from the Owl and Elephant Lodge toward Muden on the R74. This is 1 of 2 documented in South Africa;
- *Weenen KZN Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Game Reserve* established in 1975. Weenen Game Reserve is 5 000 ha in extent. This area of attractive, undulating thornveld is a valuable addition to the nature conservation areas of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. There is 30 km of tourist roads available to view a wide variety of game. Species include black and white rhino, giraffe, kudu, hartebeest, eland, zebra, ostrich and common reedbuck; while such species as grey duiker, bushbuck, steenbuck, black-backed jackal, hyena and mountain reedbuck have recolonised the area naturally. Over 250 species of South Africa's 840+- birds have been recorded in the reserve. Three picnic sites with toilets, running cold water, and barbeque facilities are available; one is at a view site overlooking the Bushman's River valley. Two game viewing hides (Ufudu and Mpofu) are situated at watering holes where several species of mammals and a variety of waterfowl can be viewed. The reserve also offers a self-guided auto trail for which a brochure may be obtained at the gate;
- Weenen is mainly a farming community and as such Agri-Tourism is a very new concept to our area. By appointment, a guided tour can be arranged to a few farms. Small groups of early morning guided walks along our furrow system, and also into the majestic hills of Weenen, for birding or purely to take in the views around Weenen, are arranged by appointment.

(Deleene Wagner : The Owl and Elephant)



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The Drakensberg ... an ideal incentive destination

Incentives are one of the most potent means to meet organisational objectives. These usually are sales targets. Part of the proposed sales target is set aside to pay for a very exclusive holiday experience for the team that achieves or exceeds the set target. A significant trend is for the organisers of such incentives to **incorporate social responsibility projects into an incentive programme or itinerary.**

Day 1: Land at King Shaka International Airport or Pietermaritzburg Airport. Overnight at an up-market resort hotel such as Zimbali, the Oyster Box, Beverley Hills or Brahma Hills on the Midlands. A fantastic option would be to fly into the Berg Air Airstrip in approximately 10 aircraft.

Day 2: Visit the Nelson Mandela Capture Site. Lunch at a Midlands eatery such as Fordoun or Rawdons Hotel. Travel to the Drakensberg for a sundown helicopter experience. Overnight in one of the Northern Drakensberg's exclusive resorts. Storytelling in a Boma.

Day 3: Adventure Experiences

A **plethora** of adventure experiences are available. Please contact Cathkin Booking and Management Services for more information..

Day 4: Cultural Experiences

San Rock Art Sites, a lecture on Spionkop, a WowZulu experience or attending a Wednesday concert of the Drakensberg Boys Choir School.

Day 5: Return journey



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SOME KEY AUTUMN 2019 EVENTS:

- 2 March: **WAMBA Festival** in Weenen. Deleene 0824923665;
- 20 - 24 March: **Between Heaven and Earth Challenge.** www.xbergchallenge.com;
- 30 Mar: **Royal Drakensberg MTB Race.** All Out Adventures. www.royaldrakmtb.co.za
- 5th – 7th April: **Bushman's Trail Run.** Wagons-drift Dam. www.kzntrailrunning.co.za/events/thebushmantrailrun
- 18th – 21st April: **Music in the Mountains.** www.dbchoir.co.za
- 17th – 19th May: **Zingela Bee Eater Trail Run** www.zingelatrailevents.com
- 18th – 19th May: **Yellow-billed Oxpecker Run** www.oxpecker.co.za
- 19th – 21st May: **Autumn Classic Golf Tournament.** bookings@champagnesportsresort.com
- 24th May – 26th May: **Zingela Dung Beetle Trail Run.** www.zingelatrailevents.com
- 25th – 26th May: **Red-Billed Oxpecker Run** www.oxpecker.co.za

Special thanks to Ann Gray for this list.

