

## What's new this month

### WELCOME

This edition of the *European Rail Timetable* includes various updates to summer schedules, some of which were not available in time for publication last month. These include updates to many of our Italian tables and the Polish section has now been updated with schedules for the summer period valid to September 2.

Railways around Europe often use the summer period to undertake essential track maintenance work and many of our news items this month concern engineering work that is currently taking place or is imminent. Readers are therefore advised to check if this type of work will affect their travel plans.

### ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Our regular travel correspondents, Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, visit the Balkan Peninsula and describe the remarkable journey from Belgrade to the Adriatic coastal town of Bar. Services along this route have been affected by engineering work for a number of months, but the line is expected to return back to normal from mid-July meaning visitors to the region can once again enjoy this delightful rail journey. The article will be found on page 34 and schedules along the route are shown in Table 1370.

### INTERNATIONAL

Engineering work in the Czech Republic will result in train 50466, the overnight service from Praha to Zürich, being suspended from August 18 to September 9 with the corresponding return train, 50467, not running from August 19 to September 10 (Table 52).

### FRANCE

One of this year's most significant European rail events takes place this month with the opening of two new high-speed lines in western France on July 2: *TGV L'Océane* between Tours and Bordeaux and *TGV Bretagne - Pays de la Loire* between Le Mans and Rennes. All relevant tables have been revised and updated to show the new timings from this date.

The overnight service between Paris and Portbou/Cerbère, which was withdrawn last December, will be reinstated from July 6 running as a portion attached to the existing Paris – Toulouse overnight service. The train will run daily during school holiday periods (including in the summer until September 3) and on Fridays and Sundays at other times. Full details will be found in our updated Tables 13, 310, 321 and 355.

### ITALY

Following Trenitalia schedule changes made from June 11, 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 holiday dates, or during August.

During the current timetable period there is a large amount of engineering work taking place throughout the country. Some of the more significant alterations are:

Services on the Catania to Siracusa line will be operated by bus until September 10 (Table 641).

Trains on the Torino/Milano – Genova – Pisa – Roma axis are retimed and renumbered between July 29 and August 13 and also from September 10 to November 4. This will particularly affect night services, which may be diverted with multiple changes to schedules (Tables 610 and 611).

There are diversions and consequent retiming and renumbering of trains during the peak summer affecting Bologna – Roma services (Table 620).

Most long distance Milano – Bologna – Ancona Adriatic coast services do not run on September 23, 24 (Tables 630 and 631).

The Ligurian coast route is closed between Ventimiglia and Taggia Arma during the period December 2 – 6 (Table 580).

### SPAIN

Spanish Railways is planning to introduce direct *AVE* services between Madrid and Castelló de la Plana via València later this year and, from July 4, will make various alterations on this and the Madrid to Alacant route (Table 668).

There are up to six services between Madrid and Cádiz during the high summer period and these have been added to Table 671.

### SWEDEN

Services from København operated by Øresundståg (*Øtåg*) have been reinstated as through services, eradicating the requirement for passengers to change trains en route at København Airport station in order for identity checks to be carried out. This includes journeys via Malmö to Göteborg (Table 735), Karlskrona (Table 745) and Kalmar (Table 746). Although our tables have been updated to reflect this, readers should be aware that engineering work in both Denmark and Sweden may affect actual daily schedules.

### NORWAY

From June 18 to August 12 engineering work is taking place between Moi and Stavanger affecting all rail services. During this period buses replace trains over the affected section (including local services between Egersund and Stavanger). Journey times are extended by up to 20 minutes with many departures earlier than usual, so please allow extra time for your journey.

### FINLAND

Engineering work is currently affecting services on the Tampere to Pieksämäki route (Table 795). Until August 3 buses replace trains for all or part of the journey and, where trains do run, a different train number may apply.

### GERMANY

Engineering work between Eberbach and Mosbach-Neckarelz will affect services in the area until the mid-December timetable change. Most services via Eberbach have been retimed and Tables 923/924 have been updated with the revised schedules.

Many long-distance journeys are affected by projects to upgrade the network at various locations around Germany, particularly during the summer months. Unfortunately it is not possible for us to show all variations in the German tables, but we do include a summary of the most significant changes in a special panel on page 367. Readers travelling in Germany are advised to consult this panel to see if their journey may be affected. Please note that this list is not exhaustive and other alterations may occur, predominantly at weekends and during holiday periods.

