

What's new this month

WELCOME

Welcome to the July edition of the *European Rail Timetable* which includes the new Swedish summer timetable valid from June 29, together with updates for many other countries, most notably France, Spain and Poland.

Our list of scenic routes on page 40 has been enhanced with the addition of the relevant table numbers for the featured routes.

Robert Foster, a long-standing customer and supporter of the *European Rail Timetable*, shares some of his own thoughts on European rail travel in an occasional column which will be found on page 576.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries explore the first 58 kilometres of Brunel's classic Great Western main line from London Paddington to Reading. This route combines an esteemed history with exciting future developments as it is prepared for incorporation into the *Crossrail* system which, from 2018, will link it directly with central London and suburban routes to the east. Turn to page 35 to find out more about this historic route.

INTERNATIONAL

Significant alterations to high-speed services between France and Spain are to be made from July 6 with the Lyon, Marseille and Toulouse services all retimed. The Barcelona to Lyon service will change to a morning departure at 0720, returning from Lyon at 1430. Train **9730** from Marseille to Madrid will run approximately one hour later with the return train **9724** running approximately one hour earlier. The mid-morning *AVE* service from Barcelona to Toulouse will be retimed to depart Barcelona at 1826, while the return journey will become a morning departure from Toulouse at 0816 making a day trip from Toulouse to Barcelona feasible. Full details of all these changes will be found in Table **49**.

The Paris to Barcelona *TGV* service will be cut back to just two through services in each direction from Sept. 2. From this date the 0605 and 1320 departures from Barcelona and 1007 and 1607 departures from Paris will no longer run between Barcelona and Perpignan (although they will continue to run between Perpignan and Paris in the same timings but with a different train number).

GREAT BRITAIN

One service enhancement not mentioned last month was the increase in the number of weekday trains between Glasgow and Oban from three a day in each direction to six. This has been made possible by the recent electrification of the Cumbemauld to Springburn and Motherwell routes which has released diesel multiple units to work on the Oban line (Table **218**).

FRANCE

As reported last month the Bordeaux to Clermont Ferrand through service is due to be withdrawn between Ussel and Clermont Ferrand from July 5. It has now transpired that all other rail services are to be withdrawn between Ussel and Laqueuille from July 6 and Table **326** has been updated with revised schedules valid from this date. Only two rail services survive in each direction on the Clermont Ferrand – Laqueuille – Le Mont Dore route with all other services operated by bus. However, rail services continue to operate on the routes from Ussel to Brive and Limoges.

Services to and from Genève via Bellegarde will be severely disrupted from July 15 to August 24 in the next phase of work to improve the route between Lyon and the Swiss border. During this period cross border services will be replaced by bus between Bellegarde and Genève or, in some cases, cancelled altogether. This includes many *TGV* services between Paris and Genève, although three alternative through trains will be provided in each direction, conveyed on Lausanne services between Paris and Vallorbe (timings of these services have been added to Table **341**).

ITALY

New schedules for *Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (italotreno)* high-speed services are now available and Table **600** has been updated. Although generally there is little change to timings, notably two train pairs now serve the principal Roma station of Termini for the first time.

SPAIN

Services on the Madrid – Albacete – Alacant route have been recast, details of which will be found in Table **668**.

Train **4072/4092** Santander – Madrid – Alacant, which previously ran to a different schedule on Mondays to Fridays, now runs daily in the weekend timings (Table **684/668**).

Services between Sevilla and Cádiz (Table **671**) now benefit from faster journey times.

DENMARK

Further to the ongoing engineering work detailed last month, there are further alterations to report.

From July 14 to August 4 work to increase line capacity between Lunderskov and Vojens will require passengers to travel by bus between Fredericia and Vojens (via Kolding and Lunderskov). Trains will continue to operate between Vojens and Flensburg/Sønderborg. On Mondays a token rail service will operate until 0930. International services, including *CityNightLine 472/3*, will not run north of Flensburg, although alternative bus connections will be provided to and from Padborg, Kolding and Fredericia (Table **710**).

Engineering work in connection with the Århus light rail system affects services on the main Fredericia – Århus – Aalborg – Frederikshavn route (Tables **700/1**) from June 28 to August 17. During this period only *IC* and *Lyn* trains serve Århus, although *Lyn* services to Struer do not run and, as no *Arriva Tog* services operate between Århus and Langå, connections into Struer local services are temporarily made at Langå (Table **712**). In addition, *Arriva Tog* will not operate trains between Århus and Skanderborg (Table **713**) during the engineering work. To compound matters further, bus substitutions will be in place between Hobro and Aalborg from July 14 to August 4 resulting in extended journey times to northern Denmark.