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Social responsibility project option 1: Proud Schools Project

The Drakensberg Experience Tourism Association has a social upliftment project named the Proud Schools Project. It came into effect many years ago when it became apparent that there was a need to emphasise the importance of tourism to the local Primary School scholars. There has been a fantastic response to this by both the staff as well as the students from the chosen schools. The project allowed for many improvements to occur where a 3 'P' s motto was introduced – Pride in self, pride in the school & pride in the community. A sense of pride was instilled in the children to attend their schools which overflowed into pride to appreciate their community and therefore foster a welcoming attitude towards tourists which would, in turn, make for a better area for tourists to visit.

Water tanks and gutters were installed at schools where previously no water was available to the students. Toilets were re-vamped and painted as well as vegetable gardens established. Some schools have created flower gardens and some, now having access to water, were even able to plant trees too, hopefully, one day, supply shade for the students at break time. Emphasis was made to creating 'litter free' schools resulting in some now having recycling depots to encourage a clean space both at school and at home. Unfortunately, funding from the primary sponsor was redirected elsewhere, and so now the bank balance has been depleted & a very worthwhile educational, the environmental project may well have to be discontinued. Other sponsors are still being sort after, but this is a slow process and not often successful.

The Drakensberg Experience continues to have an excellent relationship with the Heads of the schools. They are keen to carry on with the project, and there have been some generous donations in the past where schools from other areas that are more fortunate than here have been able to donate uniforms, stationery, textbooks and library books which are then distributed to the various Proud Schools. Readers interested in finding out more about this wonderful, but currently dormant project, be it for bank details to make a donation or just general information, then please email the Drakensberg Experience Chairperson, Belinda Spence, little.acres@live.co.za. We all need to do



Phumelani Boys receiving clothing and stationery from Durban North Schools (Source: Ann Gray)



Phumelani Primary Gardens (Source: Ann Gray)

what we can to create a better environment no matter how small that contribution might be (Source: *Belinda Spence and Chris Hearn*s).



Mjayeli Primary Gardens (Source: Ann Gray)



Siphiwesamangwe Primary School, Vegetable Garden (Source: Ann Gray)



Water Tank Donation for Bambanani School. Dolly Wartburton (Source: Ann Gray).



Build It donation. Sipiwesmangwe Primary School (Source: Ann Gray).



Sipiwesmangwe Primary School , neat garden project (Source: Ann Gray).

Social responsibility option two: Drakensberg Boys Choir Schools Outreach and Bursary Programme

The Drakensberg Boys Choir School have mobilised two commendable social responsibility programme's, which corporates could consider as part of their corporate social responsibility programmes and as elements of incentive programmes or conferences that they bring to the Drakensberg area. The first of these is a Schools Outreach or Legacy Programme, which aims at uplifting local schools concerning choral music and leadership development. The initiative has the support of the Department of Education in KwaZulu Natal and relies entirely on sponsorship or donations.

Bill Carter, one of the key proponents and founders of this cause, states, "Any corporate group or member of the public can gladly contribute to this vital source of funding for talented young boys and local rural schools. By making a donation, you will be making a difference in the life of a choir boy".

The Drakensberg Boys Choir School also has a Bursary Programme for disadvantaged young boys, with singing talent, to attend this prestigious school. 'Currently twenty-five percent of our boys are supported through the bursary scheme which allows the school to accommodate very talented boys who cannot afford the full fees", said Deidre Alcock, the Marketing Manager for the school. "We really need the support of corporates to maintain this vital scheme".

Social responsibility option three: Drive to halt Fracking exploration in the Drakensberg and Midlands

There is a strong drive to explore the area surrounding the Drakensberg and Midlands for the possibility of extracting oil and gas through a process known as "fracking". Fracking involves injecting water and chemical substances at a very high pressure into subterranean rocks to break open fissures to extract oil or gas. This process has proved to have a significantly detrimental effect on the soil and the rest of the environment, where such mining takes place.

