

Windhoek 2011

City Guide



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Republikein



The Warehouse Theatre in the old Breweries building in the heart of Windhoek has been a local well-known hotspot for the Nightlife over the past 20 Years. With its prime location on the corner of Tal Street and Sam Nujoma Avenue and its industrial-like scenery it has attracted young people and those young at heart, on the lookout for a good time. In June 2010 – due to financial challenges – the Warehouse Theatre changed management and the Democratic Media Holdings group (DMH) stepped in. The Playhouse Theatre was (re)born.

Three long months it took for the refurbishment to be completed. But once the facelift was done, the Playhouse Theatre baffled the welcomed guests with a wide range of highlights. Firstly the venue of the former Cuban-influenced bar “El Cubano” was changed into a bistro with a retro touch, emphasized by old fashioned features like antiques and vintage furniture. The yellow painted brick walls combined with the factory-looking ceiling and the general outfit of the venue shows a rendezvous of industrialized city life and a slight touch of country flair. The furniture itself radiates a warm and comfortable vibe, underlined by large windows, which by day fill the room with sunlight, yet adding to the homely effect. Complemented by a small saloon-style bar counter, the Bistro promises a relaxed escape from the daily stress and routine.

The Theatre has proven itself as a long awaited solution for the Namibian arts scene. Since its opening the Playhouse Theatre featured a wide variety of acts and shows, from heavy metal concerts to belly dancers, hip-hop artists and South African celebrities. Prior to the renovations, the hall had limited space due to a bar located at the back of the theatre-hall. Another problem was the temperature inside the theatre, as the sun would heat up the corrugated iron ceiling, making it unbearably hot. To address these issues, the bar was removed to provide more space and air conditioners were added to all the premises within the Playhouse



The Playhouse Theatre - An extravagant touch to the “Wind-hooked” Nightlife

The main performance theatre was given more space and new lighting equipment, to firstly host a bigger audience and secondly to enable more exclusive and better shows.

Theatre. Now being able to host about 400 guests, the theatre has become a very popular milieu for a diverse range of crowds. Furthermore, the entire sound and lighting equipment was replaced, hence adding to the potential of this modern venue. “We now can host many more exclusive and complex shows with enough room for a bigger audience”, says theatre manager Alta Bredenkamp. According to her, the venue’s focus lies on commercial events as well as cultural performances. “Of course can the facilities also be booked



The courtyard between the theatre and the new bistro also received a facelift. Now, here one can enjoy total tranquility along with a cold or hot beverage.

for presentations, functions and similar needs”, comments Alta Bredenkamp.

In addition to the new extravagant bistro and the other upgrades, the Playhouse Theatre now also facilitates a conference room which can alternatively be used as a gallery. Currently fascinating Moments and Pictures captured on film by Namibian top-photographer Paul van Schalkwyk are being exhibited. “For us it was a priority, that the trait of this room is its atmosphere”, says Bredenkamp. In the past the room was used as a storage and dressing room, but with a crafty set up of lights and the right colour-combination, the old room transformed into a modern cellar like hall. Some of the original grey brick walls were left uncolored, giving the visitor a mystical and cozy feeling.

Under the open sky between the bistro and the theatre is a small backyard, which hosts a couple of chairs and tables. In this simple yet tranquil environment, one can sit back and enjoy a hot or cold beverage from the bistro. During shows and evening events, the courtyard can be enhanced by a bar, giving the customer a better and faster service. Here too, the yellowish vintage wall colour reigns and is underlined by framed quotes from famous artists. The calm colours combined with the profound words and lyrics by famous musicians and other celebrities point out just why the Playhouse Theatre is so special. It is the open-minded atmosphere which makes this cultural hotspot so special. It is a platform for all cultures and scenes to perform and enjoy performances.

That is why the Playhouse Theatre is a must when visiting Windhoek. Not only the matchless nature of this stunning venue makes it so special, but the fact that one will always encounter a relaxed and chilled out atmosphere at this prime locale. A glimpse of what can be expected is shown on the homepage of the Playhouse Theatre (www.99fnplayhouse.com.na). The management can also be reached via telephone under (+26461) 402253.



