

PEAK HIGH

Mountaineering

Trekking Information sheet

Duration: 3 to 4 days.

Venue: Central Natal, Drakensberg



General Information

This trek starts from the Nature Conservation office at Cathedral Peak wilderness area. It is a circular route that goes through large mountains and is usually covered in three days of hard walking or four days if taken at a leisurely pace.

There are several variations to the route.

The Route

The starting point is at an altitude of 1400m. On the first day a short climb of 3 hours brings one to an informal campsite at "Ribbon Falls".

This is sometimes used as the first overnight point depending on time available and acclimatization of clients.

From Ribbon Falls a long steep climb on a good path brings one to the top of the Drakensberg via "Organ Pipes Pass". This is a very spectacular walk and takes about 4 hours.

A night is usually spent in the vicinity of the top of the pass either in tents or in "Indumeni Cave". (Indumni is a Zulu word meaning the "place of thunder").

The next day the trek goes over Cleft Peak (3281m), then to Mlambonja Pass summit and on to overnight at "Twins Cave".

This is a very big overhang of rock and has beautiful views of the northern range.

On the final day of the expedition one traverses past all the major peaks of the Cathedral Ridge, then summits Cathedral Peak (3004m) via a short scramble and then goes down to the end point.

This hike is best suited to people who have medium to high fitness and are accustomed to carrying a full backpack. Clients will be camping either in mountain tents or caves in a remote setting. Most of the walking is on good paths. Porters are available but must be booked in advance. This adds about R70 per day per porter.

The entire area is a proclaimed wilderness area and is also now a World Heritage Site. All the mountain streams may be used for drinking water.

When to visit:

This trek can be done at anytime of the year. However the drier months, from April through to August, are better. It must be noted that these are also the colder months with night temperatures often below freezing. Snowfalls can also occur. During the southern African summer the mountains receive afternoon thundershowers and high daytime temperatures. However, cold, wet and windy weather can be encountered at anytime of year!

Guided Trekking:

Peak High offers this trek at any time of the year. No set dates are used as each trip is individually put together. Parties can consist of one to as many as ten people in a group.

Unless porters are used, clients are required to carry their own backpacks, equipment and provisions for a 3-day round trip. Peak High can provide all communal equipment including stoves, pots, tents, cutlery, food and maps. Extra items such as sleeping bags can be hired for a nominal fee.

Peak High offers a personal door-to-door service including airport transfers to and from Durban. If flying from overseas, all flights land either at Johannesburg or Cape Town from where a connection must be caught to Durban or Pietermaritzburg.

All guiding and climbing is done by a professional, certified guide.

What to bring:

Clients need to bring the usual personal items, including breathable shell clothing, polar fleeces, large backpack, hiking boots, hat, gloves, flash-light, water-bottle, sun cream etc.





About Peak High Mountaineering and Gavin:

Peak High Mountaineering is owned by **Gavin Raubenheimer** and has been operating since 1992. The business is registered with Tourism KwaZulu-Natal as a Tour Operator. Gavin Raubenheimer is a certified Mountaineering Instructor (M.I.A.) endorsed by the Mountain Development Trust of SA and the U.I.A.A. He is a NQF National Mountaineering, Cultural and Nature Guide (NQF level 4). Gavin is a past President of the KwaZulu-Natal Section of the Mountain Club of SA. He has been involved in mountain rescue since 1992 and since 2005 has been the Convener of Mountain Rescue in the province. He is sponsored by **first Ascent** outdoor clothing company and by **RAM Mountaineering**.

For more information and bookings contact:

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Also view the Peak High web site at <http://www.peakhigh.co.za>