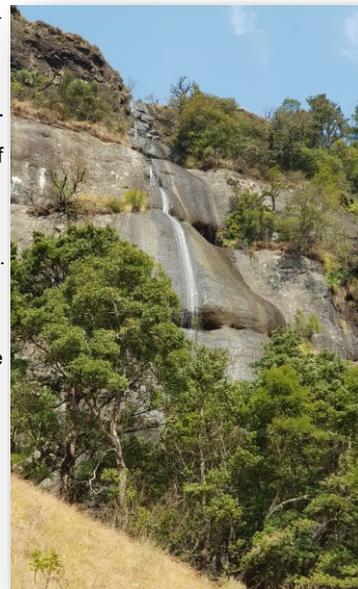
The Drakensberg community is opposed to any form of fracking in what is a particularly sensitive ecological and valuable agricultural region. A petition is being signed by the Drakensberg community and those who are fond of this beautiful region to prevent any form of exploration for oil and gas in this region. Corporates who host an incentive or conference could launch a campaign similar to The Nest Hotel, pictured below, who printed special T-shirts to protest against fracking in the Drakensberg and to sign the petition to halt exploration for oil and gas in this region.



SOME BREATHTAKING DRAKENSBERG DAY WALKS:

The Drakensberg has the most massive concentration of day walks and longer hikes in South Africa and is also undoubtedly the most popular outdoor pursuit in this region. This edition of the "Berg News" will concentrate on the most popular day walks in the Cathedral Peak area, These hikes are marked on Google maps. Another useful application that can be used is "TrailGuide", and a useful website is drakensberghikes.com. Autumn is the best time to hike in the Drakensberg.

1. **Rainbow Gorge.** This trail starts at Cathedral Peak or Didima Camp. This hike is renowned for its lush forest and pools experience. The trail is well marked. The duration of the walk is some 5 hours depending on your starting point. Its grade is moderate.
2. **Mushroom Rock.** This walk's length is approximately 6km and 3 hours in total duration. The starting point is the Cathedral Peak Hotel.
3. **Doreen Falls.** This easy hike starts at Cathedral Peak Hotel. It is 4km in length, and the total duration is some 2 hours.
4. **Baboon Rock.** The start of this walk is the Cathedral Peak Hotel. It is a moderate hike of some 8km and a total duration of 4 hours.
5. **Ribbon Falls.** A moderate hike from Cathedral Peak Hotel. A total duration of about 3 hours and 7km. See <https://youtu.be/JVX8gVzQkLA>.



Ribbon Falls (Source: James Seymour)

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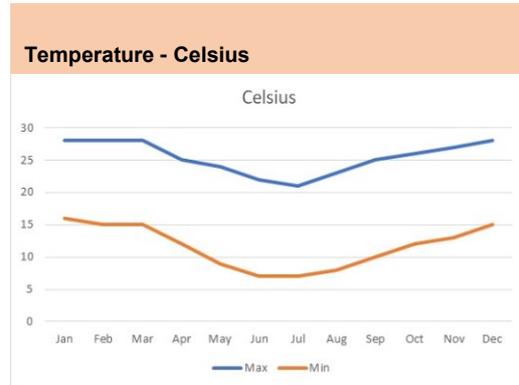
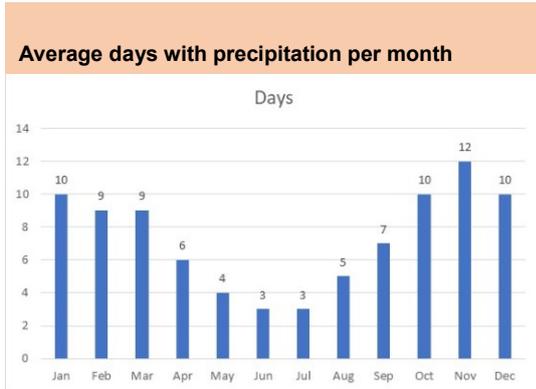
To advertise on our website,
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tyingtheknot8@outlook.com

Some key tips to consider when taking a walk or longer hike:

- Sign the mountain rescue register;
- Wear sturdy leather boots and carry a walking pole;
- Wear a light rucksack even in the case of a walk;
- Ensure it contains food items for at least one day, warm clothing and a poncho (the weather in the Berg can change suddenly), sufficient water, a small medical aid kit, a cell phone, map, torch and a box of matches;
- In case you encounter a bushfire try to get as quickly as possible to a small grove of trees or light a fire break around you. At worst run directly through the fire and roll;
- If you are caught in a lightning storm, urgently head for a forest. At worst squat over a piece of insulating material and ideally cover your self with a poncho or raincoat. Discard any metal items and leave your backpack a distance from you. Do not lie down or stand under an isolated tree; and
- Walk in a group of at least 3 persons.