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Few things elicit the same thrill as Go-Karting. The roar of the engine, the smell of exhaust fumes and burning rubber tires, the blur of the race track rushing by all combine to provide an adrenaline rush like few other activities.

One person who is all too familiar with the excitement of Go-Karting is Rik-Jan Kraak. Born in the Dutch town of Amsterdam, Rik discovered his passion for motor racing at an early age. It's a fascination that has led to various victories on the semi-professional Go-Kart-Circuit in the Netherlands over a period of ten years but didn't bring the monetary rewards to sustain him financially.

"I started drifting into accounting to earn a living", he remembers somewhat regretfully. Although that profession proved a lot more lucrative than his racing career he found it "boring" and decided to escape the corporate rat race. Hoping to put his experience in Go-Karting to use elsewhere he resolved to immigrate to Namibia, a country he visited as a tourist once before and found "fascinating".

"I and my business partner Roos Deege arrived in Swakopmund in 2007, equipped only with some family money and the dream to start a Go-Kart track", Kraak recalls, visibly amused by the memory of his humble beginnings. What started as a vague vision in Holland rapidly took shape in the form of a Go-Kart-track in the desert, three kilometres outside the coastal town which had become his second home.

His new business venture took off swiftly, drawing both tourists and locals to the popular race-course and promptly lead to plans for a similar track in Windhoek. Tempted by the prospect of a new challenge Kraak sold his shares in the thriving company R&R Karting Swakopmund to Roos and set about trying to replicate its success in Namibia's capital city.

It was a long and arduous journey hampered by bureaucratic delays in securing a suitable site

from municipal officials Kraak describes as "uncooperative and oblivious to the need for family entertainment in Windhoek". After several "frustrating" months dealing with the authorities, his big breakthrough came when one of the supporters of R&R Karting Swakopmund made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

"The former chairman of Sport Klub Windhoek,

the construction of the 360 meters long Go-Kart track, which was completed at a cost of 700,000 Namibian Dollars a short time later.

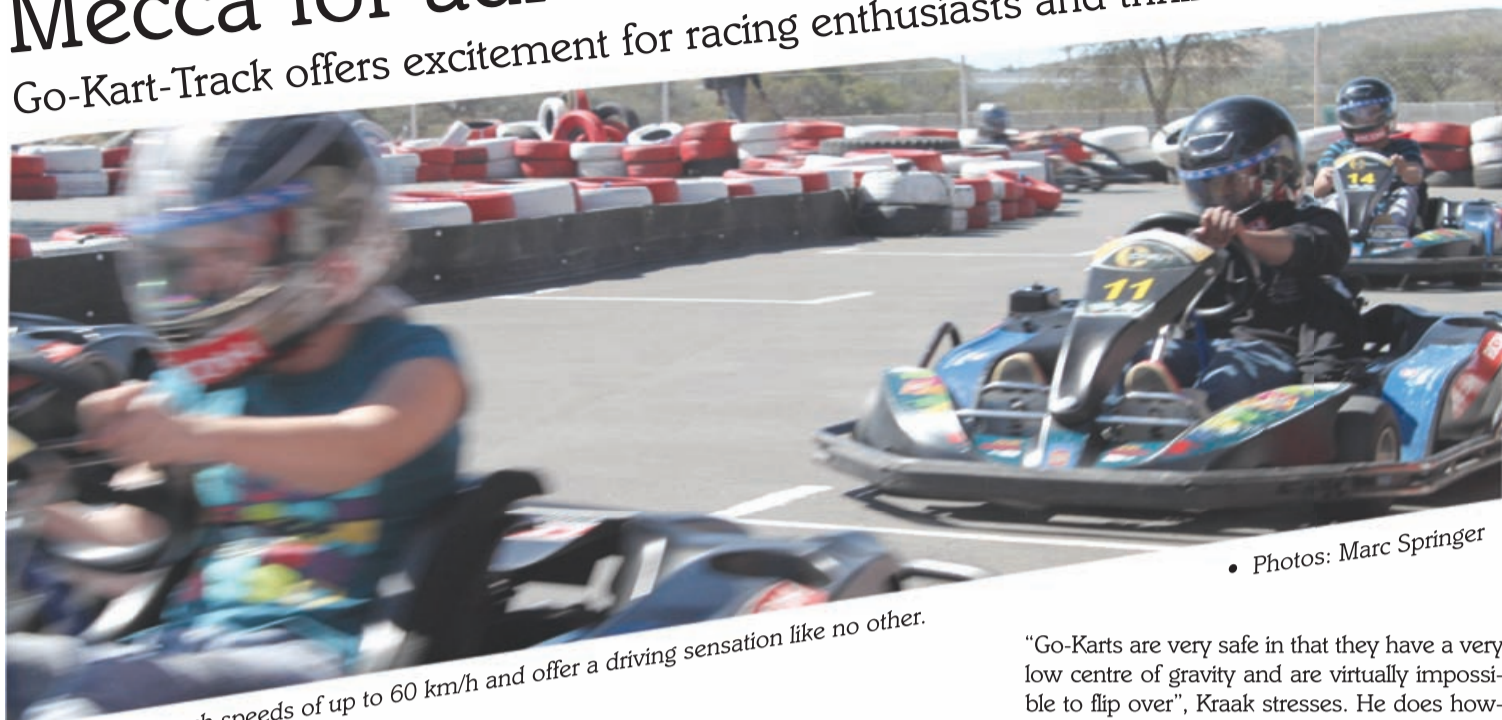
After the acquisition of 16 go-carts from Germany, valued at an additional N\$ 400,000 the race course was eventually opened in Decem-

