

## What's new this month

### WELCOME

Welcome to our expanded Summer 2017 edition of the European Rail Timetable which includes updated schedules for most countries, the majority of which are valid until December 9. The main exceptions are Italy and Poland as updated information for these countries was not available in time for inclusion this month. Please note that many of our French tables are valid from July 2 to coincide with the opening of the *TGV L'Océane* and *TGV Bretagne - Pays de la Loire* high-speed lines in western France. The tables concerned are clearly indicated and readers travelling on these routes up to and including July 1 should use an earlier edition for the latest timings.

As well as updates to our regular European pages, this edition includes the latest versions of all eight Beyond Europe sections.

Previous seasonal editions have included a dedicated section at the front of the timetable with additional travel information listed on a country by country basis. This section has been completely revamped and now concentrates solely on providing useful transport based information for each country. A noteworthy addition are details of many popular tourist railways including, in some cases, an overview of services provided. Known as our *Rail Extra* pages, they will now be found at the back of the timetable, on pages 651 to 662.

To ensure our readers who prefer the printed version of our timetable can keep abreast of the latest timetable developments, we have included on page 560 extracts from our news pages that appeared in the May 2017 digital edition.

### ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Our *Route of the Month* series has been a feature of the European Rail Timetable for many years now and regular readers will be aware that it usually describes an existing European rail route. Very occasionally we have deviated from the norm with, for example, a shipping route featured in May 2014 and a visit to South Africa covered in November 2014. Probably our most unusual article was in the September 2015 edition when we featured an imaginary journey along the long closed Scottish route from Callander to Crianlrich, even producing a sample timetable from 1961 in our own familiar format!

This month our regular travel correspondents, Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, have decided to take another flight of fancy, this time looking a few years into the future with an imaginary journey from London to Birmingham on the yet to be constructed HS2 high-speed line. Turn to page 34 and join them on the 0805 from London Euston to Birmingham Curzon Street to get an idea of what train travel between England's two biggest cities may be like in years to come.

### TIP OF THE MONTH

Our *Tip of the Month*, which will be found on page 35, looks at two excellent sources of information for those interested in Indian rail travel. Whether you are planning a future trip or are simply a curious armchair traveller, *Trains at a Glance* and the *Great Indian Railway Atlas* provide much practical information regarding travel on the Indian subcontinent.

### INTERNATIONAL

Talgo train **13/14** Berlin – Moskva now serves Belorusskaya station in Moskva, instead of Kurskaya. Train **10/9** *Polonez* Warszawa – Moskva, which previously ran daily, now runs three times a week. Additionally, train **10** is retimed to depart Warszawa four hours earlier (Table **56**).

Timings for both Thalys and Eurostar are now confirmed until December 9. Full details are shown in the relevant international tables.

The 0609 departure from Zürich to Milano (train **EC11**) has been extended to Venezia Santa Lucia (arriving 1240) on Saturdays and Sundays from June 17. Train **EC10** forms the corresponding return journey, leaving Venezia at 1520 (Table **82**).

Austrian Railways has increased the frequency of its *IC Bus* service between Venezia Mestre and Lido di Jesolo this summer from one to three daily (Table **88**). These also connect with services from München in Table **70**.

Engineering work affects long-distance and regional services using the Feldkirch to Buchs line until July 2 (Tables **86** and **951**). Daytime services are replaced by bus over the affected section whilst overnight trains are diverted via St Margrethen. Journey times are extended during this period and readers intending to travel between Austria and Switzerland via this route during the disruption should confirm timings for their journey beforehand.

### GREAT BRITAIN

The Swanage Railway, a long established tourist railway, will start running heritage diesel services to and from Wareham station on five days a week from June 13 to September 3, thus providing the railway with a direct link to the national rail network. We have created a new table, numbered **119a**, to show timings of these seasonal services between Wareham and the popular holiday resort of Swanage.

Services in Tables **132**, **133** and **136** are severely affected by ongoing work in the Severn Tunnel during weekends from September 16 to October 22 (some services in Tables **120a** and **140** are also affected with no trains running through to Cardiff on Saturdays or Sundays). A special version of Table **136** is included on page 108 with details of the amended service between Bristol Temple Meads, Bristol Parkway and Newport on Saturdays and Sundays during this period.

Timings of services to and from Fishguard Harbour have been adjusted to connect with Stena shipping services (Table **135**).

East Midlands Trains has introduced three new direct services in each direction between Corby and London on Sundays (Table **170**). As a consequence of this, the journey times of certain trains between Sheffield and London have been reduced by up to 15 minutes by omitting the stops now served by the Corby trains.

