

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):

*RJ 130 – 133* Wien – Villach – Venezia are only running within Austria, between Wien and Villach.

*NJ 234/233* and *237/236* Wien – Villach – Milano/Roma/Venezia are only running within Austria, between Wien and Villach.

*NJ 295/294* München – Villach – Milano/Roma/Venezia was, until recently, only running München – Villach but is now suspended.

We understand *EN 463/462* München – Budapest is still running, but the Ljubljana/Zagreb/Rijeka portions are cancelled.

All Genève – Milano and Zürich – Milano are terminating at Brig and Chiasso respectively.

*ICE* services Hamburg/Berlin – Frankfurt – Basel – Zürich/Interlaken are terminating at Basel Badischer Bahnhof.

*EC* services Hamburg – Berlin – Dresden – Praha – Wien/Budapest services are only running as domestic services Hamburg – Dresden and Děčín – Praha.

The Innsbruck portion of *Nightjet* Brussels/Düsseldorf – Wien/Innsbruck is suspended.

*IC* services Amsterdam – Berlin are only running within Germany, between Bad Bentheim and Berlin.

A reduced *Railjet* service is running between München and Wien.

Eurostar is operating three trains a day between London and Paris and two trains daily between London and Brussels. All ski trains to Bourg St Maurice are cancelled and Ebbsfleet International, Ashford International and Calais Fréthun stations are closed until further notice.

Thalys is running a reduced service on all its routes.

A reduced *ICE* service is running Frankfurt – Köln – Amsterdam and Frankfurt – Köln – Brussels.

The following services have been suspended until further notice:

*EC 80 – 89, 1289/1288* München – Innsbruck – Verona/Venezia/Bologna/Milano/Rimini.

*Nightjet 470/401* Hamburg/Berlin – Zürich.

*Nightjet 457/456* Berlin – Wien/Budapest/Przemyśl.

*EN 221/220 Thello* Paris – Milano – Venezia.

*EC 139 – 160 Thello* Marseille – Nice – Milano.

*18 BJ/17 BJ* Moskva – Milano – Nice.

*493/492 Balkan Express* Istanbul – Sofia.

*891/892* Pristina (Kosovo) to Skopje (North Macedonia).

*96 BJ/27 BJ* Moskva – Praha.

*13 MJ/440, 441/14 MJ* Moskva – Berlin.

*23 JJ/452, 453/24 JJ* Moskva – Paris.

The weekly Ankara – Tehran and Van – Tehran.

All services on the following routes are suspended until further notice:

*EC/Ex* München – Praha.

*EC* München – Zürich.

*ICE/TGV* Paris – Frankfurt/Stuttgart.

*EC* Berlin – Warszawa.

*IC* Hamburg – København/Aarhus.

*Railjet* Zürich – Wien.

*TGV/AVE* Paris/Lyon/Marseille – Barcelona/Madrid.

*TGV* Frankfurt – Marseille.

In addition, all other international services are cancelled in and out of Czech Republic, Italy, Spain, Russia, Poland and Switzerland.

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.

In Spain, services are greatly reduced with reservations on medium and long distance services capped at 30% capacity to allow for social distancing. Further to last month's news, Spanish Railways has postponed the introduction of *avlo*, its low-cost high-speed service which was due to commence on April 6.

In Great Britain a much reduced service was implemented on all lines from March 23. All sleeper services, except those between London and Inverness/Glasgow, have been suspended until May 30.

A similar situation of reduced public transport will be found elsewhere around the world.

In the United States AMTRAK has suspended the following services: Keystone Service (Table 9230), Pennsylvanian (Table 9225), Pere Marquette (Table 9275) and the Winter Park Express (Table 9290). The Amtrak Cascades service in Table 9315 is suspended north of Seattle, whilst the Maple Leaf is suspended west of Niagara Falls NY (Table 9210). Along the Northeast Corridor (Table 9215) only Northeast Regional trains are operating and at only 40% of the normal service. Brightline in Florida is running a reduced service and Alaska Railroad has suspended its Aurora Winter Train until April 30.

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## NEWSLINES (continued from page 5)

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 Næstved and Ringsted started at the end of March and will continue until November 29. During the work buses replace trains in amended timings 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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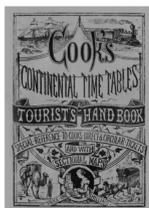


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