WEATHER CHARTS FOR THE DRAKENSBURG:

The following are a set of weather charts for the KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg area.



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 E-mail: james@cathlkinmanagement.com
<https://sites.google.com/site/swallowfieldrondavels/>



Injasuthi (Source: James Seymour)



A Drakensberg helicopter flip—an experience of a lifetime.



Hot Air Ballooning over the Battlefields and Drakensberg (Source: James Seymour)

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wcl@rosecottagebnb.co.za www.wintertoncountrylodge.com



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farmfriendsstall@gmail.com [facebook.com/FarmFriendsStall](https://www.facebook.com/FarmFriendsStall)

TRADE WED-SAT 8h30-16h30
HOURS SUN 8h30-14h30

Open on public holidays and every day
during high season (except Good Friday,
Christmas Day and New Year's Day)



Watsonia (Source: James Seymour)

TOURISM SERVICES RELATED DIRECTORY:

Adventure Operator	Website	E-mail / phone
Africa Escapes		
All Out Adventures		
Berg Ventures	http://www.bergventure.co.za/	bergventures@futurenet.co.za
Cathedral Peak Wine Estate	www.drakensbergballooning.co.za/	info@drakensbergballooning.com
Cathkin Equestrian Centre		
Cathkin Trails		
Champagne Castle Adventure Centre		
Deon's Bee Show		
Dragon Peaks Trail Rides		
Drakensberg Ballooning		
Drakensberg Canopy Tour		
Drakensberg Hikes		
Drakensberg Mountain Bike Tours		
Elephant Walking Trails		
Four River Adventures		
Horse Rides@Dragon Peaks		
Hot Air Ballooning SA		
Itchy Feet SA		
Scootours	https://scootours.co.za/drakensberg/	0761033613
Spanafrican Adventures		
Tugela Fishing Company		
The Northern Horse		
The Zingele Safari and River Company		

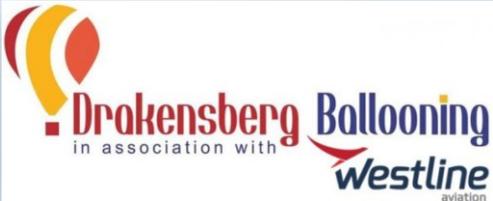


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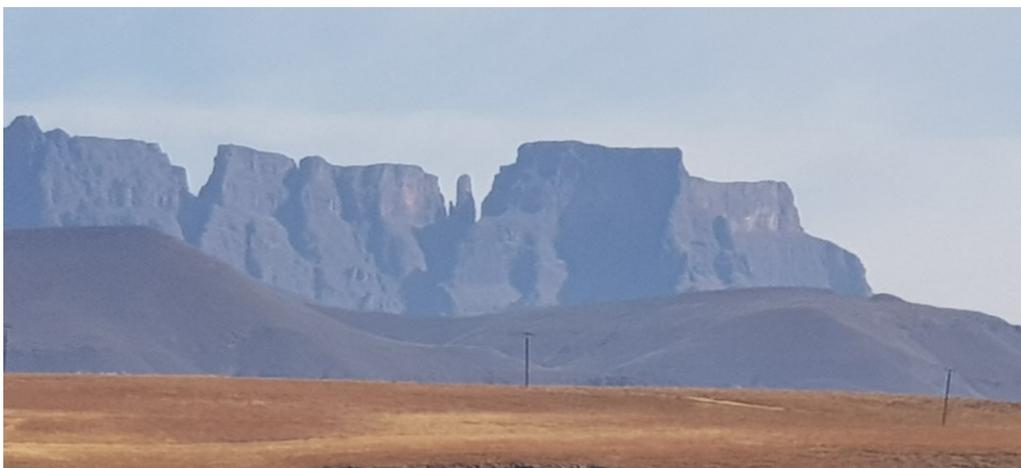
Tel: 082 352 5516 E-mail: info@drakensbergballooning.com
<http://www.drakensbergballooning.co.za>