Virgin Trains East Coast has increased the frequency of its service to and from Leeds on Saturdays to half-hourly (Table **180**).

There has been a welcome increase in the number of trains on Sundays between Nottingham and Lincoln with an hourly service for much of the day (Table **186**).

### IRELAND

Bus Éireann has withdrawn Expressway route 33. This previously ran between Dublin and Londonderry via Monaghan and was shown in Table **234**. The X4 service operated by Ulsterbus still provides services on this route.

### FRANCE

Track renewal work is currently taking place between Mulhouse and Basel with an amended service in operation until July 28. During this period most regional TER journeys from and to Basel require a change of trains at St Louis. A special version of Table **385** with the revised schedules will be found on page 234. Please note that TGV services via Basel may also be retimed by a few minutes during the work and readers intending to use these services until July 28 are advised to check their reservation for confirmed timings.

One of the main European rail events this year is the opening of two new high-speed lines in western France on July 2: *TGV L'Océane* between Tours and Bordeaux and *TGV Bretagne - Pays de la Loire* between Le Mans and Rennes. All relevant tables have been revised and updated to show the new timings from this date. Readers travelling on these routes up to and including July 1 should use an earlier edition for the current timings.

### ITALY

New schedules come into effect from June 11. Information was unavailable at press date, although only minor changes are expected. However, readers should be cautious of any exception dates if travelling on or around public holidays, or during August.

### PORTUGAL

An additional *Alfa Pendular* train will run between Lisboa and Porto on Saturdays June 3 to October 28, leaving Lisboa at 1600, returning from Porto at 2047 (Table **690**). Numbered **20135/6** it will run in the same path as *AP135/6* (which runs daily except Saturdays) but unlike the latter will not extend beyond Porto to/from Braga.

### SWEDEN

Tables have been updated following receipt of further information; most schedules are now valid until December 9.

From the start of the summer timetable, Stockholm to Malmö services will be subject to alteration on several occasions owing to engineering work. Timings may vary from those shown in our table; trains operated by Snälltåget are particularly affected (Table **730**).

Through *Snabbtåg* services recommence on July 2 between Göteborg and København for the summer period (Table **735**).

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## What's new this month (continued from page 3)

### FINLAND

The mid-season timetable change in Finland takes place on June 19 and from this date a number of additional journeys on Mondays to Fridays and Sundays have been added to the routes shown in Table 794. In the northbound direction two additional services run from Seinäjoki to Vaasa (at 1215 and 1523) connecting with trains from Helsinki. The 1512 departure from Tampere, which previously ran on Fridays only as far as Seinäjoki, now runs six days a week and runs as a through train from Turku through to Oulu. In the southbound direction there is a brand new 0627 departure from Oulu to Seinäjoki which connects with a Vassa to Helsinki train. There are also two extra services from Vaasa, one to Seinäjoki and the other running through to Tampere in the evening.

Please note that engineering work will affect services on the Tampere to Pieksämäki route (Table 795) from June 26 to August 3. During this period buses will replace trains for all or part of the journey and, where trains do run, a different train number may apply.

### GERMANY

Engineering work at various locations around Germany will affect many long-distance journeys, particularly during the summer months. Unfortunately it is not possible for us to show all variations in the German tables, but we do include a summary of the most significant changes in a special panel on page 367. Readers travelling in Germany are advised to consult this panel to see if their journey may be affected. Please note that this list is not exhaustive and other alterations may occur, particularly at weekends and during holiday periods.

We have found space to include special versions of two tables which have some significantly altered timings. On pages 564 and 565 there is a version of Table 810 with timings on the Köln – Hannover – Berlin route from September 1. There are also major alterations to services operating over the München to Salzburg route until July 16 and details will be found in a special version of Tables 890 and 891 on page 566.

The crowd-funded private operator Locomore filed for insolvency in May meaning its services between Stuttgart and Berlin have ceased running. The search is on for a new investor but no details were available as we went to press. Timings have therefore been removed from our tables.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

From June 3 to September 10, trains between Praha and Brno, including those continuing to and from Břeclav and beyond (Tables 60 and 1150), will not serve the main station in Brno due to trackwork between Židenice and Brno hlavní. Instead they will call at Brno dolní nádraží (i.e. lower station), which does not normally have a passenger service. It is situated 900 metres south of hlavní nádraží (the main station), close to the UAN (central bus station). Most trains will also call at Brno Židenice, 2½ km north-east of Brno hlavní. Trains Ex 572/3, which run between Břeclav and Praha, will not run during this period.

