

Contents

Prologue 11

Have your Black Forest cake and eat it!

Why German influence is much bigger than one would suspect after only thirty years of colonial rule. And – where did the South-Africans leave their mark? 13

Do you have any black friends?

Why it is easy to be mistaken for a racist. And – is unity in diversity workable in Namibian daily life?..... 18

A lekker Braai

Why choosing the right sausage is an art form. And – how does one honour the real purpose of a braai? 24

No country for vegetarians

Why a truffles-only diet is not an option, not even for vegetarians. And – which foods do Namibians like best – at home and on the road? ... 32

Christmas in Swakopmund

Why it is just fine to be where everybody else is. And – have you ever danced langarm? 40

Thank you for the meal

Why it is a pleasure to deal with Namibian youth. And – is there possibly merit in colonial values? 49

The Boy on the Moor

Why Namibian kids waste a lot of time in German classes. And – what can romantic poetry teach you? 56

Putting up (with) high walls

Why the time taken to clean your windows is directly proportional to your level of security. And – where and why is life in Namibia dangerous? 63

You lucky dog!

Why a four-legged companion makes life in Windhoek easier. And – can we overdo the love for our pets? 75

Feel like rugby?

Why a rough male sport can be a mirror for a country. And – can a sport contribute towards integration?..... 84

The Chinese are here

Why Chinese and Namibians actually have common interests. And – what is China doing in Namibia? 90

Mr. Bergmann knows it all

Why many stereotypes are true – unlike prejudices. And – how real are “poor blacks” and “nasty hunters”?101

Modern Nomads

Why nothing compares to camping in Namibia. And – will the country’s nomads eventually benefit from the tourism industry?112

Alcohol kills

Why the story of Sandra and Erwin is the story of many. And – what is Namibia doing against its addiction problem?126

Rain over government crisis

Why rain is not simply rain. And – how do you decide whether the rain metre is half full or half empty?133

Meeting point Superspar

Why Windhoek's stores may surprise you. And – what is shopping like in Katutura?140

No wealth, no health

Why a comparatively good health system is still far from perfect. And – how do you get dialysis in Namibia?147

Help, a snake!

Why it is good to be wary of things that crawl, creep and buzz. And – how dangerous are Namibian creepy-crawlies?153

AIDS is everywhere

Why the grim reaper regularly visits Namibia. And – what does the permanent menace do to young Namibians?159

Knowledge is Power

Why Namibian women have the potential to form a new elite. And – what are their most important questions?167

Glossary183

Thanks190