

What's new this month

In this final edition of the winter timetable period, most timings in Continental Europe are valid until June 9, although our international tables from June 10 are shown at the back of this edition in the **Summer International Supplement** on pages 572 to 620. Timings for Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine, however, are valid until May 26, whilst other exceptions include Finland, valid to June 3, Sweden, where our tables are valid until June 30, and Poland where timings are liable to change from June 1. British timings in this edition are subject to minor variation from May 14 and the full summer timings will be shown next month.

RAIL PASSES

Our special **Rail Passes** feature has been updated with the latest information and will be found on pages 33 to 39. As well as details of the InterRail, Eurail, and Britrail schemes, we also list a wide range of passes for individual countries or areas, including city passes and visitor cards for major cities.

CAR-CARRYING TRAINS

As usual in editions with a special feature, a one-page summary of Car-Carrying trains is included (on page 40 this month), and the full version of Tables **1** and **2** will be shown next month.

INTERNATIONAL

As mentioned last month, the *Bosphor/Balkan Express* is replaced by bus between Kapikule and Istanbul due to long-term engineering work (Table **61**). During April a further problem has beset train **490/491 Balkan Express** in the form of locomotive shortages on the Beograd - Sofia section, which means that the train is currently running only between Sofia and Kapikule. This situation is liable to change at short notice.

The recently introduced international *TGV* service linking Frankfurt am Main with Marseille has connections at Lyon to and from Nîmes and Montpellier, and these have now been added to Table **47**.

GREAT BRITAIN

The summer timetable in Great Britain will come into effect on May 14 and will be shown in our June edition (though changes are minor). The 2012 Olympic Games will be held in London and at various venues around the United Kingdom, with the main events taking place between July 27 and August 12. Advance information about reaching the various Olympic venues will be found on page 623.

ITALY

Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori's (NTV) *Italo* high speed service is due to launch on Saturday April 28, initially with two train pairs between Milano and Napoli. Departure from Milano Porta Garibaldi will be at 0819 and 1719, and from Napoli Centrale at 0700 and 1600. Detailed timings can be found in Table **600**, which also shows the proposed service to be introduced over the coming months.

With more *Alta Velocità* trainsets becoming available following refurbishment, Trenitalia has made further minor amendments to its high-speed timetable (Table **600**).

SPAIN

Two València - Zaragoza Media Distancia services have been extended to Huesca and the opportunity has been taken to combine Tables **670** (València - Teruel - Zaragoza) and **654** (Zaragoza - Huesca - Canfranc). Included in the extended Table **670** is a brand new station named Zaragoza Goya, which has direct interchange facilities with local tram and bus routes. As a result of the new station, there are minor changes to Tables **651**, **652** and **653**, whilst the room created by deleting Table **654** has been used to expand **656**.

The rail replacement bus service, provided by *Renfe*, which ran between Madrid and Burgos via Aranda de Duero (Table **689**) following the withdrawal of the rail service, has itself now been withdrawn.

A small increase in service on the Madrid - València route (Table **668**) sees additional *AVE* journeys from Madrid at 1240 on four days a week, and at 2040 on Thursdays, whilst the 1110 departure from València now runs daily.

Alvia **4179** Madrid - Vitoria/Gasteiz (Table **689**) now runs additionally on Fridays and a new *Alvia* **4176** has been introduced in the reverse direction on Sunday evenings.

DENMARK

Services are disrupted north of Aalborg owing to bridge damage caused by a cargo ship. The situation is further complicated by planned engineering work due to commence on April 28, and it is not known whether this will go ahead or how long bridge repairs will take. Schedules were not available as we closed for press; a replacement bus service will be provided for the 'missing link', but intending travellers should expect extended journey times (Table **701**).

SWEDEN

Timetable amendments have been received and, although mostly of a minor nature, most tables are affected and are now valid to June 30. Services between Sundsvall, Östersund and Trondheim will change operator on June 10 when Norrtåg take over from Veolia Transport. Of note, passengers travelling between Trondheim and Östersund will now be required to change trains at Åre onto a connecting service, although actual timings are unaltered. Both operators' schedules are shown in Table **760**.

GERMANY

The narrow gauge Molli-bahn has now reopened throughout and Table **833** has been updated with details of the summer service, valid until October 31.

Berlin's new airport, Berlin Brandenburg Flughafen, is scheduled to open on June 3 together with a brand new railway station situated directly under the terminal building. From this date the current *Regional Express* service between central Berlin and Berlin Schönefeld will be diverted to the new station which will result in some modified timings. The service between the airport and Berlin Hbf will be increased to four trains per hour with the addition of two services an hour operating via Südkreuz and Potsdamer Platz stations. Details of the new service will be found on page 622. A limited number of long-distance trains will also serve Berlin Brandenburg Flughafen and details of these will be found in the footnotes of Table **810**. The new airport will replace Schönefeld and Tegel airports.