The slower Praha – Havlíčkův Brod – Brno trains (Table 1151) are also affected, but in this case they will terminate in the northern suburbs of Brno at Královo Pole, terminus of tram route 6 to and from the city centre.

In Table 1165 revised Polish times from June 11 have resulted in a better connection from Wrocław to Praha leaving the Polish city at 0958, with two changes en route. This is despite bus substitution across the border between July 4 and August 4, with buses having similar timings to the trains.

### SLOVAKIA

Tables in this edition are valid from June 11, incorporating significant amendments to schedules. Amongst the changes are the retiming by up to 12 minutes of IC trains between Bratislava and Košice (Table 1180); those which used to call at Strba no longer do so, allowing a slightly shorter journey time.

Three Bratislava – Zvolen day trains (four in the other direction, Table 1170) no longer continue to Banská Bystrica, but are now diverted to Košice in the timings of existing Zvolen – Košice trains (Table 1190). This restores through trains via this route (albeit slower than via Žilina), withdrawn two years ago. To replace these trains between Zvolen and Banská Bystrica, four Žilina – Banská Bystrica trains (two of which start back from Ostrava) are extended to Zvolen (Table 1185) in the same timings as the trains they replace. A further change is that the 0713 Zvolen to Košice now runs daily.

On the Tatra narrow gauge lines (Table 1182), additional journeys have been added running from July 1 to September 3.

### HUNGARY

Summer schedules in the Balaton area will run from June 17 to August 27, as shown in Tables 1220, 1225 and 1232. Both daytime trains between Budapest and Zagreb (Tables 89 and 1240) will run via Siófok and Fonyód (Table 1220) during this period, due to engineering work on the Dombóvár line (Table 1200). As a result of this work trains between Budapest and Pécs will have extended journey times from June 17 to July 9, with earlier departures from Budapest (see Table 1200 for further details).

### SERBIA-MONTENEGRO

Readers are reminded that services on the Bar line are subject to alteration until July 15 owing to engineering work between Beograd and Lajkovac (68 km). Day trains are subject to bus replacement, and night trains are suspended until the work is completed (Table 1370).

Currently suspended, we understand that the BALKAN direct service between Beograd and Sofia will resume for the summer period from June 1 to September 17 (Table 1380).

### ROMANIA

Summer updates for Black Sea coast services (Table 1680) are now incorporated into our tables.

### BALTIC STATES

From May 27 Estonian Railways has increased its service from Tallinn to Pärnu from two to three trains each way, and to Viljandi from four to five trains (Table 1890).

### RUSSIA

Two years ago, double-deck rolling stock was introduced onto daytime train 46 Moskva Kazanskaya to Voronezh I, returning in train 45. From June 1 the other day train on the route (70/69) is similarly treated, and all four trains (two each way) now carry new numbers 737 to 740. With 1320 seats, these are the highest capacity long-distance trains in Russia.

### BEYOND EUROPE

In this expanded Summer edition of the European Rail Timetable, we have included all eight of our Beyond Europe sections. A list of the areas covered and their locations within the timetable will be found on page 581. The Africa and the Middle East section has been fully updated this month, with other sections also containing various updates since they last appeared in the regular monthly editions.

Reports that the cross border service between Ghardimaou in Tunisia and Annaba in Algeria was starting in May, prompted us to add Annaba to Table 4050, but as yet, no services have operated. We have also altered Ethiopian Table 4215 so that the new Addis Ababa to Djibouti service can be added when it starts running. Services on the old metre-gauge line between Mombasa and Nairobi (Table 4310) have stopped running; replacement services on the new standard-gauge route between the two cities were due to start at the end of May, although no timings were available as we went to press.

In Saudi Arabia (Table 4620) we have added new services operated by the Saudi Railway Company that started on February 26. The service runs between Ar Riyad and Al Qassim but will eventually run through to Qurayyat near the Jordanian border.

We have added a few intermediate stops for the Iranian services we show in Table 4630. Travellers should be aware that tickets for these stations cannot be bought on-line, but must be obtained at the stations.

A notable addition to our South Korean pages are new high-speed services running from Seoul Suseo to Busan and Mokpo (Tables 9970 and 9972).

### RAIL PASSES

Our Rail Pass pages have been updated and, in this edition, include details of domestic passes and current prices. Changes since last summer include the withdrawal of the Balaton Mix ticket in Hungary. It also appears that the Swiss 'Combi' tickets have been discontinued.