ber 2010 and has since attracted over 9000 visitors, many of them regular customers. Kraak ascribes this success primarily to the fact that his Go-Kart track caters not only to racing enthusiasts but aims to provide "family entertainment" in Windhoek, a city severely lacking in recreational facilities.

Mecca for adrenalin junkies

Go-Kart-Track offers excitement for racing enthusiasts and thrill seekers alike

By Marc Springer



• Photos: Marc Springer

The Go-Karts reach speeds of up to 60 km/h and offer a driving sensation like no other.

HeinzBüttner, offered to lease me a portion of land adjacent to the sports grounds at the SKW for a very reasonable rate", explains Kraak, still struggling to believe his luck. He grasped the opportunity "with both hands" and with the assistance of some investors commenced with

ber 2010 and has since attracted over 9000 visitors, many of them regular customers. Kraak ascribes this success primarily to the fact that his Go-Kart track caters not only to racing enthusiasts but aims to provide "family entertainment" in Windhoek, a city severely lacking in recreational facilities.

"We offer a place where people can meet and

"Go-Karts are very safe in that they have a very low centre of gravity and are virtually impossible to flip over", Kraak stresses. He does however concede that accidents pose a real danger considering that most contestants on his track are inexperienced laypersons of which few have ever driven a Go-Kart before.

To minimize the risk of injuries, all contestants have to perform a breaking test to get a feel for

continued on page 4

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the handling of the vehicle. Furthermore they have to attend safety instructions, wear a helmet during the whole race and are prohibited from bumping or cutting of other drivers. In addition races amongst novices are not decided by the finish line but rather lap times over a racing period of ten minutes to discourage risky overtaking manoeuvres. Moreover the number of go-karts allowed on the track at the same time is limited to eight, to decrease the danger of collisions.

"We decided to have beginners start in succession rather than simultaneously to increase their safety", Kraak emphasizes. But he is quick to point out, that "real races" he fondly refers to as mini-grand-prix are also possible for more experienced drivers, consisting of six qualifying laps and a 'proper' race with contestants starting simultaneously from their previously determined position on the grid. In addition Windhoek Go-Karting offers endurance races designed for teams of four members each, who take turns behind the steering wheel competing against each other in "Le-Mans-style" over a longer distance and time, changing drivers in the pit lane.

These endurance races are particularly popular amongst corporate clients, who enter teams to race against representatives from other companies and use the exercise as a team building measure. Some of these clients make use of the conference facilities at the SKW, concluding a workshop with a contest on the Go-Kart track "to get the heart racing after a tiresome discussion around the table", as Kraak puts it.