Attractions	Website	E-mail
Cathedral Peak Wine Estate	http://cathpeakwines.com	weddings@cathpeakwines.com
Dragon Rock Reptile Centre		
Drakensberg Berg Boys Choir		
Falcon Ridge		
HED Honey Products		

Booking Agency	Website	E-mail
Cathin Park Reservations		
Cathkin Booking & Management Services		
Central Drakensberg Info & Booking Centre		

Bed & Breakfast	Website	E-mail
Alkamia B&B		
At home B&B		
Bell Park B&B & Self Catering		+27 36 468 16451
Cathkin Cottages B&B		
Easby B&B and Wedding Venue		
Little Acres B&B & Self Catering		
Nzima B&B		
River Crossing B&B and Self Catering		
Swallow's Nest B&B		
Winterton Country Lodge @Rose Cottage	www.wintertoncountrylodge.com	wcl@rosecottagebnb.co.za

Camping	Website	E-mail
Mountain Splendour Eco-Resort		
Dragon Peaks Resort		



The Mnweni Valley area (Source: James Seymour)

<i>Crafts\Shopping</i>	Website	E-mail
Berg Air		
Canaan Coffee & Gifts		
Candles R Us		
Cannibals Curio		
Cedarwood Supermarket		
Chocolate Memories		
Farm Friends	Facebook.com/FarmFriendsStall	farmfriendsstall@gmail.com
Hand Woven Rug Company		
KwaZulu Weavers and Waffle Hut		
L'Ady's Queen of Tarts		
Scrumpy Jack Farmstall		
Thamela Farmstall		
Thandanani Craft Centre		
The Outspan		
Thokozisa		
Consulting Organisation	Website	E-mail
Cathkin Bookin and Consulting Services		



Nandi's Falls (Source: James Seymour)

Country/Farm Stay	Website	E-mail
Glenside Farmhouse	http://www.easbybedandbreakfast.co.za/	easbybedandbreakfast@gmail.com
Ardmore Guest Farm	https://ardmore.co.za	info@ardmore.co.za
Winterton Country Lodge @Rose Cottage		

Game Reserves	Website	E-mail
Kwagashoek		
Slievrya		
Spionkop Nature Reserve		
Weenen Game Reserve		
Zulu Waters Game Reserve		

PCO/Incentive Organiser	Website	E-mail/ Phone
Cathkin Booking and Management Services	https://thedrakensberg.net	james@cathkinmanagement.com

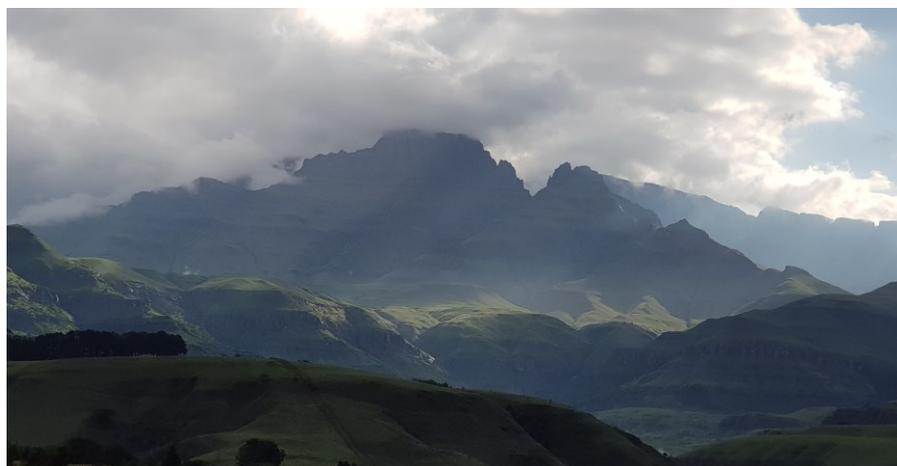
Golf Course Organisation	Website	E-mail/ Phone
Cathedral Peak Golf Club		
Champagne Sports Golf Club		
Hlanathi Golf Club		
Monks Cowl		
Nondela		



