

What's new this month

WELCOME

Welcome to the July edition of the *European Rail Timetable* which includes a number of key updates to European summer schedules, most notably in Italy and Poland. In France our Corsican table has been updated with this year's summer schedules and we are also pleased to announce that timings of the recently introduced local service between Avignon and Carpentras are now included in the French section.

Timings in Sweden are valid until August 2 and full details of the service from August 3 will appear next month.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

The European Rail Timetable's roaming travellers, Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, enjoy a ride through the scenic Ardennes region on the international route between Liège and Luxembourg, a line that is highlighted as one of the editorial team's favourite journeys in our list of European scenic rail routes (page 40). The article, which will be found on page 35, describes the dramatic nature of the route as it winds its way through a rural landscape of rivers and hills. The current schedules for the route are shown in Table 446.

TIP OF THE MONTH

One of the main advantages of rail travel has always been the ability to simply turn up and go without the need to go through lengthy check-in procedures. However, there are a small number of exceptions where it is necessary to allow extra time before boarding your intended train. Our regular Tip of the Month feature, which will be found on page 36, outlines where in Europe check-in policies currently apply.

AIRPORT LINKS

As reported last month, a new local rail route serving Helsinki Vaanta airport was due to open on July 1. Known as *Kehärata* (*Ring Rail Line*), it links two existing suburban stations, Tikkurila and Vantaankoski, forming a new loop line linking the airport with the city centre. However, please note that the new airport station will not open until July 10 and, for the first nine days of operation, there will be a free bus service linking the airport with nearby Aviapolis station.

INTERNATIONAL

Readers are reminded that there is currently considerable disruption to *Thalys* and *ICE* services between Brussels and Köln. Until August 9 services are diverted between Aachen and Köln extending journey times by approximately 60 minutes. We have included a special table on page 34 to help with journey planning during the disruption.

The timings of Russian Railways' Paris – Berlin – Warszawa – Moskva service were altered from June 20 (Table 24). Instead of its long-standing breakfast-time departure, *EN453* now leaves Paris in the evenings. The journey to Moscow thus requires two nights on board (instead of just one). In the opposite direction *EN452* is similarly adjusted with a morning arrival in the French capital. One advantage of these new timings is that, on those days when it runs, there is now an excellent overnight travel option (in both directions) between Paris and Berlin. Departures are currently twice-weekly in each direction (Thursday and Friday from Moskva, Saturday and Sunday from Paris). It is expected that the frequency will drop back to once a week from mid-September.

We have reorganised some of our tables in the International section this month. All trains previously shown in Table 49 have been amalgamated into the existing Table 13 so that all long-distance services between France and Spain are shown together in the same table. An additional connection, running Mondays to Fridays via Lille Europe and Lyon Part Dieu, has been added which allows a London to Barcelona journey to be made without the need to cross Paris (although it does require two changes of train). As part of this reorganisation, our London to Genève Table 14 has been moved to page 64 and renumbered 31.

FRANCE

In our June edition we reported on the reopening of the Toulon to Hyères branch line on June 29 following a ten month closure to allow modernisation work to take place. Tables 350b and 360 were updated with new timings, provided to us earlier this year, which featured regular hourly services to and from Marseille. However, subsequent information received has shown the service from June 29 comprises just six local services per day in each direction (with a seventh to be added from August 31). Our tables have been updated to show the current timings and we understand that a more frequent service will now be introduced from November 1.

The two local branch lines from Nantes to Pornic and St Gilles Croix de Vie were similarly closed for a ten month period and they will fully reopen to rail traffic on July 5 (Table 299).

Earlier this year a new local service was introduced between Avignon and the historic town of Carpentras. An hourly service runs for most of the day with trains serving both Avignon TGV and Centre stations. Table 351a has been adapted to show the full service.

Table 369 has been updated with this year's Corsican summer timetable which is valid from June 29 to September 6.

ITALY

Following Trenitalia schedule changes made on June 14, further updates have been made to our Italian tables. However, some details remain unconfirmed – particularly exceptions to running dates of local services – and readers are advised to check locally.