Others make use of the catering provided at the race track to spend an afternoon amongst colleagues and friends. The Go-Kart course is also available as venue for wedding receptions, birthdays, social events and corporate functions.

Regarding the requirements needed, Kraak lists the following: Drivers have to be at least 10 years old and 1,40 meters tall. The only other



Living life in the fast lane: Rik-Jan Kraak and his wife Mariëtte, who is responsible for marketing and sales.

limitation is that they may not weigh more than 130 kg. There are no maximum age restrictions with the oldest driver to have completed a race being 72 years of age. Other than that no special skills are required, considering the Go-Karts only have a gas and breaking pedal and don't reach speeds exceeding 60km/h.

"Many people are under the mistaken impression, that Go-Karting is mostly for kids", says Kraak, correcting this misconception with statistics according to which 60 percent of his clients are older than 18 years. Generally speaking however the main target group are families looking to spend some day together in the outdoors.

As such Kraak wants to extend his services to include some pool tables as well as a minigolf course he plans to build adjacent to the Go-Kart track on the 8,500 square meter site he is leas-

ing from the SKW. In addition he plans to redesign the layout of the course in regular intervals, something that can be achieved over a period of about three days by simply altering the position of the tire walls demarcating the track.

Although his company receives some funding from sponsors and advertisers it is still an expensive venture, with total running costs amounting to about 100,000 N\$ consisting of salaries for the nine staff members (including marshals and a mechanic) as well as maintenance expenses for the Go-Karts. Against that background Kraak feels the fee of 110 N\$ for a ten minute race (giving a maximum of 14 laps)

and 180 N\$ for a Mini Grand Prix is "very reasonable". This fee also includes a print out of the lap times for each participant as well as a bottle of champagne for the winner, which is presented during a small prize-giving ceremony conducted on a specially build podium.

The Go-Kart-course situated in Sean McBride Street (Olympia) is open six days a week (excluding Monday) between 14.00 and 22.00 on weekdays and between 10.00 and 22.00 over weekends and public holidays.



Drivers lining up in the pit lane prior to the start of a race.

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The Zoological Park is a popular recreational site for both young and old.
• Photos: Marc Springer

Haven Zoological Park:

Animal sanctuary offers refuge for animals and city dwellers alike

By Marc Springer

For wage slaves caught in the corporate rat race leaving the desk job to pursue a seemingly impossible dream seems a daunting task. One man who has done just that and succeeded is Martin Wiese.

"Even as a small child I had the dream of setting up a zoo", he remembers. Now, many years later, that vision has become a reality in the form of Haven Zoological Park, situated in the residential area of Kleine Kuppe in Namibia capital city Windhoek.

It is the result of a long and difficult journey during which the former tour guide Wiese had to overcome many obstacles. He had to wait seven long years to obtain municipal consent for his project. Even after he got permission to lease the plot in Rietfontein Street for a period of 99 years that was only the start of his tribulations.

"My co-workers and I built the entire infrastructure on this four hectares site with our own hands", says Wiese while he surveys the many cages, aviaries and outdoor enclosures housing amongst others horses, ostriches, monkeys, rabbits and pigs. Most of the enclosure are surrounded by no more than wooden poles and planks and have more in common with a barnyard than a traditional zoo compound.

"We tried to recreate a bit of farming atmosphere and want to provide the animals with as much freedom of movement as possible", explains Wiese, while watching some geese and chicken and ducks moving about unhindered in the vicinity. Then he pauses for a while, clearly impressed with his own accomplishment and adds: "The animals are like my children and I wouldn't confine them in a small space either."

His adopted family does however not only

provide fulfilment and joy, but also causes financial concerns. He illustrates this by referring to two alpacas he imported from Chile at a staggering cost of N\$ 108000. In addition he paid a further N\$ 30000 for a pair of emus which are one of the main attractions of his zoo.

Although most of the animals were either donated by farmers or residents from Windhoek, he still has to finance their expensive upkeep. Just the fodder costs him about N\$ 550 per day. Combined with taxes for the leases land, as well as expenses for salaries, electricity, water and veterinarian services his monthly bill adds up to N\$ 50000. On top of that he has already invested about three million dollars for the construction of the existing infrastructure.

