

NEWSLINES

This month's edition of the European Rail Timetable includes further updates as the process of rechecking all of our tables continues following the mid-December timetable change. We intend to have all tables fully checked and updated in time for next month's Spring edition, the printed version of which will be available for dispatch from Thursday March 2.

We are aware of a number of quality issues that affected our printed Winter 2022/2023 edition for which we must apologise. Most notably, the content on certain pages was not aligned correctly meaning it was difficult to read content that was printed too close to the binding. A small number of timetables also had some uncut pages. These issues were immediately raised with our printers whose subsequent investigations identified a problem with the use of a newly installed printing press. We have been assured that these issues will not occur in future editions.

We would like to thank readers who responded to our request for feedback on the new thinner paper we are now using. Comments were generally positive but we acknowledge there are some disadvantages of the new paper. The feedback has proved useful during our ongoing discussions with regards to future paper supply.

INTERNATIONAL

More details of the merger between Thalys and Eurostar were revealed recently. Trains from both companies will have new branding applied with the Thalys brand disappearing completely. The websites, apps and loyalty schemes will also be combined. Spare Eurostar trains will be used on existing Thalys services to increase capacity.

Berlin Night Express between Berlin and Stockholm (trains **301/300**) will run daily except Saturdays from March 30 to November 6. Swedish Railways' overnight service between Stockholm and Hamburg (*EN497/496*) will be extended to Berlin from April 11 (Table 50).

Kulturzug/Pociąg do Kultury Berlin – Wrocław was suspended from January 2 and we are still awaiting confirmation of when it will start running again, possibly from April (Tables 58 and 1086).

GREAT BRITAIN

The service between Bedford and Bletchley is operated by bus until at least May 20 (Table 142a). This is due to Vivarail, the maintainers of the rolling stock used on the route, going into administration.

Tables 115 (Bristol – Taunton) and 118 (Cardiff – Bristol) have been combined to form a revised Table 115. Hopefully this will make it easier to plan journeys in the area with through journeys more clearly shown (with the use of footnotes greatly reduced).

SWITZERLAND

The Swiss *Rheintallinie* between Sargans and Rorschach will be partially operated by bus for eight months from February 27 to October 29. This is to allow major track upgrade work to take place between Buchs and Altstätten, including track doubling in certain locations. A special version of Table 534 will be found on page 561 with amended schedules during this period.

SPAIN

Having obtained the necessary documentation, Renfe (Spanish Railways) commenced driver training from January 16 on the international routes to Marseille and Lyon. Once driver training is complete, Renfe intend to start running *AVE 19725/19730* Madrid – Marseille and *AVE 10737/10742* Barcelona – Lyon as soon as possible in their previous train paths. The Marseille service will initially run four days per week departing Madrid at 1325 and returning from Marseille at 0803 the following day. The Lyon service will run Mondays to Fridays in both directions, departing Barcelona at 0822 and returning from Lyon at 1435. Both services may start running daily from late May (Tables 13 and 657).

Antequera AV station opened on January 25 following the closure of the adjacent Antequera Ciudad station the previous day. *Avant* high-speed shuttle services between Granada and Sevilla/Málaga (Table 678a), together with *AVE* services between Barcelona/Madrid and Granada (Table 660) now make additional stops at Antequera AV which has resulted in some timing adjustments. On the same date, the fourth *Avant* service between Granada and Sevilla, which was suspended at the beginning of the pandemic, was reinstated.

Additional *AVE* services commenced between Madrid and Málaga on January 23 (Table 660). The Sundays only 2030 departure from Madrid to Málaga (*AVE 2202*) and 2000 from Málaga to Madrid (*AVE 2203*) now run daily. The final *AVE* service on Fridays from Madrid to Málaga now departs later at 2130; the last Sunday departure from Málaga to Madrid has been returned to depart 78 minutes later, at 2118.

As expected, *iryo* introduced two high-speed services in each direction between Madrid and València on December 16 with two further services to be added from February 10 (Table 668). *iryo*'s Spanish network will expand further from March 31 with two services between Madrid and Sevilla and two between Madrid and Málaga with additional trains added from May 5 and May 19 (Table 660). The Madrid to Alacant route will also gain an *iryo* service from June 2 (Table 668).

