

What's new this month

WELCOME

This month's edition of the European Rail Timetable includes further updates to rail and shipping schedules as we continue the process of checking our tables following the recent timetable change.

On page 608 we have printed extracts from the timetable news that appeared in last month's digital edition. This includes details of recent changes to the Interrail and Eurail pass schemes.

Next month's digital edition will include the first version of this year's Summer International Supplement with 16 pages of advance timings for selected international services valid from June 10.

AIRPORT LINKS

Murcia airport moved from San Javier to Corvera on January 15 and details of local travel to and from the new airport have been added to Table 5.

INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar has announced that a third direct service from London to Amsterdam will be introduced from June 11. The new service will depart London St Pancras at 1104 whilst the current 0814 departure will be moved to leave one hour earlier (Table 18). Readers may be interested to know that tickets are now available for purchase from this date. We have no news as yet regarding the introduction of direct services in the opposite direction from Amsterdam to London so the current requirement to change trains at Brussels remains in place until further notice.

The Zürich – Praha through sleeping cars (train number 50467/50466) will not operate from March 30 to May 9 owing to engineering work taking place between Linz and Praha (Table 52).

Lviv has been added to Table 71 so that good connections with the Berlin service 60457/60456 can be shown.

SWITZERLAND

The line between Sagliains and Scuol-Tarasp will be completely closed to rail traffic from March 11 to September 7 to enable route upgrade work to take place. During this period all services between Susch and Scuol-Tarasp will be operated by bus. We have included special versions of the affected sections within Table 545 which will be found on page 561. Please note that the car-carrying shuttle service between Klosters and Sagliains is unaffected by this work.

SPAIN

The full electric timetable on the island of Mallorca, including the reinstatement of through services between Palma and Manacor, commenced on January 8 following completion of electrification work between Enllaç and Manacor (Table 674). Please note that services no longer serve Enllaç station. All train services on Mallorca are now operated by electric traction as the separate Palma – Sóller route was electrified in 1929.

GERMANY

Planned engineering work will affect services at various locations around the country during the coming year and we have included a summary of the most significant alterations on page 369. During lengthy periods of altered timings we do endeavour to include more detail and in this edition we have provided special versions of Tables 810 and 902 during work on the high-speed line between Berlin and Wolfsburg until May 17 (pages 566 to 568). Services running north of Augsburg via Donauwörth will be amended from March 1 to June 23 and we have provided a special version of Table 905 on page 569.

Readers using services that operate via the scenic Rhine Valley route on Saturdays and Sundays until March 24 (also from approximately 2000 on weekdays until March 28) should note that diversions are in place between Koblenz and Mainz resulting in extended journey times. Please be aware that most services are retimed, certain station stops may be omitted and different train numbers may apply. Regional services via Bingen are also affected by this work with bus replacement in operation between Koblenz and Oberwesel. Readers are advised to check timings before travelling on this popular route during the work.

POLAND

Polish Railways has issued its latest timetable effective until March 9 and so timings in our own tables are also valid until this date. Readers planning journeys in Poland from March 10 are therefore advised to check timings before travelling as further amendments are likely to occur.

HUNGARY

Part of the Budapest – Hatvan line will be completely closed from February 4 for ten months for a major track upgrade. The IC trains to Miskolc and beyond in Table 1260 will start from Hatvan, with bus connections from Budapest leaving 30 minutes earlier than the previously scheduled train time. Buses will leave from the stop on Verseny utca at Budapest Keleti. The Budapest – Eger trains and other semi-fast trains in Table 1260 will have a different arrangement whereby passengers will use a local train for the 21 kilometre journey between Budapest Keleti and Pécel, transferring there for a bus to Hatvan, extending journey times by about 50 minutes. Since the changes are long-term, Table 1260 has been updated with the revised timings.

UKRAINE & BALTIC STATES

Further dates have finally been announced for the new Kyiv – Minsk – Vilnius – Riga train introduced late last year, which has been operating every six to eight days until now. Commencing on February 4 (the following day from Riga) it will now run every four days. For precise dates for the rest of the year see Table 1820.

FERRY SERVICES

Operator of the short ferry crossing between Helsingør in Denmark and Helsingborg in Sweden (Table 2345) has been renamed ForSea. Running every 15 minutes, an interesting aspect of the operation is that two of the ferries, *Tycho Brahe* and *Aurora*, now run entirely on battery power, becoming the largest emission-free ferries in the world. Batteries are recharged by connecting to special shore charging stations each time the vessels dock.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section includes the latest schedules in the following three areas: India (from page 570), South-East Asia, Australia and New Zealand (from page 582) and North America (from page 594).