

Wanted: Energetic people with a pioneering spirit who don't mind sloshing through mud or braving jungle nuns and sweltering heat on a 6 436km trek across Africa. ANDRE JURGENS reports.

WANTED

Bundu-bashers to tackle the darkest of Africa

Digging lorries out of waist-high mud is not everyone's cup of tea. But for a London-based holiday adventure team it's a way of life.

Since the founder's first expedition to Asia 30 years ago, Encounter Overland has taken those who are willing to some of the remotest parts of the world.

They have tackled South America's Amazon jungle, Zaire's great rivers, the Himalayas and offer the "ultimate African journey" — a 27 500km haul overland from London to Cape Town. The trip takes 26 weeks by Bedford truck.

Now they are searching the globe, South Africa included, for volunteers to carve an eight-week reconnaissance pathway from Nairobi to Cairo to clear the way for future travel there.

The planned trip leaves Nairobi on April 29, taking in Ethiopia and Eritrea — closed to travel for the past five years by civil war. It includes the remote Sof Omar Caves in Ethiopia, Dahlak Islands of the Red Sea and parts of northern Sudan.

"It takes a special type of person to go on a trip like this. Each must have a skill that will help the group whether it be cooking, mechanical, medical or knowledge of a local language," Encounter Overland spokesman Camilla Rad-



ONE, TWO, THREE, HEAVE! Teamwork gets each group to their destination. Pulling a Bedford truck out of the mud is all part of the holiday experience.

cliffe said from London.

"They will have to check out new camp sites, food supplies and places of interest for later travellers.

"We have had inquiries from a mixed bag of Europeans and Australians, professionals, stu-

dents, men and women of all ages, but are still short of a few people.

"They are the kind of people who don't fit in with the traditional tour package holiday. Instead they want to go on a real adventure to see and ex-

perience a country first hand. Hands-on is the name of the game.

"They will travel in a Bedford truck using tents to camp along most of the way," she said.



HOME ON WHEELS: To its 21 occupants the Bedford truck is a home from home with everything on board, even the kitchen sink.

FOR ATTN WARREN & LIONEL FAX: 0944 71 244 9737

Regards & Love
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ACATIS

SUNDAY TRIBUNE NATAL

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COOLING OFF: Wading through rivers can be a welcome relief from the African heat, but not for the faint-hearted — who knows what nasties lurk below the surface?