NORWAY

Following on from last month's news item about problems with the operation of the new 22-kilometre double-track line between Oslo and Ski, the latest official information states that it will remain closed until further notice. However, some reports suggest that it may reopen by mid-February. We have updated the warning in Table 770 with regards to amended timings at Oslo which apply until the problem with the new infrastructure has been resolved.

GERMANY

The line between Dessau and Bitterfeld is partially closed until April 21 which affects regional services in the area. Rail replacement buses will run between Dessau and Wolfen and the amended schedules will be found in a special version of Table 848 on page 562.

A reduced service will operate on the route between Nürnberg and Bamberg from February 11 to March 31 to enable route upgrade work to take place. This will affect both long-distance and regional services with affected trains indicated in Tables 850 and 875.

The 15-kilometre section of line between Rostock and Rövershagen will be closed from March 4 to April 14 affecting journeys between Rostock and Stralsund. Our previously published special version of Table 830, which shows amended timings during the work, has been further updated with the addition of non-stop rail replacement buses between Rostock and Stralsund which connect with *IC* and *ICE* services. The amended table will be found on page 562.

POLAND

Services between Katowice and Bielsko Biala are subject to alteration from February 25 with buses replacing trains between the two stations (Table 1060).

SLOVAKIA

Schedules of local services between Bratislava and Nové Zámky have been altered with some trains withdrawn and journey times increased by up to 30 minutes (Table 1175).

HUNGARY

There are a number of minor changes from February 4 as follows:

An additional late evening service from Füzesabony (departing 2255) to Miskolc has been introduced (Table 1261).

The 0612 from Hatvan now departs earlier, at 0608 (Table 1262).

All of the hourly *IC* trains in Table 1270 once again call at Püspökladány (this station call had been reduced to one train every two hours at the December timetable change).

The frequency of the tram-train service between Szeged and Hódmezővásárhely increases to every 20 minutes at peak times on Mondays to Fridays (Table 1292).

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LITHUANIA

Work to electrify the railway between Kaišiadorys and Radviliškis will cause significant alteration to services in Table 1805 from February 6 until May. As we closed for press, revised schedules for the period were still to be confirmed but on Mondays to Saturdays there will be two return train pairs Vilnius – Klaipeda with no trains running between Kaunas and Šiauliai. Services between Klaipeda and Šiauliai will not be running all the way to Šiauliai. On Sundays, services Vilnius – Klaipeda and Kaunas – Šiauliai will run as normal. We strongly advise readers check timings locally using the website www.ltglink.lt. The next stage of electrification is planned from the autumn of 2023 when work will take place between Šiauliai and Klaipeda.

BEYOND EUROPE UPDATES

CHINA

High-speed rail services between Guangzhou and Hong Kong resumed on January 15 (Table 7105).

THAILAND

Thursday January 19 saw the opening of the new Bangkok Krung Thep Aphiwat Central Terminal station (Bangkok Revolution Central Station, formerly known as Bang Sue Grand). All long-distance trains (except those on the Eastern line and with numbers in the 200 and 300 series) will use the new station. The station is also currently served by the SRT Dark Red, Light Red and Airport Link commuter rail routes as well as a large number of bus routes, and in the future will also be served by the Don Mueang–Suvarnabhumi–U-Tapao high-speed railway and planned high-speed routes to Nong Khai, Padang Besar and Chiang Mai. We plan to show updated timings for all services in the Beyond Europe section of the Spring edition.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

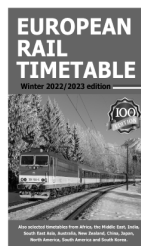
Works to restore and stabilise the railway between San Clemente and Oceanside in California (Table 9322) have been delayed due to heavy rain, with passenger services now expected to resume in March rather than February. We have been informed that Amtrak plans to restore a second daily round trip on the Cascades route between Seattle and Vancouver from March 7 (Table 9315).

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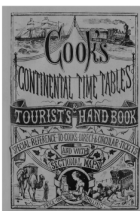


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