

## What's new this month

### WELCOME

As well as the usual updates to current schedules, this month's edition of the *European Rail Timetable* includes the new Finnish timetable, valid from March 29 to June 13. Our Swedish pages have been fully updated with most timings now valid from April 7 to August 2. There have also been numerous alterations in Poland, although information is currently only available until April 25.

The **Summer International Supplement** has been expanded to 32 pages with advance timings for selected international tables valid from June 14. It will be found on pages 576 to 607 and will be expanded further next month to show advance summer versions of all our international tables.

We are also pleased to announce the introduction of a new regular monthly feature called *Tip of the Month*. Written by Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, editors of *hidden europe* magazine and authors of our regular *Route of the Month* feature, the aim is to provide useful snippets of information to help our readers plan their itineraries. Our first *Tip of the Month* will be found on page 93 and explains how it is possible to obtain bargain fares in first-class.

### ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries head to the Iberian Peninsula and enjoy a local cross-border journey from Porto to Vigo. Branded *Celta*, trains on this route run twice a day in each direction and the current timings are shown in Table 696. This month's feature will be found on page 35.

### INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar timings in our tables are now valid until November 19. During the Easter holiday period, Eurostar will be running an additional 52 services between London and Paris to boost capacity during this busy time.

Thalys have announced the withdrawal of the Paris to Oostende and Paris to Liège (via Charleroi) services from April 1 (Tables 16 and 17).

Stena Line have altered the timings of some of their services on the Harwich to Hoek van Holland route. Table 15a has been updated with these changes, together with alterations to connecting train services.

An additional ICE service will run overnight between Hamburg and København (via Flensburg and Padborg) six days a week from June 26 to July 10 and August 10 to September 4 (Table 50).

Further to last month's report, train 20/19 St Peterburg to Praha and Wien will cease running at the end of March with the last departure from St Peterburg on March 30, returning from Wien and Praha on April 1. We await confirmation of the running dates from June 14.

### FRANCE

Local services between Ventimiglia and Nice are expected to return to normal from April 4 following completion of work to refurbish the Monte-Carlo Tunnel. Table 361 has been updated with the revised schedules, although readers are advised to confirm timings locally as they are subject to confirmation.

### BELGIUM

Problems with electrical interference are currently preventing Belgian trains from running between Tournai and Lille. A temporary shuttle service is therefore in operation between these points using a combination of French trains and buses. The revised timings, expected to be in force for a few weeks, are shown in Table 416.

### SWITZERLAND

Services between St Moritz and Pontresina are subject to substitution by bus from March 30 to April 2 and April 7 to May 8 owing to engineering work (Table 547).

### ITALY

*Expo Milano 2015* will run from May 1 to October 31 and many long-distance services will stop at the renamed station of Rho Fiera Expo Milano 2015. During this period there will be minor retimings to services and train renumberings. A table of direct trains serving the exhibition from and to Switzerland will be found on page 67, and a summary of domestic services on page 308.

### DENMARK

Engineering work will affect several routes in the forthcoming weeks. Between Vamdrup (south of Lunderskov) and Vojens there will be disruption to all services serving Sønderborg, Padborg and Flensburg from April 11 to August 31 on Mondays from 0900 to 1730, and Saturday evenings. During these times all trains will be replaced by bus (Table 710). There will be further variations to schedules during the Ascension holiday period May 14–17 and again in the summer from July 13 to August 9.

Services between Denmark and Germany will require part of the journey to be undertaken by bus over the Easter period. Hamburg and Berlin trains to and from København are affected April 3–5, and those serving Århus on various days between April 1 and 7.

On the island of Falster, passengers will be required to change from train to bus at a temporary station named Orehoved (south of Vordingborg) for journeys to and from Nykøbing and Rødby from March 30 to April 3 (Table 720).

There will be disruption to services between København and Malmö during the evenings of April 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22 and 23 including some bus substitution (Table 703).

Engineering work will also affect København – Fredericia – Århus, Aalborg and Struer services in the early hours of April 7–10 resulting in extended journey times (Tables 700, 710 and 715).

### SWEDEN

Our Swedish tables have been updated this month with most now valid from April 7 to August 2. Unfortunately we have not been able to include timings during the Easter holiday period owing to the numerous variations to regular schedules. Passengers travelling during this time are advised to confirm timings locally.