"The zoo is a loss making venture and will remain so for the foreseeable future", Wiese concedes and elaborates: "I would prefer to let visitors in free of charge but unfortunately I have to recoup some of my expenses through entrance fees." Those fees of between N\$ 10 and N\$ 20 don't remotely cover his expenses however. From the average number of 600 visitors per month the zoo generates about N\$ 1200. Added to that it receives regular donations from three benefactors of about N\$ 600 per month as well as N\$ 3000 from sponsorships of two corporate clients who have erected a small advertising board on the premises. To cover the deficit Wiese has to work as tour guide on occasion using his chosen profession to subsidize his passion for animals. Irrespective of the costs incurred, he feels the effort is worth it. "The benefits of my work here can not be measured in monetary terms", he stresses, "because the joy my animals provide for my visitors is more valuable than any

financial reward."

It is exactly this kind of emotional compensation that has lead Wiese to offer regular outings for school groups and kindergarten kids to his zoo, providing information about the animals and thereby making a contribution to wildlife protection in the country. "I have noticed that many urban children don't even know the names of many animals occurring in Namibia", Wiese observes somewhat surprised. Considering this ignorance he is determined to play his part in imparting the kind of information about the local fauna that his common knowledge to most children living in

rural areas.

Through this kind of dedication Wiese has acquired a reputation for being a nature lover that also has unexpected drawbacks. One of those is the unfortunate phenomenon that citizens of Windhoek regularly leave unwanted domestic animals placed in shoe boxes or cartons at the entrance of his zoo, thinking he will provide for them. Most of these are hamsters, tortoises or rabbits whose owners have lost interest in them, placing an additional burden on the zoological park.

"People seem to think they are doing me a favour by leaving their animals here", says Wiese. In reality however these animals add to his costs because they have to be sterilized or require expensive licences from the municipality to keep as pets.

Irrespective of the financial constraints Wiese is pursuing big plans for his park. Of the four hectares of land he has available only one hectare is developed so there is ample room to ex-

tend the park. The first phase of further developments Wiese already has planned provides for a fenced basin for four crocodiles. One of the unique features of this pool is supposed to be a contraption able to lower visitors into the water in a cage, from which they can observe the animals in their natural environment. In addition he hopes to import two pygmy hippopotamus from Oudtshoorn in South Africa for his zoo and to erect an aviary for rare birds on the premises. Furthermore he aims to erect a mini-golf-course to "provide an additional attraction for older visitors who are perhaps not that interested in animals". Over the long term Wiese plans to erect some bungalows on his leased plot and use the rental fees from overnight guests to subsidize the loss-making zoo. Till then he hopes for additional donations from private well wishers as well as corporate sponsors. That he deserves such support after years of voluntary services is beyond question for him.

"My zoo is a popular meeting place for the citizens of Windhoek who have few recreational facilities at their disposal and who can enjoy some at the little cafe here, while their kids can wander around in the zoo while being supervised by one of my three assistants", says Wiese.

Then he is joined by his wife Julie, who has been busy feeding some of the animals and who stays with her husband in a house on the property surrounded by their animals. Julie, who originates from England and has been working as an air traffic controller at Gatwick (London) has been living in Namibia for four years and has met her husband on one of his trips as tour guide. Since then the two of them have not spend a single holiday together because "one of us always has to stay here to look after the animals".



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The orange double-decker bus negotiates the gravel roads of Windhoek's sprawling suburb of Katutura at a leisurely pace. The din and commotion of excited children can already be heard from a distance and soon you see them waving with both hands. Women sit at the roadside, selling fruit and vegetables, but also sweets and pieces of clothing, and here and there a man offers corn on the cob.

A different Way of looking at Windhoek

From the elevated vantage point on the upper deck of the City Tour bus you have a grand view of everything around you. And suddenly it strikes you that it isn't "them down there" but "us up here" who seem to have exotic qualities.