SPAIN

Further to last month's report about the new high-speed line from Venta de Baños to León via Palencia (Table 681), we now understand that the opening has been postponed until September.

Spanish Railways has introduced some additional services between Madrid and Cádiz (Table 671). *Alvia* trains 2184 and 2195 now run six days a week instead of just Fridays and Sundays, and are retimed, running non-stop between Madrid and Jerez de la Frontera. A new late morning service runs from July 27 to September 6 between Madrid and Cádiz.

Alvia trains 4181 and 4070 Gijón – Madrid – Cádiz (Tables 671 and 685) no longer run as through services, instead running as separate trains to and from Madrid. The service from Gijón now terminates at Madrid Chamartín, whilst the Madrid to Cádiz train operates from Madrid Puerta de Atocha. The same applies in the opposite direction.

Intercity trains 1391 and 1142 between Barcelona and València (Table 672) are now operated as *Talgo* services, offering both Turista and Preferente classes.

Altaria trains 224 and 225 now run non-stop between Madrid and Murcia on Fridays and Sundays respectively (Table 668a). The Fridays only *IC10146*, which precedes train 224, and the Sundays only *IC10418*, which follows train 225, now call additionally at stations no longer served by the *Altaria* trains on those days.

Alvia trains 5490 and 5581 Madrid – València – Barcelona have been withdrawn (Tables 668 and 672).

A new early morning Mondays only *Alvia* service has been introduced from Irún to Madrid Chamartín, arriving 1030 (Table 689).

PORTUGAL

Our Portuguese tables have now been fully updated with latest timings valid from June 14.

SWEDEN

Engineering work means that a reduced service will operate between Stockholm and Göteborg (via Västerås) until August 2. The section between Stockholm and Bålsta, a distance of 45 kilometres, will be replaced by bus and use the Stockholm Cityterminalen instead of Central rail station; journey times will be extended (Table 756).

From July 6 to August 9 Gävle to Mjölby services via Borlänge will operate only as far as Stållådalén (between Grängesberg and Kopparberg). Buses will replace trains onwards to Örebro, for a train forward to Hallsberg, where a final change onto another bus to Mjölby is necessary. This arrangement applies in reverse for the opposite direction and is, unsurprisingly, too complicated for us to show in the space available in Table 755.

FINLAND

Services between Kajaani and Oulu are affected by engineering work on Mondays to Fridays from July 13 to October 23. During this period certain trains are replaced by bus resulting in extended journey times. Table 798 has been updated to indicate which trains are affected by this disruption.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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

GERMANY

Most IC trains on the Karlsruhe – Frankfurt – Gießen – Kassel route are being diverted in the Frankfurt area until July 19, omitting the Frankfurt(Main) Hbf stop (Table 806). Diverted trains call additionally at Frankfurt(Main) West to compensate.

Engineering work between Köthen and Halle affects all services in the area until August 3. Long-distance services between Magdeburg and Leipzig are diverted via Dessau, not calling at Köthen and resulting in extended journey times. In addition, certain trains do not call at Halle or Leipzig/Halle Flughafen. Regional services are also disrupted with bus substitution in place between Niemberg and Halle (Table 866).

POLAND

Our tables have been fully updated and are now valid until August 30.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Track replacement on the main line east of Prague in the direction of Kolin has reached a new phase. Most of the trains which were leaving Prague earlier are now restored to their normal schedule, but there are new changes for the period July 1 to August 31. On the Praha to Brno route (Table 1150) Monday to Friday trains IC572/3 will not run, whilst in Table 1160 Monday morning SC518 and Sunday evening SC519 are withdrawn between Olomouc and Praha. SC516 is diverted and arrives Praha later at 0841. IC513 and 371 will be combined on Mondays to Fridays between Praha and Pardubice, departing at 1639. Further changes are likely between July 25 and August 7, but details had not been announced as we went to press.

HUNGARY

To add to the extensive engineering work being carried out in many parts of Hungary, Budapest Nyugati station will be closed altogether from June 22 to July 5. IC trains to Debrecen (Table 1270) will depart from the suburban station Zugló (see plan on page 29), whilst IC trains to Szeged (Table 1290) will leave from Kelenföld. Suburban trains will also be rerouted to run through Kelenföld during this period.

