

What's new this month

WELCOME

This month's edition of the European Rail Timetable includes further updates following the summer timetable change on June 10. Changes in Italy were not received in time for inclusion in the Summer edition, but our Italian pages have now been fully updated.

INTERNATIONAL

Leo Express has announced that its new service between Praha and Kraków will commence on July 20 from Praha, with the first departure from Kraków running the following day. The service is formed by extending train **1361** Praha – Bohumin on Fridays and Sundays with train **1356** returning from Kraków on Saturdays and Mondays (Table **99**).

Thalys trains **9994** and **9993** Amsterdam – Brussels – Lille will no longer run between Brussels and Lille from September 2 (Table **18**).

GREAT BRITAIN

Two major infrastructure upgrade projects are taking place this summer causing some travel disruption in the areas concerned.

Until July 29 only a limited number of local trains are running to and from Liverpool Lime Street station with all long distance and many other local trains only running as far as Liverpool South Parkway or Huyton stations. Local rail connections or bus replacement services ensure journeys to and from central Liverpool can be completed.

From July 23 to October 7 East Midlands Trains and Cross Country services via Derby will be affected by major track and resignalling work taking place in the Derby station area.

Further details on how services are affected during these works will be found on page 117.

FRANCE

Corsican table **369** has been fully updated to show summer schedules valid from July 2 to September 2. Many services have been retimed compared to last year's summer season timetable.

BELGIUM

Minor timetable changes from June 10 include an additional journey from Antwerpen to Brussels Airport at 0717 on Mondays to Fridays (Table **420**). Local cross-border journeys from Antwerpen to Roosendaal (Table **419**) now require a change of train at Essen.

SWITZERLAND

From July 7 to August 26 major engineering work is taking place on the main-line between Lausanne and Palézieux with part of the route completely closed to rail traffic. This is a key section of line on the Swiss rail network and will affect all journeys between Lausanne and Bern. During this period there will be no direct *IC* or *IR* services from or to Lausanne via Fribourg. However, a regional shuttle service will operate every 30 minutes Genève – Lausanne – Palézieux – Fribourg running via Vevey (where the train has to reverse) to avoid the closed section of line. Passengers travelling between Bern and Lausanne/Genève are advised to travel via Biel/Bienne or Neuchâtel, whilst direct journeys to and from Zürich are still possible using existing services via Biel/Bienne. Purely local journeys will be operated by bus. Readers intending to travel in this area should be aware that journey times may be extended by up to 40 minutes, although most journeys east of Fribourg will run as normal.

ITALY

Our Italian pages have now been updated to include schedule changes made from June 10. There are several infrastructure projects taking place at various locations around the country which may disrupt journeys during the current timetable period. The most significant alterations are summarised below.

Services in northern Sardinia will be disrupted during September, October and November with bus replacement services operating at various times (Table **629**).

Rail services between Foggia and Potenza are suspended from July 1 to September 2 (also on September 9) with replacement bus services being provided (Table **632**). Services between Taranto and Catanzaro are also operated by bus until September 10 (Table **637**).

On the island of Sicily, the main line between Catania and Siracusa will be closed from September 10 to 30 with bus replacement services in operation (Table **641**). In addition, there will be no rail services between Caltanissetta Centrale and Catania Centrale from August 19 to September 30 (Table **645**).

SPAIN

Services between León and Gijón have had journey times extended owing to the imposition of speed restrictions at certain locations along the route (Table **685**).

EVA and DAMAS, the joint operators of the international bus service between Sevilla and Lagos via Faro, have issued a new summer timetable from July 1 and Table **676** has been updated accordingly.

GERMANY

The regional route linking Chemnitz and Aue (Table **883**) was originally due to close from June 30 for an extended period so that major upgrade work could take place. However, the start of this work has now been postponed until September 15 meaning rail services will continue to run as normal until then.

As reported last month, there are numerous projects to upgrade railway infrastructure currently underway or planned during the current timetable period which will cause disruption at various locations. A summary of the most significant alterations will be found at the start of the German section on page 369, although readers should be aware that this list is not exhaustive and it is always advisable to check timings before travelling in Germany, particularly at weekends and during holiday periods.

SLOVAKIA

Additional summer journeys have been added to the metre gauge railways in the Tatra Mountains area, including the rack line from Štrbské Pleso to Štrba. The revised timings are shown in Table **1182**.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Last month we reported on the expected start of a new overnight service between Sarajevo and Bihać from July 1 but we have still not received confirmed timings.

SERBIA

Beograd's main terminal station closed on June 30 with most services transferring to the modern Beograd Centar station (known locally as Prokop). Schedules of some local services from July 1 had not been confirmed as we went to press with this edition, so we advise travellers in the area to check timings locally. Please note that long-distance trains **1137/1136 Panonija** Subotica – Bar, **431/430 Tara** Beograd – Bar and **433/432 Lovćen** Beograd – Bar have been retimed, with trains **431/430** and **433/432** diverted to serve Beograd Topčider station (which can be reached using tram route 3).

TURKEY

The three overnight express trains between Ankara and eastern Turkey once again serve Ankara's main station after a two year period of bus substitution between Ankara and Irmak (Table **1575**).

The once a week international service between Van and the Iranian city of Tabriz has been reinstated (Table **1575**).

An additional service has been provided between Malatya and Elâzığ with a morning departure from Malatya and an evening return journey from Elâzığ (Table **1583**). This new service supplements the existing Adana – Elâzığ express train which also runs between these points.

UKRAINE

The recently retimed Chisinau – Odesa train **642** (Table **1720**) now runs additionally on Thursdays as well as Fridays to Sundays.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers India and will be found at the back of this edition from page 570. Please note that Table **5220** shows the expected Monsoon season timings.