

## What's new this month

### WELCOME

This edition of the *European Rail Timetable* includes various updates to summer schedules which were not available in time to be included last month. Significant timetable changes came into force in Poland on June 12 and this section has now been fully updated with the revised timings.

Readers are reminded that, in addition to our regular printed timetable, there is now a digital version available for you to download onto your smartphone, tablet, eBook and to view on your computer. Please check our website for further information regarding this new way to obtain the European Rail Timetable ([www.europeanrailtimetable.eu](http://www.europeanrailtimetable.eu)).

### ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, our regular roving travel writers, take a ride on the weekend *Kulturzug* from Berlin to Wrocław, timings for which are shown in Table 58. Wrocław has been designated this year's European Capital of Culture and the new rail service, which features free on board entertainment, was recently introduced to help promote the Polish city's new status. This month's article will be found on page 34.

### TIP OF THE MONTH

In conjunction with the introduction of the *Kulturzug* (featured in our *Route of the Month*) a bargain €19 single fare between Berlin and Wrocław is now available, specifically for use on this service. There are a number of other bargain fares available for selected journeys from Berlin which can only be purchased locally. In our *Tip of the Month*, which will be found on page 35, Nicky and Susanne provide details of some of the ticket deals that are currently available.

### INTERNATIONAL

A new weekend service between Białystok and Kaunas has been introduced with connections available at either end to and from Warszawa and Vilnius. This new service has restored the rail link between the two capital cities and Table 93 has been expanded to show the new journey opportunities.

### GREAT BRITAIN

The Sundays only service between Blackpool and Hellfield via Clitheroe has been added to our British pages and timings are shown in Table 191. These trains usually run to and from Carlisle but will only run as far as Appleby this year due to the temporary closure of the line beyond that point.

### FRANCE

The high-speed line extension to Strasbourg is due to open on July 3 and updated timings are shown in this edition. The fastest journey time between Paris and Strasbourg will be just 1 hour 46 minutes although other journey times do vary considerably as a temporary single track section is currently in use.

It had been widely reported that most overnight trains in France would cease running early in July. However, these services appear to remain open to bookings and so it is unclear whether or not they will run during the summer period and beyond. Until the situation is confirmed we will continue to show the schedules in our tables, albeit with a warning of possible withdrawal.

Table 369 has been updated with the Corsican summer schedules which are valid until September 4.

Timings in the French section are generally valid until December 10 although there are a number of tables which are valid for a shorter period. These are clearly indicated in the applicable tables or at the top of the relevant pages.

### BELGIUM

Certain Lille – Kortrijk trains (Table 415) previously omitted calls at Roubaix and Tourcoing but from June 12 all trains on this route now serve these stations. For technical reasons these services are not currently continuing to Antwerpen so a change at Kortrijk is necessary.

### SPAIN

Table 663, which shows high-speed services between Madrid and Valladolid, has been renumbered 679a and moved below Table 679. This means all high-speed services between the two cities are now located on the same page.

The Bilbao portion of Madrid – Irún/Hendaye *Alvia* services (Table 689) has previously shared the same train number with the Irún/Hendaye part of the train. This has now changed with a dedicated train number allocated to the Bilbao portion.

Various trains between Madrid and León/Gijón will not run from July 30 to August 28 (Table 681).

### ITALY

Following Trenitalia schedule changes made from June 12, updates have been made to our Italian tables. Readers should note, however, that some details remain unconfirmed and are advised to consult local information if travelling on or around public holidays, or during August.

### GERMANY

The regional service between Braunschweig and Goslar/Bad Harzburg (operated by *erixx*) has been improved with hourly through services to both Goslar and Bad Harzburg throughout the day (Table 859). This is achieved by running most services with two portions, splitting or joining at Viernburg.

Readers travelling in Germany during the summer period (until mid-September) are reminded that engineering work will affect many long-distance services at a number of key locations around the country. It is not possible to show all variations in our tables so we have included a special shaded panel on page 367 with a summary of locations, dates and brief descriptions of how services are affected.

### POLAND

New schedules have been received and all pages updated. As usual, there are many variations throughout this latest timetable period, valid nominally until September 3, and readers would be wise to consult local information to confirm actual timings of their chosen travel date.

### HUNGARY

Tables 1220, 1225 and 1232 now show the enhanced summer service for the Balaton area valid from June 18 to August 28. Our tables also incorporate a number of amendments issued by Hungarian Railways. The line between Szerencs and Sátorajújhely is closed for reconstruction for the rest of the timetable period (until December 10) and timings of the replacement buses are shown in Table 1261.

### TURKEY

Services to and from Ankara will be severely disrupted for 18 months from July 11 to allow major upgrade work to take place on a 37 kilometre stretch of line through the Turkish capital. Arrangements during this period are still to be confirmed but it is likely that certain services will be cancelled whilst others may serve alternative stations around Ankara. Our tables will be updated in subsequent editions as revised schedules are confirmed.

### LATVIA

The Riga to Valga service (Table 1830) was recently retimed and reduced from three trains each way to two, as shown in last month's edition. However, since that edition went to press the afternoon train from Valga has been retimed two hours later to 1642, enabling an Estonian Railways' connection from Tallinn (Table 1880).

### SHIPPING

There are a number of shipping services that operate along the scenic Croatian coast and we have taken the opportunity to add the useful fast ferry service between Split and Dubrovnik (Table 2850). Operated by MB Kapetan Luka TP, the service operates from May to October with a journey time of around 4 hours 20 minutes.

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section features India and will be found on pages 558 to 569. Table 5220 is currently showing the monsoon season timings which remain valid until November.