

STIMELA STAR

IMVELO SAFARI LODGES

IMVELO'S VICTORIA FALLS TO HWANGE OVERNIGHT SLEEPER TRAIN SERVICE

Stimela is quite literally the word we use in Zimbabwe (and Zululand) for a train, it derives from the rhythm of the sound the old trains made.

Our *Stimela Star* is a private overnight sleeper train that we can hook up to the regular Victoria Falls to Bulawayo passenger train. Our Star will transport you in comfort and plenty of old fashioned style overnight from Vic Falls and you'll awake rested and relaxed ready for your adventure in Hwange National Park.

On the Star you'll enjoy refreshments and dinner, and then entertainment provided by our guides in the lounge car where you can enjoy coffee or an after dinner drink, before retiring to your private sleeping cabin, where you'll be rocked to sleep in a way that is unique only to train travel.

In the morning, hot and cold breakfast and you're off on the next leg of your adventure into Hwange!

THE TRAIN

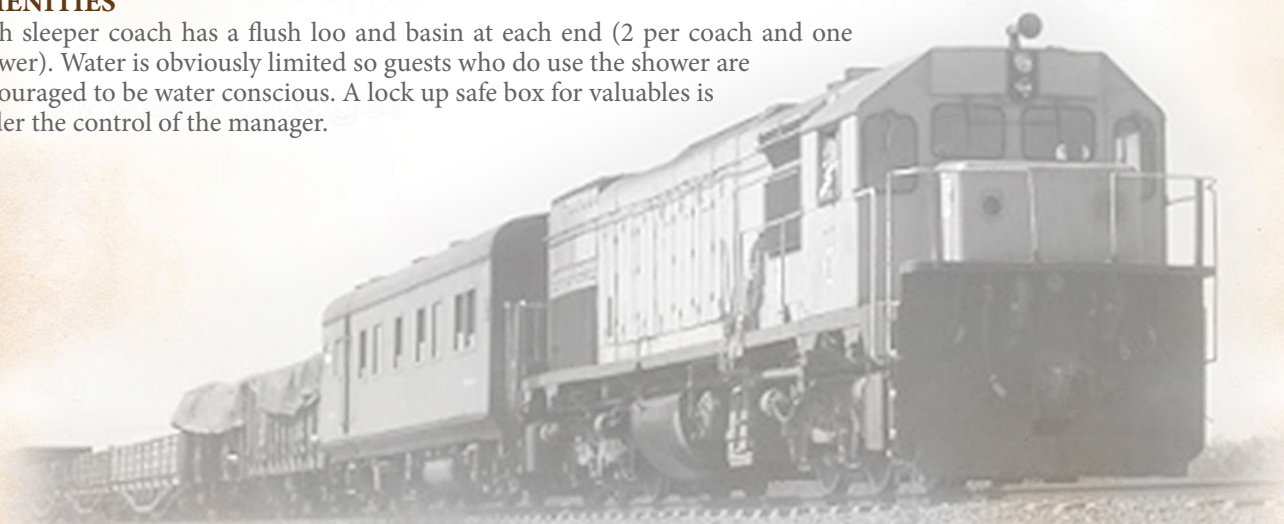
The *Stimela Star* can be linked to the overnight passenger train which runs nightly between Victoria Falls and Bulawayo. The train is powered by a diesel electric locomotive, pulling our rolling stock which dates back to the 1950's. The *Stimela Star* selects and upgrades the best of NRZ's top Premier Class coaches which are classics from the heyday of rail travel in this country.

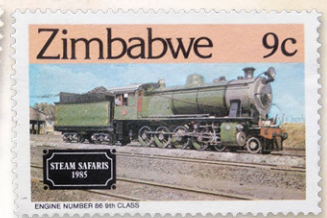
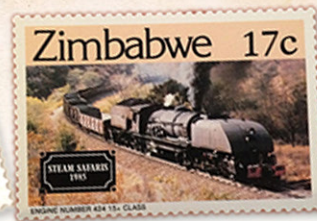
SLEEPER COACHES

Two sleeper carriages each sleep 12 passengers in twin or single compartments with shared toilet and shower facilities at either end of each carriage, for a total of 10 twin and 4 single berths. Compartments are snug but roomy enough for two. (They have single beds which are 92 x 188cm). Each compartment has electric lights and 3 round pin power sockets, and plenty of luggage room under the beds and in overhead racks.

AMENITIES

Each sleeper coach has a flush loo and basin at each end (2 per coach and one shower). Water is obviously limited so guests who do use the shower are encouraged to be water conscious. A lock up safe box for valuables is under the control of the manager.





SERVICE FACILITIES

Meals are served in the kitchen dining car and a bar lounge car completes the Star.

Both these cars have overhead fans and electric lighting. By special request we can even hitch up our teak floored Dancing Coach for that special occasion. (Prices on request).

The *Stimela Star* can take a maximum of 24 passengers. Each departure would have a Host Manager as well as a Guide on board with supporting restaurant / bar service staff and 2 Railway guards.

CATERING AND MEALS

On this trip we serve two meals, a three course dinner and then a delicious cooked breakfast. We provide a full bar service as well as hot beverages.

