

What's new this month

WELCOME

Welcome to the June edition of the *European Rail Timetable* which, for most countries, includes updated schedules for the summer timetable period valid until December 12. The main exception is in Sweden where current timings are valid until August 2.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Finland is featured for the first time in our *Route of the Month* series as Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, editors of *hidden europe* magazine, join train **IC928** at Oulu and remain on board through to its final destination, Turku satama, a journey of over ten hours. This train, which uses a rather circuitous route via Kajaani and Kuopio, is a great way to spend a day sampling some of the wonderful rural landscapes Finland has to offer. The article, *A Finnish diversion*, will be found on page 35 and timings for trains using this route are shown in Tables **795** and **798**.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Our regular Tip of the Month feature, which will be found on page 36, reveals the identity of a number of trains that operate with carriages well away from their usual territory. This can often make it possible to sample the alternative fare on offer in restaurant cars belonging to railways of neighbouring countries.

AIRPORT LINKS

We understand a new local rail route, known as *Kehärata (Ring Rail Line)*, is due to open on July 1 linking Helsinki Vantaa airport with the existing Tikkurila station, where travellers will be able to transfer to main-line rail services. This will replace the current bus link and we hope to provide further details in the July edition.

INTERNATIONAL

From June 27 to August 9 there will be major disruption to *Thalys* and *ICE* services between Brussels and Köln. During this period services will be 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.

Train **116/115**, which previously provided a daily link between Minsk and Warszawa, now runs just twice a week (Table **94**).

Train **21/22 Vltava** from Moskva to Praha and Wien runs twice a week in the summer, reverting to once a week for the rest of the year. In the summer months there is also a weekly portion to and from Budapest. The through coaches from St Peterburg to Praha and Wien continue to run on a weekly basis but their days of running have changed, as shown in Table **95**.

Following the withdrawal last December of train **16/15 Tisza** Moskva – Beograd (Table **97**), together with the Bratislava portion shown in Table **96**, and train **60/59 Moskva** – Sofia in Table **98**, we decided to retain the tables in the hope that the services would resume in the summer. Unfortunately they do not appear in the new Russian Railways summer timetable and have now been removed from our tables.

GREAT BRITAIN

To make room for routes with enhanced service levels together with brand new routes soon to be introduced, we have recast and renumbered some of our tables, mainly those involving cross-country services.

The Bodmin Parkway to Padstow bus route (Table **118**) is now operated by Plymouth City Bus (service 75) following the demise of Western Greyhound.

Chiltern Railways are now expecting to start running direct services between London Marylebone and Oxford Parkway from October 25 (Table **128**).

Additional trains now operate between Nottingham and Newark Castle on Mondays to Fridays (Table **186**).

ScotRail are planning to introduce services along the new Borders Railway between Edinburgh and Tweedbank from September 7 and timings are shown in Table **221**.

IRELAND

Iarnród Éireann have introduced a non-stop train from Cork to Dublin. It departs Cork at 0615 and takes just 2 hours and 15 minutes to complete the journey. Minor changes have been made to certain other services to accommodate this new train (Table **245**).

FRANCE

Rail services will return to Hyères from June 29 following a ten month closure of the branch line to enable modernisation work to take place. From this date Hyères will benefit from a much improved service with trains running hourly to and from Marseille for most of the day (Table **350b**).

ITALY

New schedules come into effect from June 14. Only partial information was available for Trenitalia services as we went to press, but all trains shown in our tables with a train number have been checked and amended where necessary, although timings around holiday dates should be verified locally. Minor alterations to local services are expected and will be shown in subsequent editions.

However, the *italo* high-speed services of Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (NTV) have been fully updated. Of note, NTV will no longer serve Roma Ostiense station from the start of the new summer timetable (Table **600**).

SPAIN

Further to last month's news regarding the opening of the high-speed line between Santiago de Compostela and Vigo, it is worth noting that additional connections between Vigo and Ourense can be made by changing trains at Santiago de Compostela (Table **680**).