POLAND

Warszawa - Wrocław services via Łódź (Table **1090**) are currently calling at Łódź Chojny instead of Łódź Kaliska, thereby avoiding a reversal at the latter station. This will continue at least until May 31.

HUNGARY

Timetable amendments from April 15 are somewhat more drastic than usual, and several minor lines have a much reduced service. Tables most affected are **1210**, **1225**, **1227**, **1235**, **1251** and **1280**. In Table **1277** the Békéscsaba - Salonta cross-border service is reduced from three to two journeys each way, and in Table **1299** two minor lines have been cut in frequency, namely Eger - Sivilvásvárad and Komárom - Esztergom.

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Serbian Railways has recently taken delivery of a new diesel unit and introduced services between Pančevački Most, Pančevo and Vršac. Tickets may only be purchased on the train (Table **1365**).

As we close for press, train **360/361** remains substituted by bus between Beograd and Vršac (Table **1365**). As mentioned under the International heading, train **490/491** Beograd - Sofia and vice versa is also temporarily suspended between Niš and Sofia (Table **1380**), but we believe there is no replacement bus provided in this instance.

TURKEY

As reported last month, the *Bosphor/Balkan Express* overnight services are now operated by bus between Kapikule and Istanbul until further notice. Information from Turkish Railways indicates that domestic trains **81721/2** may continue to provide a rail service between Kapikule and Istanbul on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only. It was suggested last month that a regular service may continue to operate between Çerkezköy and Istanbul but this does not now appear to be the case (apart from trains **81721/2** mentioned above).

Note that a number of other operators provide bus services in European Turkey, such as *Metro Turizm* and *Ulusoy* (contact details are shown on page 514).

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BEYOND EUROPE

This month our Beyond Europe section covers rail services in Canada and the USA (Tables from 9000 upwards). Via Rail appears to have completely withdrawn services on Vancouver Island so Table 9070 has been removed. Amtrak has recast the Santa Barbara - Los Angeles - San Diego service (Table 9320) with the result that more trains are now running at the same times on each day of the week.

SUMMER SUPPLEMENT

Tables 10 to 99 (Summer) will be found on pages 572 to 620 and are valid from June 10.

Three international trains which traditionally have run on Summer Saturdays will return to action this Summer as usual. Eurostar will be running train 9084/9087 from London to Avignon (Tables 11, 17a), Thalys will be running 9928/9954 *Thalys Soleil* from Amsterdam and Brussels to Marseille (Tables 11, 18) whilst German Railways (DB) will run train 1280/1281 *Grossglockner* from München to Zell am See.

Table 10 (Summer) - Eurostar timings are valid until August 27, although we are awaiting details of the amended timetable which will operate during the London 2012 Olympics from July 27 until August 12.

Table 22 (Summer) - train IC 143/146 Amsterdam - Berlin will be extended to the new Berlin Brandenburg Flughafen (Airport), which will open a few days earlier on June 3.

Table 44 (Summer) - *Thello*, operator since December of the Paris - Venezia night train, was expected to introduce its second night train, running between Paris and Roma. However, at the time of going to press, we had not been advised of a start date.

Table 50 (Summer) - Train EN 301/300 *Berlin Night Express* Berlin - Malmö will run on three days a week throughout the season, the plan to run on a fourth day (Mondays) during the Summer period having been dropped.

Table 51 (Summer) - A new direct Berlin - Gdynia EuroCity service will be introduced to run from June 6.

Table 56 (Summer) - For the duration of the Euro 2012 football tournament, all *Berlin Warszawa Express* services will run daily.

Table 58 (Summer) - Train EC 249 *Wawel* Hamburg - Kraków will call at the new Berlin Brandenburg Flughafen. However, in the opposite direction, EC 248 will not call there as it takes a different route into Berlin Hauptbahnhof.

Table 61 (Summer) - Through sleeper and couchette cars will run this summer from Praha to both Burgas and Varna, conveyed in the *Metropol* between Praha and Budapest. The train will run between June and September, twice weekly to Burgas and once weekly to Varna, with an additional portion from Budapest running for a slightly longer season than that from Praha.

Table 70 (Summer) - *City Night Line 363/358 Pictor* München - Venezia will be diverted via Tarvisio from the start of the summer timetable. We are waiting confirmation whether this is a permanent alteration.

Table 88 (Summer) - The weekly relief Wien - Roma *Euro Night* will be diverted to Pisa and Livorno.

Table 97 (Summer) - The coastal town of Bar in Montenegro has been added in order to show the twice-weekly through service to and from Moskva. A new weekly service from Moskva to and from Split (Croatia) will also run this summer and timings are included in this table. Both these journeys will take three nights.

NEXT MONTH

The June edition of the European Rail Timetable will contain the new summer schedules where possible and will be available from May 28.

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