



Gerry Cramer, of Encounter Overland Ltd, displays one of the trucks made to handle the world's wildest terrain.

If you are looking for adventure . . .

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FOR adventure, excitement and a really daring holiday, look no further than the Shefford firm of Encounter Overland Ltd.

The company, which has a vehicle workshop in Hitchin Road, Shefford, makes about 50 different trips each year, including London to Katmandu, London to Johannesburg, and a Colombian trip from Barranquilla to Rio De Janeiro.

Most popular trips are to Africa, especially safaris, and all travellers need take is spending money, clothes, and a back-pack or suitcase.

The trips cost from about £450 for a four-week African safari, to £1,400 for a 17-

week outing. The price includes food, all travel, any hotels included in the itinerary, and camping and cooking equipment is provided.

The company rebuilds vehicles to suit its special needs and carries out all its own repairs. The vehicles need to be very strong mechanically to cope with rough terrain and look like army trucks, fitted with coach seats, cooking units, and water tanks.

Mr Gerry Cramer is workshop manager at Shefford, and says it's not only cheaper to make and repair their own trucks, but easier to ensure they are built to specifications.

The workshop has been in Shefford for 18 years, and it is there that staff are trained as drivers and mechanics.

Camping is the chief form of accommodation, but hotels are sometimes used when passing through major towns.

"People go on this sort of trip to really 'get away from it all' — it's not really a holiday in the true sense. We try to get a truck of 20 people for each trip, no more than that, as large numbers can spoil group morale," said Mr Cramer, who lives in Hitchin, and has worked for the firm for six years.

The head office is in Old Brompton Road, London, and all bookings should be made there.

Encounter Overland Ltd attracts adventurers from all over the world, and offers an unusual challenge away from the comforts of modern civilisation.