### FINLAND

Our Finnish tables have been updated with new schedules valid from March 29 to June 13. There are numerous alterations to timings, particularly affecting trains to and from northern Finland which have extended journey times in most cases.

A notable change is that all services between Tampere and Pori are now classified InterCity (Table 792).

### GERMANY

Work to upgrade the München to Ingolstadt line will affect many services operating between München and Nürnberg/Würzburg from March 29 to August 23. During this period many services are subject to extended journey times with certain trains diverted via Augsburg. Local services are also affected by this work and all our German tables have been amended to reflect these alterations.

### POLAND

Updated schedules, valid until April 25, are shown this month and all tables have been updated.

Following a suggestion by a reader, the branch from Kłodzko Główny to the tourist resort of Kudowa-Zdrój is now included (Table 1099).

### CZECH REPUBLIC

A major track renewal project on part of the line between Praha and Kolin is underway with consequent retimings and diversions, particularly affecting long-distance trains on the Praha to Ostrava line (Table 1160). Work is due to last until June 29. Many morning departures from Praha are earlier (up to 20 minutes in some cases), and Table 1160 now shows the temporary times, whilst changes in other tables are shown by footnotes. Some arrivals into Praha are later; those by more than a few minutes are shown in the tables.

Minor amendments from April 13 have also been incorporated into our tables. Included in these is the withdrawal of the Cheb – Plzeň – Praha – Košice sleeping car which had previously been noted as a temporary suspension (there is still a Cheb to Košice sleeping car via Karlovy Vary).

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

### HUNGARY

Budapest Déli remains closed following the landslip over the mouth of the tunnel which leads to the station. As noted in relevant tables, most trains start or finish at Kelenföld, but international trains which served Déli are mostly diverted to and from Keleti station. Work is progressing to reopen Déli station, but it is likely to remain closed until late April at the earliest.

Our Budapest city plan on page 29 has been enhanced to show local routes around a wider area.

### SLOVENIA

Readers are reminded of engineering work between Celje and Maribor on weekdays until May 8; selected ICS services will be replaced by bus. Some local services are also affected (Table 1315).

### SERBIA

As expected, the direct route between Beograd and Požega has now reopened. Consequently, our tables have been updated to reflect the reinstatement of Bar traffic via the direct route; the lengthy detour via Lapovo and Kragujevac no longer being necessary (Table 1370).

### TURKEY

Bus connections to and from Burdur and Isparta have been added to Table 1587.

### ROMANIA

On March 17 it was announced that all services operated by Regiotrans – the second largest passenger operator in Romania – were suspended. It is unclear how long this situation will prevail (normal service may even have been resumed by the time you read this), but in the meantime national operator CFR Călători will provide a replacement skeletal service on Regiotrans' routes.

From March 23 the *Prietenia* was reduced from running daily to three days per week. It now departs Bucureşti on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, returning from Chişinău on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. A daily service is maintained between Bucureşti and Buzău by a replacement *IR* train which operates in the same timings (Table 1670).

### SHIPPING

Condor Ferries has ceased sailing from Weymouth following delivery of a new, larger vessel. Routes to the Channel Islands and Brittany continue from Poole and Portsmouth (Tables 2100 and 2157).

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers two regions. Our Japanese tables will be found on pages 558 to 569 and details of rail services in South America follow on pages 570 to 572.

A new Japanese timetable came into effect on March 14. The most significant change is the opening of the *Hokuriku Shinkansen* extension from Nagano to Kanazawa, the schedules for which will be found in Table 8010. With the opening of this new line, the conventional tracks running along the same route have been transferred from JR to four separate railway companies. Also affected are services shown in Table 8150 which now all terminate at Kanazawa. Table 8155 has been altered to show JR West's new *Tsurugi Shinkansen* which operates between Toyama and Kanazawa. This table also includes more details of the Kanazawa to Nagano section of the *Hokuriku Shinkansen* that, owing to space limitations, we are unable to show in Table 8010.

The *Hokutosei* overnight service (Table 8225) from Tokyo to Sapporo will now only operate three days a week and in the same timings as the *Cassiopeia*. The current schedules are only valid until the end of June, although it is expected that the *Hokutosei* will be withdrawn in August. The *Cassiopeia* should continue running this year, but is also expected to be withdrawn from spring 2016.

The *Twilight Express* between Osaka and Sapporo (Table 8300) has been discontinued from the start of the new timetable.

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