

Wild Wonders:

African Elephants

**One of the most iconic
giants to ever walk the
Earth, African elephants
are compassionate,
intelligent and inspiring.**



TRUE TITAN

African elephants are the world's largest land animal with mature males weighing up to a whopping 15,000 lbs, and standing 10-11 feet at the shoulder!



By The Numbers...

A century ago there were 10 million elephants across the African continent, but today there numbers are reduced to 450,000 individuals. Botswana as a country holds the most elephants on Earth at over 150,000.



Future Guardians

Elephant calves are born after an incredible 22 month gestation period of the mother!



Every member of the herd shows love, caring and compassion for the calves, and throughout a long infancy they are taught thousands of important survival aspects of elephant life.



FAMILY TIES

Elephant herds are matriachal, led by mature females. They comprise aunts, mothers, & calves of various ages. Mature bull elephants often live alone or in bachelor herds.



Complex survival information is passed down from experienced females to all herd members, and with huge memory centres in their brain, this information lasts a lifetime!

Keeping it Cool

Elephants move their ears for communication purposes, but also for thermoregulation. With veins & capillaries close to the surface of their thin ears, flapping them helps cool the blood, and in turn cools the elephants during the hot African days!



Toothy Giants

An adult elephant has six teeth in its mouth at any given time. Two tusks, which are elongated incisors, and four brick sized molar teeth in each quadrant in their jaw!



PACKING A TRUNK



An elephant's trunk is one of the most versatile appendages in the animal kingdom! What is actually their nose & upper lip fused together can be used to draw up water, to feed, to communicate, to smell and much more! With over 40,000 muscle fibres in their trunk it is flexible, strong and and highly sensitive.

At The Waterhole



Elephants will drink twice a day when water is available, though in some drier regions may have to travel several kilometres to a water source, or use their tusks to dig underground. An elephant's trunk can draw up 10 litres of water, which can then be sprayed into their mouths!



POACHING PRESSURES

Poaching of elephants for their tusks has had a decimating effect on their population. In some regions 95 elephants on average are lost every single day.

Reason For Hope



Despite the immense pressures African elephants face, there are many dedicated individuals working across the continent to ensure their long term survival, Groups like the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Great Plains Foundation & Save The Elephants, work tirelessly to conserve these gentle giants.



WILD EXPOSURES