SLOVENIA

Readers are warned that slight amendments to schedules are possible on the routes from Ljubljana to Koper, Sežana and Rijeka following completion of work to restore overhead line equipment to one track (Table 1305).

TURKEY

There have been some alterations to timings and calling patterns of high-speed services in Turkey and Table 1570 has been updated with the latest schedules.

SHIPPING

Regina Lines' new operation between Harwich and Esbjerg, already postponed from Easter, is not now expected to commence before March 2016. As a result of this latest postponement Table 2220 has been removed for the time being.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers India with tables numbered from 5000.

Although the overall Indian timetable will not be reissued until October, there have been numerous amendments to existing schedules since India last appeared in our Beyond Europe section and the relevant tables have been updated accordingly. In addition, Table 5220 has been updated with the Konkan Railway monsoon timetable which is valid until October 31, after which most services will revert back to their original timings. A new Table 5248 has been created to show services between Madagon and Vasco Da Gama.

Following the completion of landslide repairs at Pagla Jhora the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is now fully open again for the first time in over four years, see Table 5320 for the new schedules.

PARIS - BRUSSELS - KÖLN

June 27 - August 9

train type train number notes	ICE	⇄	⇄	ICE	⇄	ICE	⇄	ICE	⇄	train type train number notes	⇄	⇄	ICE	⇄	ICE	⇄	ICE	⇄	ICE	
	11	9401	9413	15	9437	17	9461	19	9473		9412	9412	18	9424	16	9448	14	9472	9484	10
Paris Nord.....d.	...	0601	0801	...	1201	...	1601	...	1801	Frankfurt (Main) Hbf.....d.	⑦	①-⑥	...	0510g	...	0830	1829
Brussels Midi/Zuid.....a	...	0723	0923	...	1323	...	1723	...	1923	Frankfurt Flughafen +.....d.	0525g	...	0845	1843
Brussels Nord.....d.	0625	0728	0928	1025	1328	1300	1728	1825	1928	Essen Hbf.....d.	0540	0540	...	...	...	...	...	...	1728
Liège Guillemins.....d.	0633	|	|	1034	|	|	1834	|	|	Duisburg Hbf.....d.	0553	0554	...	...	...	...	...	...	1748
Aachen 𐀀.....a	0712	0814	1014	1114	1414	1350	1814	1914	2014	Düsseldorf Hbf.....d.	0610	0617	...	...	...	...	...	...	1817
Aachen 𐀁.....a	0737	0836	1036	1136	1436	1413	1836	1936	2036	Köln Hbf.....d.	|	|	0640g	...	0939	...	...	...	1939
Köln Hbf.....a	0746	0846	1046	1146	1446	1419	1846	1946	2046	Köln Hbf.....d.	|	|	0645	0743	0943	1143	1443	1543	1943	
Düsseldorf Hbf.....a	0915	1015	1215	1315	|	1615	2015	2109	|	Aachen 𐀀.....d.	0707	0712	0816	0912	1112	1312	1615	1713	1912	2115
Duisburg Hbf.....a	0920	1620	...	2128	...	Aachen 𐀁.....d.	0724	0724	0821	0924	1121	1324	1621	1724	1924	2121
Essen Hbf.....a		1558	|	...	|	2157	Liège Guillemins.....a	0749	0749	0844	0946	1144	1346	1644	1746	1946	2144
Frankfurt Flughafen +.....a	1010	...	...	...	1715z	...	2216	...	...	Brussels Nord.....a	|	...	0926	|	1226	|	1726	|	2226
Frankfurt (Main) Hbf.....a	1024	1730z	...	2230	Brussels Midi/Zuid.....d.	0832	0832	0935	1032	1235	1432	1735	1832	2032	2235
										Brussels Midi/Zuid.....d.	0837	0837	...	1037	...	1437	...	1837	2037	
										Paris Nord.....d.	0959	0959	...	1159	...	1559	...	1959	2159	

g - ① only.

z - 14-16 minutes later on ⑥⑦.

⇄ - Thalys high-speed train. 𐀀 𐀁. Special fares payable.

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