We understand that the new high-speed line from Venta de Baños to León via Palencia may open at some point in June with an initial service comprising two pairs of *AVE* trains between Madrid and León (Table **681**).

The engineering work we reported on last month between Antequera - Santa Ana and Granada, is now expected to continue until January 2016 (Tables **660** and **673**).

DENMARK

The current programme of engineering work will affect several routes over the summer months, with possible disruption and bus substitution.

Work between Odense and Fredericia will affect services from and to København all summer. During this time passengers may encounter a reduced service frequency, and in the evenings it will be necessary to change trains at Fredericia on all Esbjerg, Sønderborg, Padborg and Flensburg services (Tables **700**, **705** and **710**).

SWEDEN

Engineering work means that a reduced service will operate between Stockholm and Göteborg via Västerås from June 28 to August 2. Services 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**).

NORWAY

The line between Egersund and Stavanger (Table **775**) will be affected by engineering work from June 13 to July 20 with all trains replaced by bus between Bryne (located 45 kilometres west of Egersund) and Stavanger. During this period, journeys to and from Stavanger will take up to 30 minutes longer than usual.

GERMANY

Journey times between Bielefeld and Paderborn have been reduced by up to 14 minutes from June 14 following completion of work to upgrade the route which is operated by Nord WestBahn (Table **811**).

The latest phase of work to upgrade the line between München and Ingolstadt, which started on March 29, will continue until August 23. Amended schedules for both long-distance and regional trains will remain in place until this date (Tables **904** and **905**).

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

GERMANY

Most IC trains on the Karlsruhe – Frankfurt – Gießen – Kassel route are diverted in the Frankfurt area from June 6 to July 19, omitting the Frankfurt (Main) Hbf stop (Table 806). Diverted trains call additionally at Frankfurt (Main) West to compensate.

Work on the line between Köthen and Halle from June 8 to August 3 will affect all services in the area. IC and ICE services between Magdeburg and Leipzig are diverted via Dessau, not calling at Köthen and resulting in extended journey times. In addition, certain trains will not call at Halle or Leipzig/Halle Flughafen. Regional services are also disrupted with bus substitution in place between Niemberg and Halle (Table 866).

The disruption affecting ICE and Thalys services between Aachen and Köln from June 27 to August 9 will also affect regional trains on the same route (Tables 802 and 807).

Journeys to and from Berlin will be subject to alteration from August 29 to November 23 when the Stadtbahn route between Berlin Zoo and Berlin Ostbahnhof will be temporarily closed to all main-line traffic. Many trains will be rerouted via the low level platforms at Berlin Hbf or diverted to serve Berlin Gesundbrunnen instead. Some cross-city regional services will simply not run between Zoo and Ostbahnhof stations with other timings largely unaltered. It will still be possible to make journeys along the route as S-Bahn services will continue to operate during this period.

Short-term disruption on other routes is also possible and readers are advised to check timings locally before travelling, especially at weekends and during holiday periods.

POLAND

Retimings are expected from June 14, but unfortunately information was not available as we went to press. We hope to show updated tables next month.

CZECH REPUBLIC

From June 14 train IC514, which runs on Mondays to Fridays from Bohumin to Praha, will instead start from Opava východ at 0555, joining its original route at Ostrava Svinov. The return working from Praha will be IC513 at 1639. As a result, Ostrava hlavní will no longer be served by this pair of trains.

In Table 1122 the Cheb to Plauen service of four trains each way operated by Vogtlandbahn has been recast.

SLOVAKIA

Private operator Regiojet is introducing two new trains which will run overnight on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from June 14, as shown in Table 1180. One will run between Praha and Košice and the other between Bratislava and Košice, further increasing competition on these routes. Although the accommodation is in regular seats, the operator is providing blankets and free breakfast.

The Tatra narrow gauge railway (Table 1182) is providing a number of additional departures during the summer, whilst there are also a handful of minor amendments from June 14 affecting local trains operated by Slovak Railways.

HUNGARY

Services in the Lake Balaton area will be increased as usual during the high-summer period, which this year is from June 20 to August 30. Details are shown in the relevant tables.