The double-decker sightseeing tour started at 9h30. Our guide is Thomas Ndemoongela. Born in Angola and raised in Germany he has now lived in Namibia for many years. During the tour he effortlessly switches from English into German and also into Afrikaans. The aim of the tour is to see Windhoek's sights, of course, but first we pass the former camel stables and the Botanical Institute and drive up Lovehill. It is a very bumpy road and we are given a good shaking in our seats. "We call this the backside massage hill", Thomas says with a twinkle in his eyes. In years gone by, when the area was considered safer than it is now, lovers used to have rendezvous

Naturally the City Tour bus drives a route which include all of Windhoek's sights.



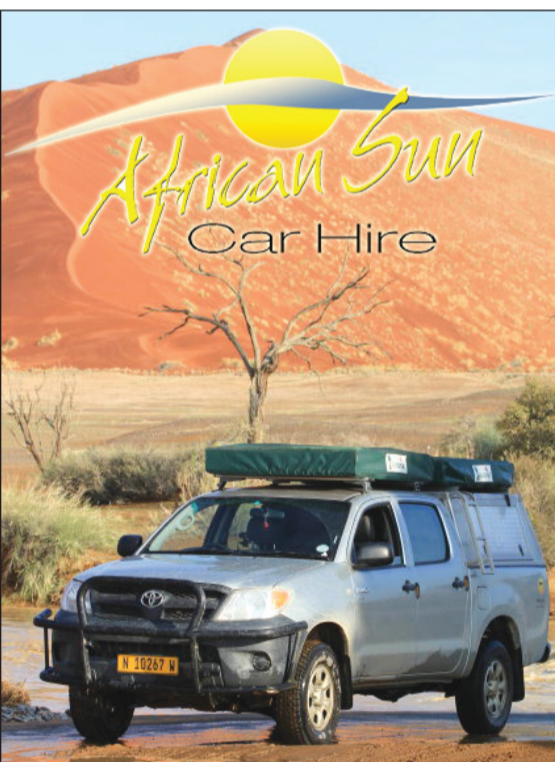
Thomas Ndemoongela is one of the guides on city sightseeing tours.



here - under the tall water tower with its large star on top. Lovehill offers fantastic views of the entire city. To the west, Windhoek seems

to stretch all the way to the horizon, while to the east Klein Windhoek is nestled between mountains. Then we are on our way again and it looks as if we were heading back into the city centre, but the bus passes the National Council and pulls up at the Parliament. It is our first stop. Wide steps in front of the Parliament lead directly into the gardens. Big old jacaranda trees on the left and

right provide welcome shade. Between them, next to large lawns are several neatly pruned hedges. The centre piece is a fountain and there is an arcade on both sides of the front lawn. If you leave the gardens through one of the wrought iron gates you have Christuskirche right in front of you. The bus is already there, waiting for its passengers. Cruising past the building site where a monstrosity is under construction which will become the Independence Museum one day, and past the Alte Feste (Old Fort) next to it, we continue in a southerly direction. Heintz-



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burg and Sanderburg castles come into view. Schwerinsburg, the third one of Windhoek's castles, is not visible from where we are. But from our double-decker vantage point we can look nicely over walls and fences onto quite a number of magnificent mansions which remain hidden from view on street level.

We drive into Klein Windhoek via Jan Jonker Weg. In the early days of European settlement this valley consisted of small farms and the Catholic mission, station which even grew vines for winemaking. Nelson Mandela Avenue runs parallel to the Eros Mountains and this part of town is called Eros as well. The name has nothing to do with the Greek god of love, however. "A scrub is growing in this mountain range, named Ejos", Thomas explains. The first Germans who settled in this area understood Eros, and the name has remained to this day. Anybody who enters the Eros Shopping Centre with certain expectations related to that name will be disappointed.

Now we pass the Northern Industrial Area - the abattoir, the mill, the brewery and the power station. Thomas knows why one of the two chimneys wears a collar. "When the Van Eck power station was built, a mistake was made with the calculations for the chimney standing more to the back. It has a small dent. The collar is there to stabilize it but perhaps it is also intended to camouflage the dent", he says. When you drive along the B1 highway and look at the power station more intently you can actually see the chimney 'dancing' in its collar.