OPERATION

Guests are encouraged to arrive at Victoria Falls station around 6pm for embarkation. Upon arrival guests will be shown to the lounge car to enjoy welcome drinks during an orientation and safety talk, whilst their luggage is being stowed in their cabins, after which guests are shown to their compartments to freshen up before departure which is scheduled for around 7ish, (we are an African train after all). Then its pre-dinner drinks and canapes in the bar lounge and sit down dinner from about 8 pm. Our kitchen is small so our 3 course dinner meals are simple but delicious. After dinner we adjourn to the lounge for coffee and liqueurs where your guide will entertain you with stories about Victoria Falls, Hwange and the history of train travel in Zimbabwe.

Later guests retire to their cabins to revel in the luxury of being lulled and rocked to sleep snug on our Star, as they wind their way through the night to Hwange National Park.

Whilst you sleep our train crosses the hills along the northern edge of Hwange making short stops at all the sidings along the way. Our final stop is the historic little railway town of Dete, mid way to Bulawayo, where we arrive in the dark early hours of the morning. The *Stimela Star* is shunted into a siding and the remainder of the train continues on to Bulawayo, whilst our guests sleep on in comfort.

Breakfast is served from 7am onwards and at around 8am our guests can disembark for transfers to their respective lodges in Hwange. Imvelo guests booked for Camelthorn or Bomani will board the Elephant Express our signature rail car, and carry on to Ngamo. Imvelo guests for Nehimba will board their open land rovers for their game drive to Nehimba. Guests leaving for other lodges in Hwange will have to arrange their transfer vehicles to collect them at Dete station.



FOR 2020 – We have the following set departures scheduled - others can be arranged for 12 or more guests if requested.

21ST JUNE, 19TH JULY, 4TH OCTOBER.

All guests are to arrive at the Victoria Falls station by 6pm latest for check in and boarding. Departure is at 7pm and unfortunately there will be no refunds for non-arrivals.

BOOKING PROCEDURE

Bookings are done through Imvelo Safari Lodges reservation offices - please contact Hayley D on res1@imvelosafarilodges.com or Nichole on res2@imvelosafarilodges.com, Margaret on res3@imvelosafarilodges.com and Ta'sana on res4@imvelosafarilodges.com.

Guests do not need to be staying at an Imvelo camp in Hwange to book and experience the *Stimela Star* overnight train. However, for these guests Imvelo is not responsible for onward transfers from Dete Station.

RATES

Rates are rack \$475pp sharing and \$618 single - all inclusive valid until 31st December 2020.

These are commissionable at operator's standard rates with Imvelo.

Guide rates - If a tour leader brings 4 pax or less, normal rates will apply, for 5 pax and over tour leaders will be charged \$100pp.

Rates include: accommodation, all meals as stated (dinner and breakfast), soft drinks, beers, wines & local spirits, and entertainment as described above.

- Rates are charged at a minimum of 2 passengers.
- Rates are quoted in USD, inclusive of 2% tourism levy.
- Subject to availability and terms and conditions apply.
- Drop off is Victoria Falls Railway station and collection is from Dete station.

CHILD POLICY

- No children under 7 years, except by special arrangement.
- Children must be accompanied by adults. Up to 2 children can share a coupe with 2 adults. The twin coupes can be converted into family rooms (which have 4 beds).
- Children 12 and below pay 50% of accommodation.

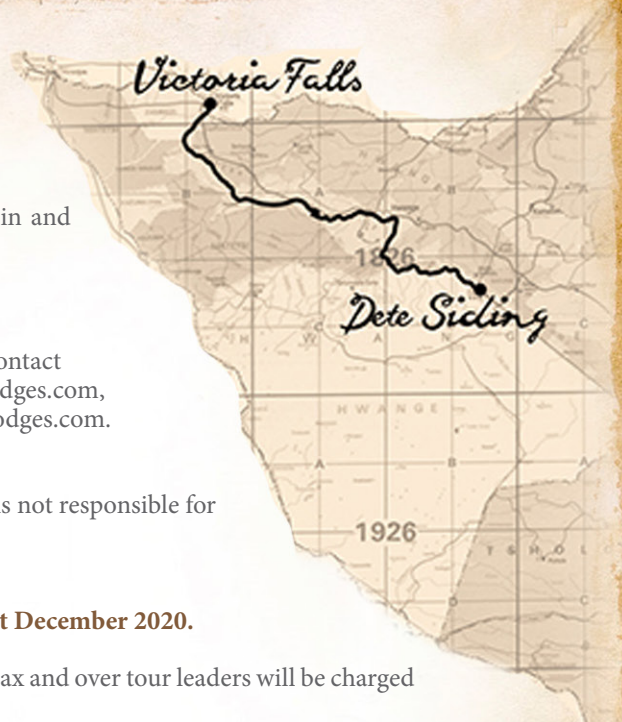
CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation policy: 30 days + before travel = 75% refund; 16 - 29 days before travel = 50% refund; 8 - 15 days before travel = 25% refund; 0 - 7 days before travel or non-arrivals = no refund.

PLEASE NOTE:

Please note that the *Stimela Star* runs according to daily scheduling specified by the National Railways of Zimbabwe and as such may be subject to delays and cancellations, which are beyond our control.

For the 2020 scheduled departures, the *Stimela Star* requires a min 12 pax for a departure to run and hence if 12 pax are not booked on a scheduled departure, Imvelo reserve the right to cancel a run but will ensure guests receive substitute accommodation at one of our properties or another similar property.



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IMVELO
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CONNECTING PEOPLE AND NATURE



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