

## NEWSLINES

In addition to the latest updates to current European rail schedules, this edition of the European Rail Timetables includes our 27-page **Summer International Supplement** with advance versions of most international tables valid from June 12. It will be found on pages 569 to 595 and will be updated further in the May digital edition.

### INTERNATIONAL

Following the imposition of further sanctions against Russia, the recently reinstated *Allegro* service between Helsinki and St Petersburg has been suspended once again (Table **1910**).

### FRANCE

SNCF's low-cost subsidiary *Ouigo* is now selling tickets for its new *Ouigo Classique* services which are due to start running on a daily basis from April 11. These are traditional loco-hauled trains formed of comfortable *Corail* coaches and so are considerably slower than parallel *Ouigo TGV* services. Initially, two services will run in each direction between Paris and Nantes (one via Le Mans and the other via St Pierre des Corps) with one return journey provided between Paris and Lyon (via Dijon). An additional service will be added on both routes from June. Tickets must be booked on-line with the low ticket prices (€10–30) reflecting the longer journey times. Outline timings will be found in Tables **278** (Paris – Le Mans - Nantes), **296** (Paris – St Pierre des Corps – Nantes) and **377** (Paris – Lyon) although, as timings often vary, it is important to check timings for your specific booking. Note that Nantes services generally run to and from Paris Austerlitz, although one train from Nantes to Paris is rerouted to terminate at Paris Bercy.

Italian Railways will offer a French domestic high-speed *Frecciarossa* service between Paris and Lyon from April 5 (in addition to the Paris – Lyon – Milano international services which have been running since December 18). Initially a single journey will run in each direction departing Paris Gare de Lyon at 1430 and returning from Lyon Perrache at 1711. Two additional journeys in each direction are expected to start running from June 1. Full timings will be found in Table **340**.

Journeys on the Clermont Ferrand to Aurillac route are currently subject to partial bus replacement and Table **331** has been updated with the latest available timings valid until April 24. The table will be updated further in the May digital edition.

The route from Clermont Ferrand to Le Puy and Nîmes is also affected by a period of engineering work with buses partially replacing trains until June 17. Table **333** on page 197 shows the amended service until April 18 and from May 13 to June 16. A second version of Table **333** will be found on page 562 with the service from April 19 to May 12.

### SWITZERLAND

Timings of the scenic *Mont-Blanc Express* service between Chamonix and Vallorcine have been moved from Swiss Table **572** to a revamped French Table **365a** which now shows all services between St Gervais and Vallorcine, together with connecting trains between Vallorcine and Martigny. The full service between Vallorcine and Martigny (including intermediate calling points) remains in Table **572** on page 279. The extra space created on page 279 has been utilised to improve the presentation of services on the Bex – Villars – Col-de-Bretaye narrow gauge rack railway in Table **571**.

The Funicular railway between Sierre/Siders and Montana is temporarily closed until December 11 to allow essential maintenance work to be carried out. Timings of alternative bus services have been added to Table **573**.

### SPAIN

*Avant* services between Madrid and Puertollano will be running at 93 per cent of the pre-pandemic service level from April 3 (Table **660**).

*Media Distancia* services between Madrid and Jaén will be restored to pre-pandemic levels from April 4 (Table **661**).

A third *AVE* service has been introduced in each direction between Madrid and Granada (Table **678a**).

A new *Avant* service between Granada and Málaga will commence on April 4, providing the first ever direct service between the two cities (Table **673**).

An additional *Media Distancia* train pair between Madrid and Vitoria/Gasteiz has been reinstated (Table **689**).

### AUSTRIA

Independent operator *Westbahn* will extend a number of its services to München Hbf from April 8. Four through services will initially be provided to and from the Bavarian capital with a further two planned from early August. Timings have been added to Tables **890** and **950**. Readers should note that only *Westbahn* tickets are valid on these services.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

Due to engineering work taking place until November 27, most Praha – Brno trains in Table **1152** will serve Brno dolní nádraží instead of Brno hlavní nádraží (see our Brno city plan on page 31 which shows the location of both stations).

### SERBIA

After four years of closure for major upgrade work, the line between Beograd and Novi Sad reopened to rail traffic on March 20. Speeds of up to 200km/h are now permitted on this important route linking Serbia's two largest cities. The section of line from Novi Sad towards Subotica and the Hungarian border at Kelebia is due to receive a similar upgrade, and is expected to re-open to rail traffic in 2024. Until the work is complete passengers should make their own travel arrangements between Novi Sad and Subotica. Selected bus services are shown in Table **1360** which connect with rail services to and from Beograd. International Table **61** has also been updated with revised timings for the daily journey in each direction between Budapest and Beograd. Note that rail tickets are not valid on independent bus services.

### FERRIES

A new ferry operator, Holland Norway Lines, will provide a useful overnight journey option between Eemshaven (Netherlands) and Kristiansand (Norway) from April 7, sailing three times a week in each direction. Timings will be found in Table **2230**.

### BEYOND EUROPE UPDATE

On the night of March 16 an earthquake of 7.4 magnitude occurred off the coast near Fukushima in the north-east of Japan. The Tohoku Shinkansen (Tables **8015** and **8020**) was damaged leading to the suspension of services between Nasu-Shiobara (158 kilometres from Tokyo) and Morioka. On March 21 services resumed between Nasu-Shiobara and Koriyama. Services between Ichinoseki (445 kilometres from Tokyo) and Morioka resumed on March 22. The Koriyama – Sendai – Ichinoseki remains closed with services expected to resume in stages between April 2 and 20. The parallel conventional line (1067 mm gauge) had reopened on March 18 but damage to a bridge was discovered on March 21 leading to the closure of the Fukushima – Fujita section of the line. Limited Express services on the Joban Line (Table **8215**) were also suspended between Iwaki and Sendai but were expected to restart by March 24.

Thanks to members of the Vermont Rail Action Network we have received updated schedules for the Ethan Allan Express (Table **9210**), Vermonter and Valley Flyer (both Table **9220**) services, special versions of which can be found on pages 559 and 560. Of note is the introduction of a twice daily bus connection from Burlington to Albany, operated by VTransitlines, for which joint rail/bus tickets are available. The Vermont Rail Action Network write that they "expect a further update this summer when the 25 year plus project to upgrade the Vermont Rail System (VTRS) mainline from Rutland to Burlington to passenger train standards is finally completed, allowing the Ethan Allen Express to go all the way to Burlington Union Station, which will restore a service originally discontinued by the former Rutland Railroad in June of 1953 - a 59 year gap!".

### SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Table **10** (Summer): Our summer Eurostar tables have been updated with services valid until September 3.

Tables **11** and **18** (Summer): Thalys plans to run its Amsterdam – Brussels – Marseille *Thalys Soleil* on nine summer Saturdays this year. This service last ran in the summer of 2019.