

What's new this month

WELCOME

This month's edition of the European Rail Timetable includes some significant updates to our tables such as revised timings for the revamped Intercity service between Amsterdam and Brussels which will come into effect from April 9. There are also timing changes on various other routes as projects to improve rail infrastructure commence or come to an end.

Our *Summer International Supplement* has been expanded to 40 pages and now includes advance versions of all international tables valid from June 10. The supplement will be found towards the back of this edition (from page 601) and will be updated further in the May edition.

One of our readers recently suggested that it would be a good idea to provide a list of steam-hauled services that we show in our tables. We also thought this would be a useful addition and so have created a new panel which will be found on page 35. It should be noted that we only tend to show steam services that operate on a daily basis throughout the year together with selected services that operate on main line routes. Our *Rail Extra* feature, which appears twice a year in our expanded Summer and Winter editions, includes details of many more tourist railways which do not feature in our regular pages.

On page 562 we have included a copy of the timetable news that appeared in last month's digital edition. This will allow our customers who prefer our printed publication to keep fully up to date with the latest developments.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

On a recent visit to Scotland our regular travel correspondents, Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, enjoyed a journey on the spectacular Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh line. They share their experience in our Route of the Month article which will be found on page 36. The latest timings for the route are shown in Table 226.

INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar will start operating direct services from London to Amsterdam on April 4. Two trains will run each day Mondays to Fridays with one service provided on both Saturdays and Sundays. In the opposite direction passengers will have to take a Thalys service from Amsterdam to Brussels and, after border and security checks have taken place, will then be able to continue their journey to London by Eurostar. This arrangement for journeys to London is expected to remain in place until December 2019 by which time it should be possible for border formalities to take place in the Netherlands. Table 15 has been updated with the new timings.

It has been confirmed that the Amsterdam to Brussels Intercity service will be significantly altered from April 9 when trains will start using the high-speed line between Amsterdam and Antwerpen thus avoiding Den Haag and Dordrecht (but will call additionally at Breda where the train will reverse). However, four trains a day in each direction will continue to provide a direct service between Den Haag and Brussels (Amsterdam passengers can use an *Intercity direct* service to connect with those trains that only run as far as Den Haag). Tables 15, 18, 420 and 451 have been updated and now show the new timings from April 9.

Reports indicate that Czech operator Leo Express is to commence running services between Praha and Kraków from April 1, initially three times a week. Provisional timings have been added to Table 99 and we hope to add further details next month.

GREAT BRITAIN

Rail services between Preston and Blackpool North were due to restart from March 26 following an extended period of route upgrade and electrification work (Tables 156 and 190).

IRELAND

Bus Éireann has issued a new timetable on the Dublin to Donegal route with some journeys now operating as route number X30 (Table 234a).

FRANCE

Engineering work will take place on several routes radiating from Paris Austerlitz from April 9 to June 1. This will particularly affect Tables 294, 296, 310 and 315.

We have been informed that all services between Perpignan and Villefranche-Vernet les Bains are currently operated by bus and that this will remain the case until further notice. The amended schedules have been added to Table 354.

Tables 366 and 367, which cover services to Bourg St Maurice and Modane respectively, together with Table 344 Lyon – Chambéry, are currently showing the winter service valid until April 29. To enable our readers to plan journeys after this date we have included summer versions of these tables on page 566.

Readers travelling in France over the next three months should bear in mind the recent announcement of a proposed series of 'rolling strikes' when Unions are suggesting two-day strikes followed by three days of work between April 3 and June 28. Of course, negotiation could see an end to disruption at any time, and travellers should consult local information for their specific dates of travel.

BELGIUM

Rerouting of Amsterdam – Brussels trains via Breda and the high-speed line from April 9 means that Roosendaal - Antwerpen trains are now shown in a separate table, numbered 419. Table 420 now starts from Breda rather than Roosendaal.

NETHERLANDS

There are some minor adjustments to *Intercity direct* service between Amsterdam and Breda from April 9 and Table 451 has been updated with the modified schedules from this date.

ITALY

Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (NTV) will commence operating its *.italo* trains between Milano and Venezia from May 1. By July, there will be fourteen services. Schedules are not yet available, but journey times will equal those of Trenitalia (2 hours 25 minutes).

SPAIN

Media Distancia trains 17194/17197/17199 between Madrid and Badajoz were recently converted to *Talgo* operation and renumbered 194/197/199 respectively. At the same time most services in Tables 677 and 678 were retimed and the tables have now been fully updated with the latest schedules.

