



GIANT (LORD DARBY) ELAND

Taurotragus derbianus



Giant elands live in herds of about 25 individuals but larger groups are not uncommon. A dominance hierarchy is determined among males in a herd and influences access to mating opportunities with females. Males use their massive, spiraled horns, which can be up to four feet in length, in aggressive interactions to determine their position in this hierarchy. Giant elands are a good source of large quantities of tender meat, quality hides, and milk with a higher protein and fat content than milk from dairy cows. These characteristics have made it a target of domestication efforts in Africa. The life expectancy of giant elands is up to 25 years.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The giant eland is 4.3 to 6 feet tall at the shoulder and from 7 to 11.5 feet in length.

WEIGHT

Male giant elands weigh between 880 and 2200 pounds, while females weigh between 660 and 1320 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

The diet of the giant eland consists of leaves and fruits from trees, grasses, and herbs.

HABITAT

Giant elands are found in forests during the day, where they take shelter from the heat. They search surrounding savannahs and grasslands for food during the morning and evening when it is cooler.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Giant eland are found in two isolated pockets: one in central Africa and one in western Africa.

FUN FACT

The Giant Eland is actually not much bigger than the Common Eland. It was given the name 'Giant' due to its larger horns.