As we pass underneath the B1 bridge over Monte Christo Street we automatically duck our heads. There is a lot of leeway, of course, but travelling so high above the ground still needs getting used to. At first we also held our breath when the bus turned a corner because from the extraordinary position on the upper deck it seemed as if the nearest cars on the oncoming lane plus all the walls and corners of houses would be swept away by the bus.

Now we are approaching Katutura. The tar road ends after just a few more kilometres and we find ourselves in the poorest part of town. Poverty is rampant and it really is a somewhat odd sensation to drive past the tin shacks next to the bumpy road. But soon we realize that we are received with friendliness. We are a welcome diversion not only for the children - adults also wave and smile at us. Since the Windhoek City Tour drives



A visit to an African market is also part of the programme.

Guests can browse at leisure and perhaps try some of the food. • Photos: Wiebke Schmidt



Dried chillies

Information

A city sightseeing tour with the refurbished double-decker bus is definitely a worthwhile experience, not only for tourists - Windhoekers, too, will get to know their city from a different perspective. It is also a great outing for families as your children will definitely enjoy the ride high up on the airy deck. Apart from sightseeing tours the double-decker is also available as a party bus, complete with a small bar at the back end of the lower deck. Drinks and snacks are not provided. The bus has room for a total of 40 passengers. A second bus can be hired for more guests. Prices include the driver and a guide as well as third party insurance for the passengers. For more information contact the Windhoek City Tour office, 117 Independence Avenue, tel. 0811292935.

this route twice a day the orange bus with the colourful pictures is expectantly awaited by some, and especially the children are totally delighted when the driver honks the horn for them.

The streets are lined by tiny huts, or sheds rather, put together with sheets of corrugated iron, wooden boards and thick cardboard. Pictures painted onto the wall tell you that a business is run from that particular shack - you can come for a haircut, for example, or have your mobile phone repaired. Others flaunt daring names like Lost City Bar or Mafioso Bar. Then the road is tarred again, with houses next to it instead of huts. Our second stop is at the Oshetu Community Market. The traders are used to the bus stopping at the entrance and tourists pouring into the market. Still, it is not only a matter of good manners but also a person's right to be asked whether you may take a photo of them before clicking away, even if most of the traders seem to enjoy the limelight and the fact that their image is captured electronically.

Fruit, vegetables, meat and spices are sold from stalls under a large roof. There are small shops all around them where tailors and hairdresser conduct their business. The butchers are right in the back. Chunks of beef and mutton are piled onto long tables built from bricks. Big cable reels serve as chopping blocks on which the freshly slaughtered meat is cut up. Right next to them small portions of meat are grilled so that customers can try some on the spot.

"Reactions differ", says Thomas, "some guests are rather restrained, but most of them are happy about the chance to visit an African market". He does not add that many visitors shy away from direct contact with the local population.

Next we drive through the Single Quarters, the accommodation facilities which were built for migrant workers when Katutura was established almost 50 years ago. Thomas tells us more about the country's recent history, which he himself knows only from the stories told to him.

On the way back into the city we briefly stop at the railway station, one of Windhoek's many historic landmarks. A little later, after driving through part of Independence Avenue, formerly Kaiserstraße (Emperor's Road), we are back at the large parking lot between the Supreme Court and the Gustav Voigts Shopping Centre from where we set out two-and-a-half hour earlier.

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Sebastian is a regular. At lunch time you will find the 22-year old Namibian sitting in the library of the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre, flipping through the daily newspapers or snatching up the odd French magazine if the cover tickles his attention. But mostly he comes to the FNCC to study. It's as if the centre's multimedia library is his second home. Many local artists feel the same about the FNCC, but for different reasons. "The Centre has always provided a platform for the arts, giving recognition to us and contributing to our careers and popularity", says Elemotho, currently one of Namibia's most successful musicians locally and abroad. "The FNCC is a cultural and creative oasis."

The FNCC is also visited by more than 200 students of French every week. The centre offers French language courses throughout the year – to adults, to teenagers, to children and even to pre-primary kids. There are even classes catering for the specific needs of pre-primary children that are French mother tongue but living in an English speaking environment.