Certain Madrid – Sevilla and Madrid – Malaga services which only run on certain days of the week, have had additional operating days added (Table 660).

PORTUGAL

The 1350 train from Lisboa Santa Apolónia to Caldas da Rainha (Table 693) has been cut back to start from Mira Sintra-Meleças, with a connection from Lisboa Rossio. In the other direction, the 1116 from Caldas da Rainha has been similarly curtailed at Mira Sintra-Meleças.

GERMANY

Services between Stendal and Wittenberge are disrupted from April 15 to July 6 when buses replace trains for part of the journey between Osterburg and Wittenberge. A special version of Table 841 will be found on page 568 with full details of the amended timetable.

A major project to upgrade and electrify the route between Buchloe and Memmingen started on March 24 and this will cause disruption to all services that normally use the route until October 14. During the work regional trains will be replaced by bus over the affected section (including services to Bad Wörishofen until September 9), whilst *EC* services between München and Zürich are diverted and retimed. Table 935 has been fully updated with the revised schedules.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

What's new this month (continued from page 5)

POLAND

Many readers will be aware of the steam-hauled operation of regular service trains centred around Wolsztyn, which is operated by Koleje Wielkopolskie. In fact, for many years we identified these in our pages, a feature that we are happy to reinstate from this edition (Table 1099).

CZECH REPUBLIC

The cross-border route between Karlovy Vary and Johanngeorgenstadt will run to an amended timetable from April 1 to June 29. During this period all services are operated by bus between Karlovy Vary and Potučky with a rail shuttle service operating for the short hop across the border to and from Johanngeorgenstadt. The temporary timings are shown in Table 884.

SLOVAKIA

Amendments from March 3 include the introduction of additional trains on two routes. On the Bratislava to Žilina route (Table 1180) there are new trains from Bratislava at 0500, 0704, 0903 and 1100, returning from Žilina at 0829, 1029, 1226 and 1626 (also 2030 on Sundays), generally where there were previously two-hour gaps in the semi-fast service. Most of the new trains run on Mondays to Fridays. The 1803 from Bratislava to Košice now runs daily, whereas previously it terminated at Žilina on Saturdays. Some IC timings have also been adjusted by a few minutes, and there is a new 1707 Košice to Poprad Tatry train on Mondays to Fridays.

Košice to Prešov (Table 1196) also benefits from additional trains on Mondays to Fridays, calling only at Kysak. There are four new trains from Košice and five from Prešov. All our Slovakian tables have been fully revised with the latest changes.

HUNGARY

From April 3 to 27, all IC trains on the Budapest – Győr – Sopron / Szombathely route (Tables 1250 to 1252) will depart and arrive at Budapest Déli station instead of Keleti. Departures from Budapest Keleti to Eger and Miskolc are five minutes earlier until May 31, whilst arrivals at Budapest are 10 minutes later - the revised times are shown in Tables 1260/1. Note that a considerable amount of engineering work is being undertaken on the Hungarian network, and where possible longer term changes are noted in relevant tables.

TURKEY

High-speed services will temporarily call at Eryaman station instead of Sincan (Table 1570).

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers four areas: China (from page 570), Japan (from page 584), South America (from page 596) and South Korea (from page 599). Please note that the Chinese pages include only limited updates since they appeared in last month's digital edition.

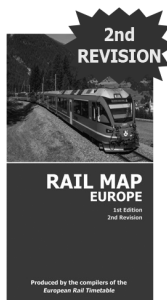
The Japanese section has been fully updated with the latest schedules and there have been numerous timing alterations since this section last appeared, albeit mostly by just a few minutes. The Japanese rail pass information on page 584 has also been updated with latest prices (which are valid until March 2019).

In Table 9940 we have added timings for Peru Rail's *Sacred Valley* service. In the same table, the Poroy bus connection will run to and from Wanchaq during April.

In Argentina there have been various alterations to SOFSE schedules including the suspension of a number of services.

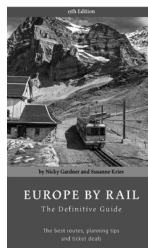
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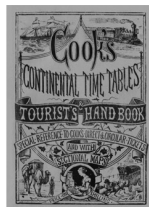


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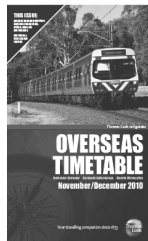
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