Sandra's se Winkel (Source: Estelle Seymour)

Lodge	Website	E-mail
Bridge Lodge & A la Carte Restaurant		
Cheetah Ridge Lodge		
Drakensberg Mountain Retreat		
Esiweni Luxury Lodge		
Inkungu Lodge		
Linglela Lodge		
The Owl and Elephant	http://www.theowlandelephant.co.za	bookings@theowlandelephant.co.za
Three Tree Lodge		
Umzalazolo Lodge (Nambiti)		
Wild Horses Exclusive Mountain Lodge		
Antbear Lodge		
Blue Haze Country Lodge		
Spion Kop Lodge	https://www.spionkop.co.za	spionkop@futurenet.co.za
Winterton Country Lodge @Rose Cottage	www.wintertoncountrylodge.com	wcl@rosecottagebnb.co.za
Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge	https://witsieshoek.co.za	info@witsieshoek.co.za

Restaurant / Coffee Bar	Website	E-mail/ Phone
Bingelelea Restaurant/ Pizzeria & B&B		
Coffee Patch		
Interactive Chocolate Bar		
The Black Scabbard Portuguese Bistro		078 623 9126
Cathedral Peak Wine Estate		
The Griller Restaurant		
Thokozisa Restaurant		
The Pig and Plough		
Valley Bakery		
Waffle Hut		



Source: James Seymour

Hotel/Resort Organisation	Website	E-mail
Alpine Heath Resort		
ATKV Drakensville Holiday Resort		
Cathedral Peak Hotel		
Cayley Lodge		
Champagne Castle Hotel		
Champagne Lane Resort		
Champagne Sport Resort		
Dragon Peaks Mountain Resort		
Drakensberg Sun		
Hlalanathi Berg Resort		
Little Switzerland Resort		
Monks Cowl Country Club		
Montusi Mountain Lodge		
Orion Mont Aux-Sources		
Sandford Park Country Hotel		
The Cavern Resort & Spa		
The Nest Hotel & Conference Centre	https://thenest.co.za	reservations@thenest.co.za



Source: James Seymour

Self-catering	Website	E-mail/ Phonr
Accommodation at Trek Trip and Trails		
Ama Casa Self Catering Cottages	http://www.amacasa.co.za	info@amacasa.co.za
Berg Bauhouse	http://www.bergbauhaus.co.za/	creative@megawifi.co.za
Berghaven Cottages	http://berghaven.co.za	berghaven@telkomsa.net
Berghouse and Cottages		
Champagne Cottages		
Champagne Valley Resort		
Drakensberg Dream		
Drakensview Self Catering	www.drakensviesselfcatering.co.za	drakensview.selfc@gmail.com
Easby B&B		
Ezulwini Berg Resort		
Fernwood		
Hill Billy Cottages		
Ihophe (Turtle Dove)		
Ikhayalamafu Mountain Hideway & Private Nature Reserve		
Inkunzi Cave		
Ledges Retreat		
Little Acres		
Monks Cowl		
Nambiti House		
Oak Cottage		
Old Beacon Hill		
Ouma se Opstal	http://www.oumaseopstal.co.za/	andelia@telkomsa.net
Peak View Cottage		
Pumeleni		
River Crossing		
Rockwood Earth Lodge		
Shiriba Lodge		
Slievryra Game Farm		
Sungubale Eco Camp		
Swallows Nest		
Swallowfield Rondavels	https://sites.google.com/sites/swallowfieldrondavels/	james@cathkinmanagement.com
Toplodge		
Wits End Mountain Lodge	www.witsend.co.za	info@witsend.co.za
Lily's Cottage		
Champagne View Cottage and Farm		
Nondela Drakensberg Mountain Estate		
Winterton Country Lodge @Rose Cottage	www.wintertoncountrylodge.com	wcl@rosecottagebnb.co.za

