

ALTINA WILDLIFE PARK

a **unique** wildlife adventure

ALTINA WILDLIFE



FACTSHEET



Eland Antelope

Scientific Name:
Taurotragus oryx

Habitat: Currently found in Africa from the Sahara Desert to the Cape since their range has become greatly reduced. They inhabit open plains, rolling bush country with a few trees, in forests and on desert fringes.

Description: Fawny brown in colour with faint vertical white stripes on their sides and a black stripe down their back. They are the largest antelope with a heavy ox-like build. Both males and females have spiral horns and stand up to 2 metres at the shoulder. They have a short mane on their neck and shoulders with a dewlap (fold of skin) hanging from their necks. Males can weigh up to 680kgs.

Status: Common

Interesting facts:

- **Group Structure:** They live in herds from 20 – 100 individuals with a family consisting of a bull (male), several cows and their calves.
- Eland are wary and usually silent.
- They can leap like smaller antelope when they run.
- Eland can run up to 60km per hour but tire easily.
- **Diet:** They can go for long periods without water and survive in desert areas by getting water from succulents. They are mostly browsers using their horns when feeding to break off branches of trees and shrubs.
- **Lifespan:** 15 – 20 years.