**Elephant safety advice**

Elephants are capable of overturning and crushing vehicles, so follow these basic rules to keep yourself safe.

**Be cautious:** always approach slowly and carefully, and do not force yourself into their space

**Plan your retreat:** the driver should be aware of the route they will take to back away if the elephant shows aggression

**Watch their body language:** If an elephant is feeding and not paying you much attention then it is comfortable.

When they pretend to eat without putting food into their mouth, you have started to make them uncomfortable, and they are assessing you as a threat. Do not move any closer until they have resumed normal activity.

If they look at you and flap their ears, trumpet or shake their head, they have become agitated. You should not panic, just slowly back away until they calm down.

If they charge with their ears out, it is a warning charge, and you should back away quickly without panicking.

If they charge with their ears in, it is a full charge and you should try get away from them as quickly as possible.

**Be respectful:** don’t tease them, throw things at them or shout at them.

**Don’t get between a mother and her calf:** when a family herd passes by, keep a safe distance, and don’t place yourself between a mother and her calf

**Be wary of musth bulls:** If an elephant has liquid leaking from behind its eye, has its penis hanging out and is dribbling urine, it is in musth, a state of heightened aggression. Give these guys a wide berth

**Don’t try intimidate them:** elephants can dominate the road sometimes. Don’t try to intimidate them into moving. Be patient and wait for them to give you space

**Stay in your car:** do not stand up, make sudden movements, lean out or get out of your car when near an elephant

**Don’t feed the elephants:** Do not be tempted to share your food with them. If an elephant develops a taste for human food they can become extremely dangerous.