

## NEWSLINES

Most of our tables have now been fully checked following the winter timetable change in December with the majority of our country sections valid until at least June 11. Our annual **Summer International Supplement** makes its first appearance this month with advance versions of selected international tables valid from June 12. It will be found at the back of this edition on pages 666 to 674 and will be expanded and updated further in the April and May digital editions.

This seasonal Spring edition also includes the latest versions of all eight *Beyond Europe* sections together with an updated Rail Extra feature which contains useful transport information on a country by country basis (including details of many popular tourist railways that do not appear in our regular timetable pages).

### UKRAINE

We at European Rail Timetable share the dismay at the horrific events unfolding in Ukraine, a country that has become an increasingly popular destination for visitors in recent years. Our thoughts are most definitely with the innocent citizens of this hospitable country and hope for a speedy and peaceful resolution.

### INTERNATIONAL

The latest Eurostar timetable has been received and services valid until July 16 are now shown in Table 10.

Thalys has reinstated certain services between Amsterdam and Marne la Vallée - Chessy (Table 18).

### GREAT BRITAIN

Isle of Man Railways has finalised its schedules for 2022 and Table 229 has been updated accordingly.

### FRANCE

Engineering work taking place between Nice and Villefranche sur Mer, which has resulted in a reduced service in the area for a number of months, is due to end on April 2. We have, therefore, updated Table 361 with the full service valid from April 3. The modified service valid until April 2 has been moved to a special version of the table which will be found on pages 566 and 567.

### SPAIN

Services continue to be restored across the Spanish Railways network with many routes now operating at pre-pandemic levels, including Canfranc – Huesca – Zaragoza, *Media Distancia* services Madrid – Salamanca and *Avant* services Madrid – Valladolid.

*AVE* service 5543 Alacant – Madrid and return train 5552 are extended to run from and to Orihuela. This means there are now three direct services on weekdays and two on Saturdays and Sundays in each direction between Orihuela and Madrid (Table 668).

Engineering work taking place between Albacete and Murcia means travellers are conveyed by bus from Archena-Fortuna to Murcia and Cartagena. *Alvia* services will no longer run between Madrid and Cartagena but connections are available at Albacete (Table 668a). Additionally, connections can be made at Orihuela for Murcia and Cartagena (Orihuela have been added to the panel at the end of Table 672 on page 325 to aid journey planning).

Table 672a Barcelona – Sevilla – Cádiz, which had been temporarily relocated to page 561 for a number of months, is now back in its correct position on page 325. As a result, Table 673 now appears across two pages (325 and 326).

### FINLAND

The Finnish section has been fully updated with schedules valid from March 27 to June 19.

### GERMANY

Work to upgrade the Stralsund to Neubrandenburg route in north-eastern Germany has resulted in amended schedules and partial bus replacement since September 2021. The final phase of the work will see buses replacing trains between Stralsund and Demmin from April 4 to June 30. The amended timetable for this period will be found in a special version of Table 834 on page 436.

*Harzer Schmalspurbahnen* has announced its summer schedules and we have included timings in a special version of Table 867 on page 562.

### AUSTRIA

April 30 sees the long-awaited reopening of the *Achenseebahn*, a popular metre gauge rack steam railway running from the main line at Jenbach to Achensee Seespitz. Trains last ran along the route in October 2019. A new company, Achenseebahn Infrastruktur- und Betriebs-GmbH (managed by the neighbouring Zillertalbahnen) will operate the service and timings will be found in Table 956.

### POLAND

The latest Polish Railways timetable update, valid from March 13 to June 11, was received too late for inclusion this month. However, we have made sure all international services have been updated with the latest available timings.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

In Table 1130, rail replacement bus services operate between Olbramovice and Chotoviny or Tabor from April 2 to July 1. Trains will depart Praha hlavní nádraží up to 15 minutes earlier and will not call at Praha Holešovice. Note that this change appears to only apply to southbound services from Praha.

In Tables 1150 and 1160, trains will arrive Praha up to 17 minutes later from March 4 to April 22.

### SLOVAKIA

A correspondent has kindly made us aware of a new bus link from Kraków to Poprad Tatry via Zakopane. Services only run Fridays to Mondays and timings will be found in Table 1183. The operator apparently varies day by day but the service is marketed by *FlixBus Poland* on whose website bookings can be made. The service will initially run until at least April 25.

### SLOVENIA

Table 1305 has been adjusted to include Trieste Centrale in the actual table, rather than using footnotes to indicate through services.

### BEYOND EUROPE

The latest versions of all eight *Beyond Europe* sections will be found in this edition from pages 572 to 652.

### AFRICA

The first section of a planned standard-gauge network linking Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and the Republic of Congo may open in April. The 205 kilometre section between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro in Tanzania has been built by a consortium of Turkish and Portuguese businesses and is designed to allow electrically operated trains to run at speeds of up to 160 km/h.

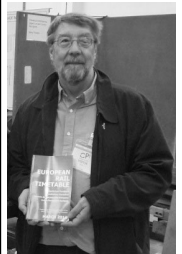
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### PETER BASS RETIREMENT

Our chief *Beyond Europe* compiler, Peter Bass, has made the decision to take retirement after a long and distinguished career, principally with Thomas Cook, but also playing a significant role in the setting up and production of the new European Rail Timetable following Thomas Cook's decision to cease publication in 2013. Peter joined Thomas Cook on December 2, 1974 and served the company for no less than 36 years, the latter 15 of which involved working on the Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable. Peter's time at Thomas Cook ended on December 3, 2010 following the company's decision to cease production of the Overseas Timetable.

Peter was tempted out of retirement when he was invited to join European Rail Timetable to oversee the continuation of the *Beyond Europe* section (which first appeared in the Thomas Cook European Timetable as a partial replacement for the Overseas Timetable). Not only did he keep the complex *Beyond Europe* section up to date, but was always willing to help out with European content when required. He continued in this role for eight years before taking a well-earned second retirement at the end of January this year.

We at European Rail Timetable are certainly grateful for his help, support and undoubted dedication to the publication and we all wish him a long and happy retirement, allowing him to spend more time with his family, to tend his allotment and play lawn bowls.



## NEWSLINES (continued from page 5)

### JAPAN

The Japanese Railways group will revise its timetables from March 12. Limited information has been received, but any known changes are included in the relevant tables of this edition.

The Nishi Kyushu (West Kyushu) Shinkansen between Takeo Onsen and Nagasaki will open later this year on September 23. The fastest journeys between Hakata and Nagasaki will take approximately 80 minutes, about 30 minutes quicker than current Limited Express trains. Cross platform connections between Shinkansen and Limited Express trains will be available at Takeo Onsen. We hope to include timings of the new service in the Autumn (September) edition.

### NORTH AMERICA

Due to the on-going effect of the Omicron covid variant, frequencies on the following Amtrak services have been reduced until March 27: Northeast Regional, Southwest Chief, California Zephyr, Empire Builder, Coast Starlight, Crescent, Texas Eagle, Capitol Limited, Lake Shore Limited, City of New Orleans, together with various state-sponsored routes. The Silver Meteor is suspended to allow other trains serving Florida to be strengthened as required. Please note that these temporary changes are **not** shown in our tables.

### SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Table 10 (Summer): Our summer Eurostar tables have been updated with services valid until September 3.

Tables 11 and 18 (Summer): Thalys plans to run its Amsterdam – Brussels – Marseille *Thalys Soleil* on nine summer Saturdays this year. This service last ran in the summer of 2019.

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