The cultural centre is situated in a modern glass and concrete building on Robert Mugabe Avenue, its mirror walls reflecting the picturesque silhouette of a colonial style house: the old red villa hosts the café-restaurant of the centre. This location has been the home of numerous cultural happenings since the centre was newly erected and officially inaugurated in December 2000. In reality, of course, the FNCC is much older than that, having started operations from various venues in Windhoek West shortly after Namibian Independence in 1991.

The FNCC sports a lively cultural program, advertised in its bi-monthly program booklet, the "Franco". The building contains an art gallery, which is also used as a venue for concerts and conferences, as well as a 56-seater cinema. The café in the colonial style villa hosts a second exhibition space, and the terrace below is ideal for cultural events such as the popular "Acoustic

The Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre: A Cultural Oasis

By Irmí Röder

Friday" sundowner concert series. On average, the FNCC opens 2 art exhibitions every month, screens a movie every Wednesday, facilitates a concert, literature evening, theatre event or fashion show every few weeks and entertains children with storytelling in its library on a monthly basis. The centre also organizes lectures and discussion forums on arts & culture as well as environmental topics on a regular basis.

Some of the highlights of the FNCC's events calendar are made up of international acts that are invited to Namibia through the regional coordination of French cultural centers: musicians from Francophone African countries or France, dance ensembles, cabaret or circus artists.

But the main thrust of the cultural programming goes towards promoting Namibian cul-



Namibian artist Sunny Boy performing during World Music Day 2010. With World Music Day the FNCC is providing a platform for upcoming artists. This year the event will take place on 18 June.

ral identity and helping develop the local arts and culture scene. This was one of the main reasons the FNCC introduced World Music Day to Namibia 16 years ago. The annual Fête de la Musique which originated in France in 1982 is an all-day, free music festival which is traditionally celebrated on the day of the summer solstice.

In Namibia the event is celebrated in several towns, including the capital, and attracts audiences of close to 6000. Last year a total of 180 groups or 800 individuals performed on the World Music Day stages in Windhoek and 5 other towns. The event has had a major impact on the development of the local music in-

dustry, providing a platform to upcoming artists, some of which have never before had an opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

This year, Namibian World Music Day takes place on Saturday, 18th of June. In Windhoek the concert will happen from 10 in the morning until 8 at night at the Transnamib Park next to the train station in Bahnhof Street. Programs are available at the FNCC, the entrance is free.

What's new: For the first time in the 16-year history of World Music Day in Namibia, artists in Windhoek are not allowed to perform with backing tracks. Only live performances will grace the stage. Internationally this might be standard, but for Namibians it is a new development; a development aimed at raising the general standard of musical performances in the country and at the same time sending an important message to audiences: music is created and performed by musicians, who are artists, not DJ's in front of computers locked away in some dingy garage. Live performances will guarantee the competitiveness of Namibian musicians on international stages, where backtracks are being frowned upon.

Log onto www.fncc.org.na for more information on World Music Day 2011.

Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre
118 Robert Mugabe Avenue
Tel. 061 387330

Find Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre on facebook or subscribe to FNCC events mailing by sending an e-mail to: communication@fncc.org.na. We keep you up to date regarding upcoming events and French classes.

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Campingplatz: Der Campingplatz von Spreetshoogte liegt am schönen Spreetshoogte-Pass mit atemberaubenden Blick über das Spreetshoogte-Tal. Campingplatz-Ausstattung: Jeder Campingplatz wird gerade mit einer privaten Lapa ausgestattet mit eigenen Annehmlichkeiten für Ihren Komfort, welche ab dem ersten März 2011 fertiggestellt sein werden. Warmwasserduschen, WC und Grillplatz sind vorhanden.

Jedes Grundstück gewährleistet einen spektakulären Ausblick und Privatsphäre. Der Campingplatz ist problemlos über die D 1275 zu erreichen.

Preis pro Person pro Nacht: N\$ 80 • Beutel Brennholz 8 kg: N\$ 25

Braipacks oder privater Grillplatz kann für die Kunden von Johan und Lizelle arrangiert werden.

Mahlzeiten erhältlich: Abendessen N\$ 120 (3-Gänge-Menü)

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