Spa	Website	E-mail
Be Spoilt Spa		
Cayley Lodge		
Champagne Sports Resort		
Drakensberg Salon @ Thokozisa		
The Nest Hotel		

Tour Guide	Website	E-mail
Drakensberg Treks		
Emachibini Travel and Tour		
James Seymour	https://thedrakensberg.net	james@cathkinmanagement.com
Mnweni Cultural Centre		
Ray Heron	https://www.spionkop.co.za	spionkop@futurenet.co.za
Siyaphambile Tourist Guides and Porters		
Umphafa Berg Tours		

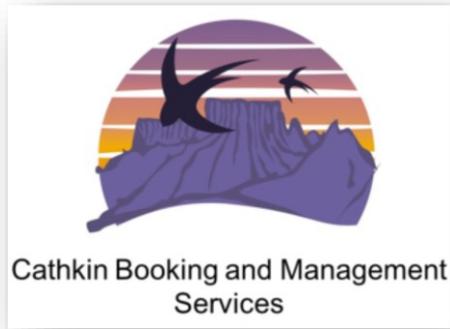
Tour Operator	Website	E-mail
Cathkin Booking and Management Services	https://thedrakensberg.net	james@cathkinmanagement.com
Champagne Shuttle & Coach Hire		
Golf Got You		
Ron Gold Tours		
Tugela Falls Travel & Tours		
Umusa Shuttle Services		
Africa Ignite/ Wowzulu Emazini		

Wedding Planner Organisation	Website	E-mail
Tying the Knot	www.drakensbergwedding.com	tyingtheknot8@outlook.com



Source: Wits End

CATHKIN BOOKING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES:



Email: james@cathkinmanagement.com

www.drakensberg.website

Cathkin Booking and Management Services, the publisher of this newsletter, was recently established as a specialised tourism management and booking consultancy. This agency provides specialised and personalised support services to assist tour operators, associations, government departments, corporates, incentive houses and individual travellers to secure the right products and experiences, to ensure that their needs are fully met.

In addition, this agency assists in developing dedicated marketing strategies, whether tactical or long-term, feasibility studies, business plans, advertising campaigns, bid proposals, marketing tools such as websites, applications and social media tools such as blogs, corporate FaceBook Pages and Instagram Sites to support the marketing efforts of a particular establishment

It also provides a market research function to analyse your current service.

This agency has the ability to conduct cost-effective surveys to test perceptions of your service levels, marketing tools and product offering and key clients of this company include Tsogo Sun, Seef Tourism Development Services, The Nest Hotel, Assegai and Javelin and Contact Publications.

This agency has already developed a personalised booking website for the Drakensberg and surrounding area, <http://drakensberg.website>, the first dedicated application for the Drakensberg (download from Google Play Store) and is in the process of rolling out a more sophisticated web platform <https://thedrakensberg.net/>

The Managing Director of the company, James Seymour, has an MSc in Travel and Tourism Management from the University of Nottingham, an MA in Applied Anthropology and various other marketing qualifications. He is a registered Tourist Guide for KwaZulu-Natal and has a particular passion for hiking.



Some key notes:

Web links are provided to most attractions listed in this periodical. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to e-mail James at james@cathkinmanagement.com. The Central and Northern Drakensberg is normally accessed by the N3 from Johannesburg or Pietermaritzburg and Durban. From the East take Loskop offramp. From the West take Bergville or Winterton offramps. **Copyright: Cathkin Booking and Management Service.** You are welcome to use content as long as you credit "Berg News".

"The mountains are calling and I must go" – John Muir.



A magnificent Drakensberg sunset (Source: Estelle Seymour)