ALBANIA

Just as we were closing for press, information was received that the new station at Kashar near Tiranë is now open. Seven train pairs operate between Durrës and Kashar, three being through services from Librazhd, Elbasan and Vlorë. Bus connections operate between Kashar and central Tiranë. There are also other minor timetable amendments (Table 1390).

ROMANIA

As is usual in the summer, CFR Călători will operate several long-distance trains from all corners of the country to the Black Sea coast. These are shown in our tables where necessary, but particularly affect the București – Constanța – Mangalia route (Table 1680).

LITHUANIA

The Vilnius – Daugavpils – St Peterburg service (92/91) has been withdrawn, but train 38/37 continues to run between Riga and St Peterburg (Table 1820).

ESTONIA

Further to last month's report, services between Tallinn and St Peterburg/Moskva have now been withdrawn ending 65 years of direct trains between Estonia and Russia (Table 1870).

RUSSIA

A feature of the new Russian timetable from June 1 is the introduction of new high-speed Strizh (Swift) trains on the Moskva to Nizhni Novgorod route (Table 1990). The new trains are built by Talgo, and replace the Sapsan high-speed trains, which are now concentrated on the Moskva to St Peterburg service (Table 1900).

The principal train on the Trans-Siberian route (Table 1990), the Moskva – Vladivostok Rossija, will leave Moskva 30 minutes earlier at 1320. A new complication in this table is that Mongolia has introduced daylight saving time this year, meaning that timings in Mongolia will be one hour later in summer, as shown in footnotes.

Overnight trains 32/31 Lev Tolstoi between Moskva and Helsinki will not run on Saturdays from September 5 (Tables 1900 and 1910).

The new Russian timetable has fewer changes than usual this year, but for the first time a major timetable change is planned from December 13, in line with most of Europe.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers Africa and the Middle East with tables numbered 4000 upwards.

Services in Namibia, shown in Table 4390, have been completely recast and we are now able to include the service to Oshikango on the Angolan border.

South African rail operator Shosholoza Meyl has reinstated most services that were withdrawn earlier this year (Table 4400).

In Morocco, the service to Casablanca Airport now operates from Casablanca Port, no longer serving Ain Sebaa (Table 4000).

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.	0633	...	1034	...	1328 1300	1728	1825	1928	Essen Hbf.....d.	0540	0540	...	...	...	...	1728	...
Liège Guillemins.....d.	0712	0814 1014 1114	1414	1350	1814	1914	2014	Duisburg Hbf.....d.	0553	0554	...	...	...	...	...	1748	...
Aachen 𠂆.....d.	0737	0836 1036 1136	1436	1413	1836	1936	2036	Düsseldorf Hbf.....d.	0610	0617	...	...	...	...	...	1817	...
Aachen 𠂇.....d.	0746	0846 1046 1146	1446	1419	1846	1946	2046	Köln Hbf.....d.	...	...	0640g	0939	...	...	...	1939	...
Köln Hbf.....d.	0920	...	...	1620	...	2128	...	Köln Hbf.....d.	...	...	0645 0743 0943	1143 1443 1543	1943	...	...	...	...
Düsseldorf Hbf.....a.	...	...	1558	...	...	2157	...	Aachen 𠂆.....d.	0707	0712	0816 0912 1112	1312 1615 1713 1912	2115	...	...	...	...
Duisburg Hbf.....a.	...	...	1615	...	...	2214	...	Aachen 𠂇.....d.	0724	0724	0821 0924 1121	1324 1621 1724 1924 2121	...	...	...	...	...
Essen Hbf.....a.	...	...	1633	...	...	2232	...	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.....a.	0832	0832	0935 1032 1235	1432 1735 1832 2032	2235	...	...	...	...
								Brussels Midi/Zuid.....a.	0837	0837	...	1037	...	1437	...	1837 2037	...
								Paris Nord.....a.	0959	0959	...	1159	...	1559	...	1959 2159	...

g - ① only.

z - 14-16 minutes later on ⑦.

⇄ - Thalys high-speed train. 𠂆 𠂇. Special fares payable.