
Can You Handle Our Top 5 Off-Roaders?

07 May 2013 | Joe Breeze

Defenders and G-Wagons are often the tools of choice when the going gets tough, but what if you're looking for something a little less predictable? We look at some of the more unusual marauders of the mud.

#5 Jeep Cherokee Chief





For those seeking G-Wagon virtues (V8 brawn, no-nonsense aesthetics and a touch of luxury) in a distinctly more Western package, a late 70s Jeep Cherokee Chief might be the answer. A world away from its modern counterparts, it does off-roading the old-school American way.

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#4 VW Type 82 'Kübelwagen'



Resembling a bathtub on wheels, it's little wonder the Porsche-designed Type 82 was given the nickname 'Kübelwagen' - directly translated as 'tub-truck'. The Beetle-derived mechanicals proved solid during their service in WWII but, should you get stuck, you could always liberate your mount the old-fashioned way: using the accompanying shovel.

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#3 Citroën DS 21 'Rally'



A heavy, ambling saloon might not jump out at you as an ideal rallying candidate, but in period it soon became very successful - no doubt owing much of its success to the pioneering suspension system. With the road-going DS already widely regarded as 'sub-zero' cool, rally versions scarcely register on the thermometer.

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#2 Porsche 911 Safari

The 911 almost certainly has the most successful racing provenance of any sports car - and its success even extends to rallying. Raised suspension and the deletion of all but the essentials meant

the 911 'Safari' was a match for the toughest of stages.

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#1 Lamborghini LM 002 "Ex-Rally-Dakar"



Ferruccio Lamborghini famously shielded his cars from the callings of competition; but when he left the company, the new owners decided it was time to showcase the talents of the LM002 by producing a rally variant. Based on the standard chassis, it shed 500kg and gained a host of rally-spec modifications in preparation for the gruelling Paris-Dakar.

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