

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 9. In particular, the Italian section has now been fully updated with the latest schedules.

INTERNATIONAL

High-speed services between France and Spain are affected by engineering work on certain dates from October 25 to November 10. Most notably, on October 26 and November 2 all of these services are cancelled completely (Table 13).

Weekly train **24/23 Trans-European Express** Paris – Berlin – Moskva is curtailed to run only between Berlin and Moskva from September 5 to October 24 (Tables 24 and 56).

GREAT BRITAIN

Despite not being shown in data provided to us by National Rail, it has been confirmed that the through service from London St Pancras to Scarborough will once again run on summer Saturdays, this year until September 7. It is an extension of the 0633 London St Pancras to York service which arrives Scarborough at 1110. The return train departs at 1703, arriving London St Pancras at 2110. Our Tables 170 and 188 have been updated accordingly.

FRANCE

Details of revised schedules during the four month closure of the line between Gardanne and Meyrargues (either side of Aix en Provence) are now available and Table 362 has been updated accordingly. The work is being carried out from July 1 to November 3 and during this period only a limited rail service is running between Briançon/Gap and Meyrargues with suitable bus connections provided to and from Aix en Provence and Marseille. These trains are supplemented by additional long-distance bus services, running direct between Gap and Marseille. Local services between Aix en Provence and Marseille are operated by bus on the section between Aix and Gardanne.

SWITZERLAND

One important piece of news we missed last month was the start of an 18 month closure, from June 9, of the important section of line between Zug and Arth-Goldau to allow major route upgrade work to take place. During the closure all services between Zürich and Arth-Goldau are diverted via Rotkreuz resulting in some amended timings and extended journey times. Tables 82 and 550 have now been fully updated with the revised schedules.

Engineering work taking place between Luzern and Sursee will affect services on the key Luzern – Basel route from July 6 to August 18 (Tables 550 and 565). Amended timings apply during this period with fewer trains operating. In addition, EC trains to and from Basel are rerouted and so do not serve Luzern.

SPAIN

Three direct high-speed AVE services were introduced between Madrid and Granada from June 26 together with a direct Barcelona to Granada train which bypasses Madrid (Table 678a). As expected, the direct Talgo service between Madrid and Granada via Linares-Baeza (Table 661) was withdrawn from the same date. Services between Barcelona and Malaga have also been recast.

Engineering work has been completed between Madrid and Talavera de la Reina resulting in reduced journey times between Madrid and Cáceres from July 1 (Table 677).

From June 24, three AVE services between Madrid and Málaga will no longer stop at Antequera-Santa Ana resulting in shorter journey times between the two cities (Table 660).

Owing to engineering work taking place from July 9 to October 4, buses will replace trains between Zaragoza and València, a journey of over 350 kilometres! A special version of Table 670 will be found on page 332.

The international coach service between Sevilla and Lagos now serves Portimão's new long-distance bus station located on Rua da Abicada (Table 676).

In order to make better use of the space available, the former Table 655 (Lleida – La Pobla de Segur) has been moved to page 324 and renumbered 653, whilst the former Table 653 (Zaragoza – Irún and Bilbao) has been expanded and renumbered 654.

PORTUGAL

A number of timetable alterations took place at short notice from June 9, with further changes to certain local trains from June 23. Amongst the changes are the retiming of the 1330 Lisboa – Guarda IC train to run one hour earlier (Tables 690/692), whilst the last Lisboa – Porto train of the day, IC529, now leaves 30 minutes later at 2200. Other changes mainly affect Lisboa – Faro trains and local services in the Algarve area (Tables 697 and 697a).

DENMARK

Lyn services from and to København are expected to start using the recently opened high-speed line between København and Ringsted from July 8 (Table 700). Services will run in current timings except they will no longer call at Høje Taastrup. Please note, however, that many services between København and Odense are completely retimed until August 4 owing to engineering work.

BULGARIA/TURKEY

The new international Plovdiv – Edirne service mentioned last month was withdrawn after just one weekend, possibly due to lower than expected passenger numbers. There are suggestions that it may be reinstated at a later date, perhaps running between Sofia and Edirne.

TURKEY/IRAN

Raja Passenger Train Company (Iranian Railways) has replaced the weekly Van – Tabriz train with a new direct service between Van and Tehran. The train, which conveys 4-berth sleeping cars, leaves the Iranian capital Monday mornings, returning from Van on Tuesday evenings. Confirmed timings have been added to Table 1575. The previous direct service between Tehran and Turkey last ran in 2015.

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 valid until October 31.

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