COURSES Language

For intense cerebral activity and possibly the most rewarding people-friendly activity you can do, contact the TALK project (\$\sigma\$/fax 011-487 1950, 18a Gill St, Observatory, Johannesburg 2198, www.avpsa.com/TALK.htm). TALK stands for Transfer of African Language Knowledge, and began as a project helping people learn South African indigenous languages. Its method is to pair a student with a mother-tongue speaker, and the two are encouraged to participate in everyday activities together. Most of the fee goes to the mother-tongue speaker. This is a great way to learn not just a language but a culture as well.

TALK also arranges 'immersion visits', where you spend time living in a community while learning the language (or just experiencing the culture – it's up to you). This can be anything from a weekend in Soweto to a month or longer in rural KwaZulu-Natal. Costs vary widely but include a contribution to the family with which you're staying, a fee for the TALK helper, and food and transport (which might involve hiring a car if you're going to a remote rural area). Two weeks in a remote village might cost about R6000 all up.

TALK can organise just about anything for small groups, including meals with African families and visits to townships, with the emphasis on people-to-people contact.

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