Finally, evening services between København H and København Lufthavn are replaced by bus from June 29 to July 4 (Table **703**).

SWEDEN

As mentioned above, the Swedish section has been updated with new summer schedules valid from June 29.

Following a suggestion from a correspondent Simrishamn has been added to Table **731**.

GERMANY

Until July 27 timings and stopping patterns of services between Hamburg and Hannover are subject to alteration in the latest phase of work to upgrade this particular route. During this period many *IC* services are suspended between Hannover and Hamburg, whilst *ICE* services are diverted or make additional station stops resulting in extended journey times.

From June 15 the Zwickau portion of the Göttingen – Erfurt – Gößnitz – Glauchau regional service was withdrawn. Alternative connecting trains between Gößnitz and Zwickau have been added to Table **858**.

An amended timetable is currently in place on the Köln – Gerolstein – Trier route (Table **946**) which is valid until August 17. This route will be affected further from July 25 to August 17 when buses replace trains between Kall and Blankenheim.

Hamburg-Köln-Express and *Nord-Ostsee-Bahn* have joined forces to provide weekend through services between Köln and Westerland until October 26. Northbound services are provided on Fridays and Saturdays, whilst southbound trains run on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. These are not additional trains but simply existing services operating via Hamburg Altona using the same set of coaches. Tables **800a** and **821** have been updated to include details of these services.

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What's new this month *(continued from page 3)*

POLAND

Our tables have been fully updated and are now valid until August 31. The engineering work that had necessitated diversion of services into Warszawa Gdańska station has been completed and affected services are once again using Wschodnia and Centralna stations. Also in Warszawa, Modlin airport trains have reverted to running to and from Centralna station (Table 1030).

The Warszawa to Suwałki train (*Haricza*) will once again run through to the Lithuanian town of Seštokai from July 25 (Tables 1040/42).

CZECH REPUBLIC

Timetable amendments from June 15 have affected a number of tables. In particular, late evening IC 543 Praha to Ostrava has been cut back to Olomouc (Table 1160), and its early morning equivalent IC 542 now commences there (night train 442 has some extra stops to compensate). In the same table, *Leo Express* train 1367 from Praha to Ostrava, which runs on Fridays and Saturdays, has been brought forward an hour to 2036, whilst *Regiojet's* 2044 departure (Mondays to Thursdays) has been withdrawn, along with late evening train 1018 in the other direction.

Cross-border reopenings are few and far between, but July 5 will see Dolní Poustevna in the Czech Republic linked once again by rail with Sebnitz, less than 2 km away in Germany, for the first time since the end of the Second World War. Trains will run eight times daily from Rumburk to Bad Schandau, continuing across the border back into the Czech Republic to reach Děčín (in the times of the existing Bad Schandau - Děčín local trains). The new service has been incorporated into Table 1116.

SLOVAKIA

There have also been some amendments from June 15 to the Slovakian timetable, the highlight of which is new IC 1501/2 Šarišan running on Fridays from Bratislava to Humenné via Prešov (Table 1180), returning on Sundays. This gives a much reduced journey time compared to existing train 1505/4, which is therefore rerouted to Košice instead of Humenné. Other changes in the same table affect the days of running of certain IC trains between Bratislava and Košice: IC 501 from Bratislava at 0537 no longer runs on Sundays, whilst in the other direction IC 500 at 0520 runs only on Mondays to Fridays, IC 502 at 0919 is now daily, and IC 506 at 1719 no longer runs on Saturdays.

BEYOND EUROPE

All Indian tables in this month's Beyond Europe section have been updated with the latest available information. Travellers should be aware that India is now entering the monsoon season and this may affect certain services, especially the narrow gauge hill railways and services around Goa.

MP

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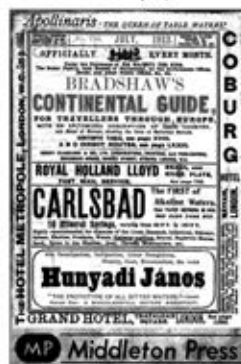
NARROW GAUGE - Overseas

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|---------------------------------------|--|---|------------------|
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| Central & Southern Spain Narrow Gauge | | Castile to Huelva | John Organ |
| Cyprus Narrow Gauge | | | John Organ |
| Darjeeling Revisited | Journey on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway | FULL COLOUR | H Ballantine |
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| Eritrean Narrow Gauge | | An amazing Reinstatement | John Organ |
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