

What's new this month

WELCOME

This month's edition of the European Rail Timetable includes the latest updates to Europe's rail schedules with most sections now fully updated since the mid-December timetable change.

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

Our regular travel correspondents, Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, sample a journey along the scenic narrow gauge cross-border route from Martigny (in Switzerland) to the popular French mountain resort of Chamonix. The description of their journey will be found on page 36 and the current schedules are shown in Table 572.

INTERNATIONAL

EN 301/300 Berlin Night Express will run again this year between Berlin and Malmö during the summer months and on selected dates in April and May (Table 50). On four dates the service is extended to and from Stockholm (*EN 303/302*) with the northbound service running as a day train from Berlin to Malmö (with the couchette accommodation converted to seats).

NETHERLANDS

The line from Hoek van Holland to Schiedam was temporarily closed on April 1 last year to prepare it for integration into the Rotterdam metro system. It was hoped that rail services would resume by the end of February 2018 but, due to the requirement for further testing, this is now unlikely to happen before the autumn of this year. The replacement bus service will continue to operate until the line can reopen to rail traffic (Table 497). Once testing is complete, the route through to Hoek van Holland will be operated as an extension of metro line B, with services of line A being extended as far as Vlaardingen.

ITALY

Further updates have been made to our Italy pages, and all schedules have now been rechecked and are valid until June 9, unless shown otherwise in the tables.

Many night trains are retimed and renumbered during the validity of this timetable period; variations are shown where possible but it would be wise for the traveller to check specific departure times on their preferred date of travel.

Furthermore, there is considerable disruption over the weekends of March 17, 18 and April 14, 15 affecting long distance services serving Adriatic coast destinations owing to engineering work. Most *FB* trains are diverted via Ravenna (some are cancelled) and are retimed to run up to 60 minutes later, whilst typically *IC* trains do not run on these dates, although some special services will operate over some parts of the route. Local services will not call at Faenza, Forlì and Cesena (Tables 615/630/631).

SPAIN

Owing to speed restrictions near Córdoba, *AVE* and *Alvia* services in tables 660 and 671 have been retimed by a few minutes.

Media Distancia services between Madrid and Salamanca via Ávila have been accelerated and two pairs of *Alvia* services via Segovia AV now call additionally at Medina del Campo AV (Table 679).

Another route that benefits from reduced journey times is that between Zaragoza and Barcelona via Caspe (Table 652).

Certain services between Salamanca and Valladolid have been retimed (Table 689).

A new timetable has been issued for the Lleida to La Pobla de Segur route and Table 655 has been updated accordingly.

From January 23 two *AVE* services between Madrid and València have been extended to Castelló de la Plana utilising the recently completed dual gauge section of line north of València (Table 668). A third rail has been added to enable 1435 mm gauge trains to run as well as those using the traditional 1668 mm Iberian broad gauge.

BALTIC STATES

After a gap of several years, a cross-border passenger service between Vilnius (Lithuania) and Daugavpils (Latvia) was restored from January 13, by extending the Vilnius – Turmantas service. The new trains run on Saturdays and Sundays only, with two journeys each way. These have been added to Table 1818, although continuation of the service was unconfirmed as we went to press.

RAIL PASSES

Our International Rail Pass feature has been fully updated this month and will be found on pages 563 to 565.

Apart from annual adjustments to prices, there are now seven, rather than five, price bands for the *Interrail One Country Pass*.

In Greece supplements for *IC* trains, although compulsory, are now free of charge, and Swiss private operator *Transports de Martigny et Régions (TMR)* now offers free travel to pass holders (previously only discounted).

For non-European visitors, Eurail One Country Passes are now available for both Serbia and Turkey.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers three different areas: India (from page 570), South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand (from page 582) and North America (from page 594). Please note that the Indian pages are the same as those that appeared in the January digital edition with no further updates.

All tables in the South East Asia section have been checked against the latest information available. Services in Malaysia have seen the most significant changes including various train numbers.

We recently received a request from one of our readers to add Dunedin Railways' scenic Taieri Gorge service to our New Zealand section. The schedules will be found in Table 6508.

Amtrak reissued several of its timetables in early January, some of which include changes in relation to the next series of track renewal projects in the New York Penn station area. All of our North American tables have been updated to show the latest schedules.

Brightline started running services between Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach on January 13 and timings will be found in Table 9248.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Amtrak's Joe Wenclawiak who is retiring. Over many years Joe has kept us fully informed of schedule changes enabling us to provide readers with the latest Amtrak timings.

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