The unrelenting spread of coronavirus has had an unprecedented effect on public transport networks around the world. National governments are implementing measures to contain the spread of the virus which increasingly include the closure of international borders. As a result, the number of international rail services around Europe, both long-distance and local, is diminishing fast. Domestic services are also being affected in most countries as all but essential travel is being discouraged or even prohibited, meaning a reduced service level is in operation as travellers heed official advice. To illustrate the dramatic reduction in international services over the past few weeks, we have included (below this statement) a brief summary of the current situation.

We at European Rail Timetable clearly urge our readers to observe official government advice with regards to travel during these difficult times. We plan to continue publishing the timetable on a monthly basis, but only showing regular schedules, so readers can continue to plan future journeys once this pandemic is under control, however long that takes. We have made the decision not to include details of any amended schedules because the situation is so fluid with individual countries being at different stages of dealing with the pandemic. More importantly, many governments have imposed severe travel restrictions as part of their strategy to contain the virus, so it would be inappropriate for us to show amended timetables.

We sincerely hope our readers stay safe during this difficult time and can resume their travels around Europe (and beyond) at some point in the not too distant future.

The following is a list of European international trains that are known to have been suspended or curtailed to help contain the spread of coronavirus. As mentioned in the statement above, these cancellations are not indicated in our tables and are only listed here for the record and are subject to change at any time. All unnecessary travel should be avoided at this time and, for the latest situation, readers should refer to official advice from their national government.

The following services are curtailed or running at a reduced service level (with restricted access in some cases):

**EC**
- Bologna / Milano / Rimini.
- The following services have been suspended until further notice:
  - all Thalys is running a reduced service on all its routes.
  - A reduced ICE service is running Brussels/Dusseldorf – Wien – Innsbruck is suspended.
  - Some ICE services are terminating at Basel Badischer Bahnhof.

**ICE**
- ICE services are only running within Austria, between Wien and Villach.
- All services on the following routes are suspended until further notice:
  - EC/Ex Munich – Praha.
  - EC München – Zürich.
  - EC Berlin – Warszawa.
  - IC Hamburg – København / Aarhus.
  - Railjet Zürich – Wien.
  - TGV/AVE Paris/Lyon / Marseille – Barcelona / Madrid.
  - TGV Frankfurt – Marseille.
  - As mentioned in our statement above, most countries have reduced domestic service levels with some governments imposing severe restrictions on all travel.
  - Slovenia and Croatia have cancelled all rail services.

**NJ**
- Thello Marseille – Nice – Milano.
- The following services have been suspended until further notice:
  - EC 139 – 160 Thello Marseille – Nice – Milano.
  - 493/492 Balkan Express İstanbul – Sofia.
  - 891/892 Pristina (Kosovo) to Skopje (North Macedonia).
  - All services on the following routes are suspended until further notice:
    - EC/Ex München – Praha.
    - EC München – Zürich.
    - EC Berlin – Warszawa.
    - IC Hamburg – København / Aarhus.
    - Railjet Zürich – Wien.
    - TGV/AVE Paris/Lyon / Marseille – Barcelona / Madrid.
    - TGV Frankfurt – Marseille.

**AMTRAK**
- The Amtrak Cascades service in Table 9230, whilst the Maple Leaf is suspended west of Niagara Falls NY.
- Alaska Railroad has suspended its Aurora Winter Train until April 30.

**Avlo**
- The Amtrak Cascades service in Table 9230, whilst the Maple Leaf is suspended west of Niagara Falls NY.

**Thello**
- Thello Marseille – Nice – Milano.

**Enverness/Glasgow**

**contiNued ON PAGE 36**
In Canada VIA Rail is operating a reduced service along the Quebec – Montréal – Toronto – Windsor corridor; trains that are running are making additional station calls (Tables 9010, 9015 and 9020). In Table 9005 trains 600 and 604 are cancelled and 601 and 603 are only operating on Fridays. The White River service (Table 9035) is only operating on Sundays from White River and Saturdays from Sudbury. The Winnipeg – Churchill service will not convey sleepers.

The Ghan, Indian Pacific and Overland services in Australia are all suspended until May 31.

In New Zealand, KiwiRail’s three tourist trains (the TranzAlpine, the Coastal Pacific and the Northern Explorer) are suspended but the Capital Connection is still running (but not accepting cash for fares). All long distance services in Argentina have been suspended as have Peru Rail and Inca Rail services.

Long distance services in South Africa have been suspended until further notice and luxury train operator Rovos Rail has cancelled all of its services until April 29.

OTHER NEWS

SPAIN

From March 3 IC 283/280 Camino de Santiago Irún/Hendaye and Bilbao – A Coruña and Vigo was reduced to a simple Irún/Hendaye – A Coruña service with separate connections Miranda de Ebro – Bilbao and Ourense – Vigo (the connection from Ourense to Vigo being by bus). See Tables 680, 681, 682 and 689 for details.

DENMARK

Route upgrade work on the Aarhus to Aalborg route (Table 701) will result in fewer rail services operating between Langå and Aalborg from April 5 to September 20 (with some services being replaced by bus). Work to upgrade the railway between Naestved and Ringsted started at the end of March and will continue until November 29. During the work buses replace trains in amended timetings with journey times extended by up to 20 minutes (Table 720).

GERMANY

The temporary closure of the whole high-speed route from Mannheim to Stuttgart is scheduled to take place from April 11 to October 31 resulting in numerous changes to both long-distance and regional services in the area. The whole German section has now been fully updated with timings valid from April 11 to June 13 (not including any changes caused by the coronavirus situation). Further alterations in other parts of the country are planned from June 14 and so a further update to our German section will be published in the Summer edition.

AUSTRIA / SLOVAKIA

Danube shipping operator SPaP-LOD no longer operate hydrofoil services between Wien and Bratislava (Table 999), concentrating instead on cruises in the Bratislava area.

MARCH NEWSLINES

A copy of our news page that appeared in the March digital edition will be found on page 566.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month’s Beyond Europe section features China (from page 570), Japan (from page 584), South America (from page 596) and South Korea (from page 599).

Japanese Railways updated its timetable on March 14 and all changes are incorporated in this edition. Not only have many Shinkansen timings been altered, but many train numbers have also changed, particularly in Table 8005. JR East has restarted services to Sendai following the earthquake in 2011 (Table 8215). In Table 8300 we have included details of a new night train called the West Express Ginga which from May will operate between Osaka and Izumoshi. In the introduction to the Japanese section (on page 584) we have included details of changes to the JR Rail Pass together with news of new requirements for passengers travelling on some Shinkansen services with oversized baggage.

Our South American pages have been checked with the latest available information. In our Uruguayan Table 9955 we have added details of the service from Tacuarembó to Rivera.

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