



ELEPHANT PROFILE



## Shamwari AT A GLANCE

Sex: Male

Age: 30 Years

Shoulder Height: 3.3m

Approximate Weight: ± 5 tons

# SHAMWARI

## *The Heart of a Friend*

When Shamwari joined our lives, he was given his name before we truly knew him. In Shona, *Shamwari* means 'friend'—and as we got to know this gentle giant, it became clear just how perfectly it suited him. He is a kind, big-hearted elephant, and it is a privilege to share our lives with him.



Shamwari's journey with us began with a bit of a rough patch—quite literally. When we first met him, he was battling a serious infection. The vet treated him under anaesthetic, but for weeks afterward, he needed medication applied twice daily. Naturally, this made him wary of people approaching from behind or standing near his legs.

To help him regain confidence and trust, the Elephant Grooms got creative. While we are firmly against circus-like tricks, we introduced Shamwari to a simple game of kicking a ball. He loved the encouragement. As the Handlers kicked the ball back, it would sometimes roll under him or near his back legs. Gradually, he grew more relaxed about people being close.

As his confidence grew, so did his sense of humour. Shamwari quickly discovered the joys of a well-aimed water spray. At first, he would spray water onto the ground, but it didn't take long for him to realize that soaking an unsuspecting target was far more entertaining!

Shamwari's closest friend is Lindiwe, and the two spend countless hours feeding in the bush and enjoying mud baths together. Whenever Lindiwe lets out one of her dramatic bellows, he is always the first to rush to her side!

Despite his friendly and playful nature, there is one person Shamwari is *not* too fond of—the Wildlife Veterinarian. After treating Shamwari's infection and later tending to his knee injury (a result of his overly enthusiastic splashing in the dam), the vet has earned a rather *special* place in Shamwari's memory. Now, whenever the vet's car pulls into the parking area, Shamwari lifts his trunk to catch a whiff—and if he recognizes that all-too-familiar scent, he makes a swift exit!

For all his size and strength, Shamwari has a sensitive side. He can be anxious at times, but with Lindiwe, his elephant family, and his human friends by his side, he is surrounded by love and care.



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