### AUSTRIA

Services on the Stockerau – Retz – Znojmo route (Table 983) will run to an amended timetable from July 15 to August 10. During this period all trains are replaced by bus with journey times extended by up to 40 minutes, often resulting in earlier departures.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

Due to trackwork between Praha Masarykovo and Bubny from July 4 to December 9, trains to Kladno and Rakovník (Table 1105) will start and finish at a temporary station called Praha Bubny Vltavská. Access is from Vltavská metro station, or tram 14 from Masarykovo (rail tickets are valid).

As previously mentioned (and further explained in Table 1150) Praha – Brno – Břeclav trains are serving Brno dolní nádraží rather than Brno hlavní from June 3 to September 10. Passengers can use replacement bus 60/61 between the stations. A further complication is that Praha – Brno trains via Havlíčkův Brod (Table 1151) will be by bus between Křižanov and Brno hlavní from July 1 to August 31, but from September 1 to 10 will revert to terminating at Brno Královo Pole, with onward travel to Brno hlavní available by tram replacement service P6.

### POLAND

New schedules have been received and all pages fully updated. As usual, there are many variations during this latest timetable period, valid nominally until September 2, and readers would be wise to consult local information to confirm timings on their actual travel date.

Between mid-July and mid-August, part of the *Centralna Magistrala Kolejowa* will be closed for engineering work meaning services between Warszawa and Kraków will be diverted via various routes with extended journey times (Table 1065).

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

### HUNGARY

Engineering work between Püspökladány and Biharkeresztes (Table 1275) is expected to run from July 1 to October 31, affecting international trains from Budapest to Cluj Napoca and beyond. Trains 366/7 *Corona* and 406/7 *Hargita* will be diverted via Debrecen and the temporary timings are shown on page 567. Train 362/3 *Ady Endre* will be suspended during this period.

### SERBIA, MONTENEGRO and BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Until completion of work between Beograd and Lajkovac scheduled for July 14, a night service will operate between Beograd and Bar via Lapovo. From July 15, the *Lovćen* will recommence via its normal, more direct, route (Tables 1370, 1372 and 1375).

Štrpci, the only station in Bosnia-Herzegovina on the Belgrade to Bar line, has been added to Table 1370. The station is featured in this edition's *Route of the Month* (on page 34) which describes various aspects of this interesting route to the Adriatic coast.

### BULGARIA and GREECE

The daily international service between Sofia and Thessaloniki is currently operated by bus over the cross-border section between Kulata and Strimón (Table 1560). This arrangement applies in both directions and will remain in place until further notice. Overall timings are not expected to be affected.

### UKRAINE

Our news this month concerns recent changes to city names: Dniprodzerzhynsk has become Kamianske, Krasnoarmiisk is now Pokrovsk, and Kirovohrad has been renamed Kropyvnytskyi. Tables 1780 and 1785 have been updated accordingly. Dnipropetrovsk is now officially called Dnipro, but Ukraine Railways is still using the old name so we will follow suit for now.

### LITHUANIA

Due to construction work in connection with the upgraded Vilnius bypass line, many trains will be cancelled or retimed between July 10 and September 10. In particular, a reduced service will operate on the Vilnius – Kaunas and Vilnius – Trakai lines (Tables 1811 and 1815).

Vilnius Airport will be closed from July 14 to August 17 for runway reconstruction, and during this period the rail service to the airport (Table 1812) will be suspended. Most flights will be diverted to Kaunas Airport.

### RUSSIA and KAZAKHSTAN

A new timetable in Kazakhstan from June 1 saw the opening of an impressive new station in the capital city Astana, known as Nurlı Zhol. Built on a greenfield development site in the south-east of the city, it is nevertheless slightly closer to the central business district than the old station, which is now shown as Astana 1 in our tables. The new station is also adjacent to the site of EXPO 2017, which runs until September 10. Many trains which used to serve the old station are instead diverted to Nurlı Zhol, as shown in Table 1980.

The through Moskva – Saratov – Almaty train (Table 1975) was withdrawn at the same time, and replaced by a Saratov – Almaty train numbered 8 *KH* from Saratov and 7 *RJ* from Almaty. On the subject of train numbers, the letters which follow the numbers to identify specific trains are now shown with their cyrillic equivalents in the panel on page 532, which may assist some readers when making bookings.

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers India and will be found at the back of the timetable, from page 568.

All services have been checked against the latest available information and we can report no major changes in most of our tables. The main exception is Table 5220 which now shows the Monsoon season timings which are valid until October 31.

We have added two stations this month: Bhuj (Table 5140) and Patna (Table 5180). We have also added a few more stations to the Indian map to aid journey planning.



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