Best Cathedral Peak Drakensberg Hike Adventure Tours

Experience the wild, crazy, beautiful odyssey of a guided trek into the Drakensberg Cathedral Peak Mountains. Cathedral Peak is situated in the Central Drakensberg about a 4 hour drive from Johannesburg and 3 hours from Durban. This part of the Dragon Mountains is home to some of the most incredible scenery out of all the mountains in South Africa.

The hike takes us to the summit of the Drakensberg Cathedral Peak which soars into the African sky to an elevation of 3004m. It is one of the only ‘free standing’ mountains in the Drakensberg that can be climbed without any technical experience needed. Most of the other ‘peaks’ in the Drakensberg are not technically peaks as the top of the climbs top out on the escarpment of Lesotho. In fact, the Drakensberg Mountains are the highest mountains in the world without another side to them.

Due to the rise of over 2000m into a flat plateau of the escarpment. Our guided hike of the Drakensberg Cathedral Peak starts at the quaint hotel at the base of the range where there are some pretty awesome views of the peak and the surrounding Drakensberg mountains. Over the next 3 days you will get to see on the most spectacular areas of the Drakensberg and will get to experience the magic and solitude of these incredible mountains.

**COSTING**

**Including Transport:** R 2,900 per person

**Excluding Transport:** R2,200 per person
Day 1

Our tours begin and end in Johannesburg/Bergville

(SELF DRIVE OPTIONS AVAILABLE)

Travel day. Our scheduled tours leave from Johannesburg at 05H30. Travellers are picked up from any hotel by your mountain guide who will accompany you for the duration of your tour. The drive down to Cathedral Peak takes 5 hours. We will stop en route for breakfast.

Once we arrive at the Cathedral Peak Hotel, our starting point for the hike, we will check the gear, introduce you to the rest of the climbing team and have briefing session on the terrace of the hotel before we head on up into the mountains. Looking at starting then hike by 13H30.

We will make our way up on a relatively easy path to Sherman’s Cave where we will set up camp for the night. For the more adventurous and if you have the energy left, the guide will set up an abseiling (rappelling) section which you can indulge in. Dinner is served at about 19H00.

Hiking Distance: 4km
Duration: 2 hours
Elevation Gain:200m;Elevation Loss: 50m

Day 2

After breakfast, we set off for a pretty challenging and long day to the summit of Cathedral Peak. We start hiking at 07H30. The route gains altitude pretty quickly until we reach what is known as the Orange Peel Gap.
Once up the gap we have a break and take in the breath-taking views of the valleys and rolling green hills of Kwazulu Natal below.

We then take the relatively flat hike through to the base of Cathedral Peak where we will have lunch before our final summit push. The views from here are mind-blowing with Organ Pipes and Champagne Castle looming in the distance.

After lunch the climb continues. The most accessible route to the summit involves some rock scrambling and is a little bit exposed in places. To ensure your safety we set up safety ropes and attach you to them. After about an hour of climbing, we reach the summit!!! From here you will get a panoramic view of the entire Northern and Central Drakensberg.
The world-famous Amphitheatre and Sentinel can be seen to the north over 40km away while the bulk of Champagne Castle over 30km away to the South. After about 30 minutes on the peak, we begin our descent via the same route. We should be back in the cave by about 17H00 where a hearty meal awaits. And maybe a dash of whisky for medicinal purposes.

Hiking Distance: 16km  
Duration: 9 hours  
Elevation Gain: 1300m; Elevation Loss: 1300m

**Day 3**

After watching a beautiful African sunrise from the cave, we have breakfast and start our hike back down to the start of the hike. The trek takes about 2 hours. Once we get down we have a celebratory beer on the terrace of the hotel before making our way back to Johannesburg. We aim to be back by 17H30.

Hiking Distance: 4km  
Duration: 2 hours  
Elevation Gain: Elevation Loss: 200m
Highlights

✓ Pristine, unspoilt and secluded mountain scenery
✓ Enjoy the thrill of summiting a free standing peak
✓ Panoramic view of the entire Northern and Central Drakensberg
✓ We have an over 90% success rate on this route
✓ Authentic South African hiking experience

WHAT THE COST INCLUDES

✓ 2 Nights in camping in the mountains
✓ Return Transport from Johannesburg (depending on what option you choose)
✓ All Drakensberg National Park gate fees, camping fees and climbing permits.
✓ Rescue fees (Mountain Rescue Team)
✓ Basic first aid kit
✓ Qualified mountain guide, assistant guides, and cook
✓ Salaries for mountain crew
✓ Breakfast and dinner, as well as hot drinks on the mountain
✓ Camping equipment (tents, & sleeping mat)
✓ Dedicated Drakensberg Trip Planner
✓ Free Training sessions (Johannesburg area only)
✓ Certificate for your successful summit attempt
✓ Local Taxes

NOT INCLUDED

✓ Items of a personal nature
✓ Porters (can be hired on a daily basis for an additional fee)
✓ Visas for South Africa
✓ Health requirements (if any)
✓ Optional but highly recommended travel and medical insurance.
✓ Personal hiking/trekking gear – you can rent some of the gear from us once in South Africa
✓ Snacks, personal medicine and water purifying tablets
✓ Meals & drinks not specified

We are looking forward to hearing from you and being a part of your Drakensberg hiking experience!!

Darren Macdonald
Adventure Director

Tel: +27 73 991 9785
Email: info@southafricaadventures.com
www.southafricaadventures.com