



# ELEPHANT *Whispers*

## Elephant Profile

# TEMBO

*Tembo is the largest elephant at Elephant Whispers. His trusting personality truly embodies the description 'gentle giant', which can be seen in his interaction with his caregivers and with the rest of the herd.*

Elephant consume 5% of their body weight each day, at 6.5 tons Tembo eats approximately 325kg of foliage each day. His average overnight dung weighs in at a daunting 120kg. Tembo recently celebrated his 34th birthday, his favourite treat was a large watermelon, eaten whole in one messy bite!

When Tembo was two years old, he was orphaned when his herd was culled. Together with another orphaned elephant he was raised by humans. Tembo's home until he was approximately 18 years of age was on land which bordered crop farms which Tembo regularly raided, causing thousands of Rand's damage. Authorities, faced with a deluge of complaints, had to seriously consider Tembo's future. Fortunately Tembo was rescued and after meeting his new family, he enthusiastically took on a leadership role, quickly becoming established as the loyal protector of the herd.

## *Tembo* AT A GLANCE

Sex: Male

Age: 35 Years

Shoulder Height: 3.45m

Approximate Weight: ± 6.5 tons



Brighton, a Senior Elephant Handler at Elephant Whispers, has developed a very close relationship with Tembo over the years. He says his most meaningful time with Tembo was when they were out walking one day; Brighton was behind Tembo when they suddenly came across some cattle. Tembo, not seeing the cattle until he was close to them, took fright and quickly moved behind Brighton, wherever Brighton moved, Tembo made sure to stand behind him. A six and a half ton elephant standing behind an eighty kilogram human for protection shows the unique relationship that has developed between them; Tembo has faith in Brighton, seeing him as a matriarchal figure, providing protection, companionship and security.