



## FRANCE

- **Where is it?** Northern France, around the battlefields of the First World War. Looks a lot like England (the weather's similar, if a bit warmer in the summer), but some areas are quite isolated. France is a *big* country, and it feels it.
- **Who organises it?** Mudplug, a company run by a bunch of Brits (based in Lesdain), who decided to open up French greenlaning to everyone.
- **What's the holiday?** Greenlaning Continental-style, with friendly locals and landowners. Bring your own Land Rover across the Channel, and spend three days exploring lanes and the extremely pleasant countryside around the River Somme. There's a good cross-section of lanes, from simple novice tracks to tricky, neglected routes that need experience. If you want to take it easy, or you're after something a bit more challenging, Mudplug can devise a route for you.
- **What are the Land Rovers?** Whatever's in your garage right now.
- **Do I get to drive?** Indeed so, unless you bring someone else to do it for you...
- **Where do I sleep?** Depends on how much you want to pay. Mudplug can arrange bed and breakfast, hotels or camping – it's up to you and your wallet.
- **How much, and what's included?** Depends on how long you want to stay for; but a typical weekend package, from Thursday night to Sunday, costs around £460 per car, with two people in the vehicle. That includes B&B accommodation, evening meals and the ferry crossing (Mudplug has negotiated a discount rate for its customers).
- **Anything else to do?** Stock up on beer, wine, cheese and fags at Calais on the way back, or make a



pilgrimage to the numerous First World War battlefields, cemeteries and museums.

- **Who do I call?** *Mudplug Ltd, 1 rue de Villers, Outreaux, 59258 Lesdain, France. Tel (00 33) 3 27 78 92 54. www.mudplug.co.uk*

## SWEDEN

- **Where is it?** Sweden – all of it, from Simrishamn in the south (near Malmö) to Kiruna in the north (not really near anywhere).
- **Who organises it?** Peter Öjerskog, who's been running the tour since 1999.
- **What's the holiday?** More than two weeks of off-road driving – but it's not a competition. Drivers turn up whenever they like during the two weeks, register and drive. Off-roading takes place on private and military land; you can join or leave the tour whenever you want, and pay by the day. It's very much a family event – it's up to you how much off-roading you do. The tour finishes in Kiruna, inside the Arctic Circle.
- **What are the Land Rovers?** Bring your own.
- **Do I get to drive?** Of course – as much or as little as you want to.
- **Where do I sleep?** Chalet-style log cabins at campsites en-route. Or you could even bring a tent – Sweden gets quite warm in the summer.

- **How much, and what's included?** The tour itself is only 300 Swedish krona per day (about £20), but that's just for the driving – everything else is up to you. Ferries from the UK to Gothenburg start at around £160, so a week could cost you about £500.
- **Anything else to do?** You could easily combine the tour with a holiday in Sweden.
- **Who do I call?** *Sweden Off-road. Tel: (00 46) 708 52 99 13. Web: www.swedenoffroad.com*



- **Do I get to drive?** Yes. It's definitely a driving adventure, with a maximum of 12 people per trip – so you *will* get behind the wheel. The difficulty of the route can be varied according to what you want, from easy gravel tracks to river crossings.
- **Where do I sleep?** Lodges, with bunkhouse-style beds or twin rooms, or you can camp on the trail. You can stay at the Sani Top Chalet, which also has that aforementioned highest pub in Africa. On the Wild Coast trip, Conical Hat has its own traditional-style cottage.
- **How much, and what's included?** £75 per day for an adult sharing a vehicle, including accommodation, meals, fuel, vehicle hire and airport transfers. Conical Hat recommends five days, which would cost £375.
- **Anything else to do?** Well, this *is* South Africa, so there's room to do anything you want. Mountain biking, hiking, canoeing, horse riding – take your pick. The fly fishing in Lesotho is renowned worldwide.
- **Who do I call:** *South Africa: Conical Hat Expeditions, PO Box 21672, Mayors Walk, 3208 KwaZulu Natal. Tel: (00 27) 33 347 3105. UK: 1 Litton Close, Ravenshead, Nottingham NG15 9EW.*