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Design and cover photo by Christin Winter.



Humans & Elephants

In Namibia, many elephants live outside of National Parks and coexist with the local people. Human-elephant conflicts over water and other natural resources make life for humans and elephants challenging. EHRA, conservancies, and the MEFT actively work to mitigate these conflicts, but as a visitor to Namibia, your actions can have a direct impact, too.

How your behaviour around elephants matters:

- Any disrespectful behaviour towards elephants can stress and trigger them to become aggressive towards people living in surrounding villages.
- By letting elephants access human food either in your camp site or your car, they can develop destructive behavior which can cost them their life. This happened before. **PLEASE BEWARE!**
- Even if you see other cars driving close, that does not mean their behaviour is OK. Be wise!
- Treat elephants as you would want to be treated by your visitors - with respect.
- A positive encounter with elephants teaches elephants that people don't need to be feared.

EHRA's Conservation Projects

- Waterpoint Protection Program
- P.E.A.C.E. Project (Elephant Safety Training)
- Rural School Partnership Program
- Elephant Movement & Identification Study
- Solar Water Pump Project
- Environmental Education
- Corridor Project
- Early Warning System

You can volunteer at EHRA! Check us out: www.ehranamibia.org

Elephant-Human Relations Aid (EHRA)

Desert & Ocean Co-Working, Einstein St
P.O. Box 2146, Swakopmund, Namibia
+264 64 402501 | info@ehranamibia.org

Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO)
7 Rossini St., P.O. Box 98353 Windhoek,
Namibia | +264 81 453 5855
info@tosco.org | www.tesco.org

ABOUT EHRA

EHRA exists to help local communities to coexist more peacefully with elephants. By strategically addressing and mitigating all elements that trigger human-elephant conflicts, the long-term survival chances of free-roaming elephants increase.

LEARN MORE: www.ehranamibia.org

REPORT INJURED ELEPHANTS!

If you come across injured or dead elephants please contact EHRA immediately: +264 64 402501



Elephants trapped in snares or tires can result in **life-threatening injuries**. Please report anything that poses a risk to elephants to EHRA or MEFT.

COLLABORATING PARTNERS



Desert Elephant
Conservation

Find responsible tourism partners

All contacts and information about responsible and conservation-driven tourism partners can be found here:
www.tesco.org



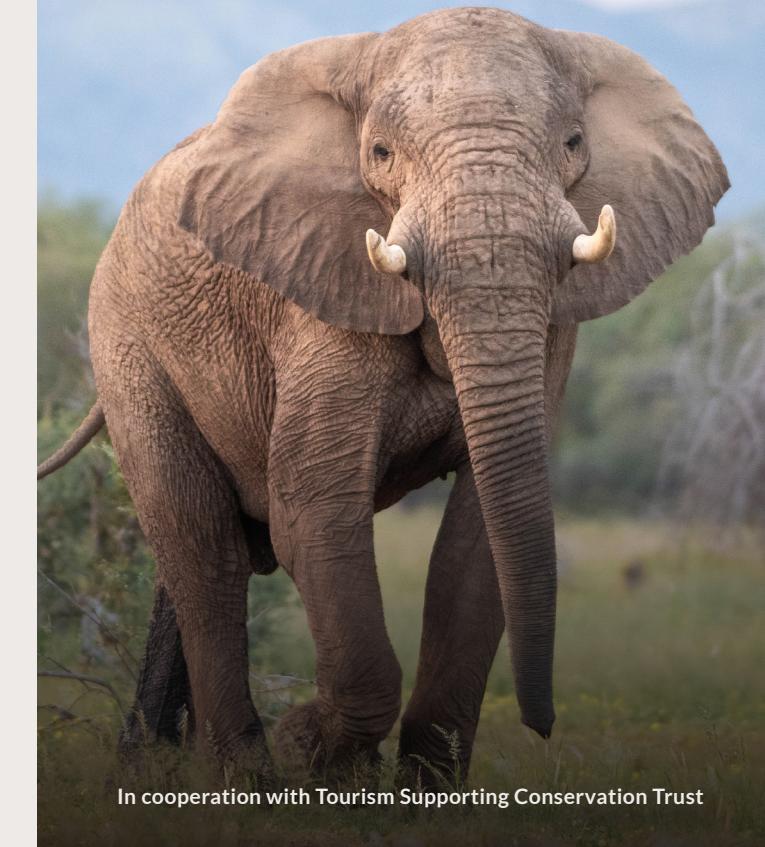
E H R A

ELEPHANT - HUMAN RELATIONS AID

RESPECT & UNDERSTAND ELEPHANTS

NAMIBIA

Self-driver info & safety



In cooperation with Tourism Supporting Conservation Trust

FOR YOUR SAFETY

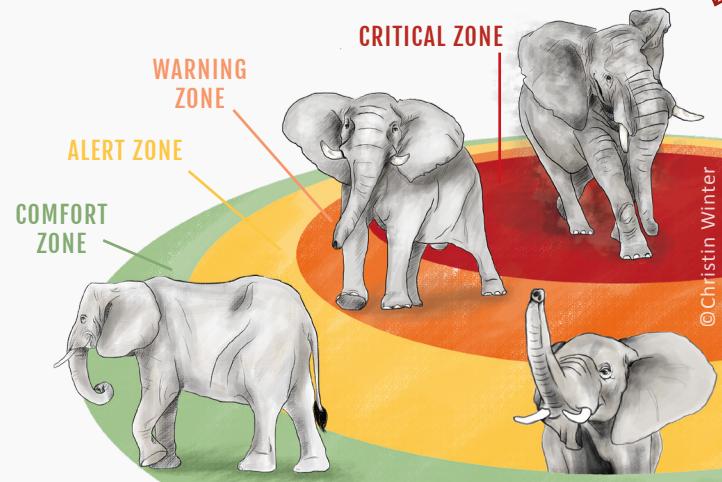
Here are some guidelines for safe elephant viewing to keep you and the elephants safe.

DO:

- Stay in your car, turn engine off & keep voices low.
- Engage 4x4 to minimise rutting of tracks.
- Give elephants the space they deserve.
- View elephants from min. **70 meters distance**.
- If elephants approach the car, leave!
- If elephants appear nervous - leave!
- Stay at designated campsites or lodges (the area is sensitive; wild camping creates lasting damage).
- Elephants are unpredictable - **ALWAYS** leave an escape route for yourself and the elephants!
- Respect the elephants' warning signs!

UNDERSTAND ELEPHANTS

Respect the 4 zones of personal space!



Any irresponsible or disrespectful behaviour towards elephants can result in elephants becoming aggressive. To defend themselves they might attack either you or other innocent people in the villages nearby. This can cause conflicts that may result in an elephant to get shot.

PLEASE take responsibility for your actions!

ALERT ZONE - Suspicious elephants



SIGNS: Elephants stop their activity, look at you, listen and smell you with their trunk. Might approach curiously or move away. **DO:** Be quiet & don't move!

WARNING ZONE - Threat behaviour



SIGNS: Headshake, kicking dust, swinging of the trunk, standing tall, head held high, pointing tusks, tusking the ground, rushing forwards in a mock charge. **DO:** Back off very slowly if the elephant continues with threat behaviour. Don't rush!

CRITICAL ZONE - Fight or Flight



SIGNS: Trunk tucked in, head is lowered and elephant speeds up. A charge is usually silent.

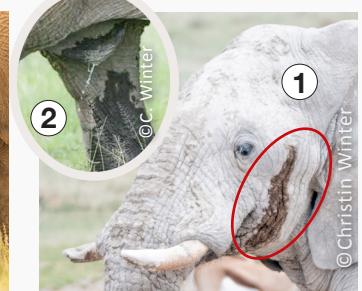


SIGNS: Elephant curls up the tail, may trumpet and runs away. **DO: Never follow!**

DON`T:

- Don't approach closer than 70m.
- Don't get out of the car or follow elephants on foot.
- Don't rev the engine.
- Don't make noise (screaming, laughing, hooting).
- Don't drive between herd members!
- If elephants move away, don't follow them.
- Don't try to overtake elephants or drive faster than they usually walk.
- Don't take fruits (apples, oranges) along in your car as elephants can smell them.
- Don't ever feed elephants! It can end fatally for them as this can cause conflicts & problem-elephant-hunts.
- Don't litter (e.g. old tires or plastic bags!)
- Don't drive offroad or create new tracks!
- Don't approach bulls in musth!

CAUTION:



FEMALES WITH YOUNG

are very protective, especially if the calf is less than 2 years old (no tusks showing yet). **Never drive in-between herd members or separate a calf from its mother!** Stay far & keep safe.

BULLS IN MUSTH look for females to mate. Their testosterone level is 60 x higher than usual (= *moody*!). **SIGNS:** Temporal secretion (1), urine dribbling (2), strong smell, swaggering musth walk, aggression.

3 GOLDEN RULES

- If you feel too unsafe to turn your engine off, you are too close. Stay further away.
- Imagine a worst-case scenario and plan an escape. Then, adjust your car's position accordingly.
- Elephants only become dangerous when they feel threatened by you. Don't give them a reason to fear you.