

## What's new this month

### WELCOME

Welcome to the Summer 2019 edition of the European Rail Timetable which includes updated schedules for most countries valid until December 14. The main exceptions are in Italy and Poland where only partial information was available as we went to press.

This expanded edition also includes the latest versions of all eight Beyond Europe sections together with our *Rail Extra* feature with 13 pages of useful transport based information presented on a country by country basis (including details of many popular tourist railways). Our regular Rail Passes feature is also expanded to seven pages with details of many domestic rail passes as well as Interrail and Eurail products.

Extracts from our timetable news page that appeared in the May digital edition will be found on page 559.

### INTERNATIONAL

Thalys has introduced a new non-stop service between Brussels and Bordeaux on summer Saturdays with a journey time of just over four hours (Table 11).

Eurostar is operating a third service from London to Amsterdam from June 11, leaving London at 1104, whilst the 0816 departure moves one hour earlier to 0716 from the same date (Table 18). We are still awaiting news regarding the implementation of border formalities within the Netherlands which must be in place to allow direct services to run in the opposite direction. It is hoped that these will start in December this year.

Train **301/300 Berlin Night Express** Berlin – Malmö runs on three days a week during the summer (Table 50).

Railjet service **571/570 Praha – Břeclav** has been extended to and from Bratislava and renumbered **285/284**. Train **RJ285** now provides a useful connection at Praha with train **EC177** for journeys from Hamburg and Berlin to Bratislava (Table 60).

Train **1335/1334 Hellas** runs between Beograd and Thessaloníki from June 14 to September 16 but passengers are conveyed by bus between Gevgelija and Thessaloníki (Table 61).

The extension of certain WestBahn services to and from München, originally planned to commence in April, has now been delayed until later in the year, probably during the autumn (Table 65).

The twice weekly Leo Express train **401/400 Praha – Kraków** runs daily from June 29 (Table 99).

### GREAT BRITAIN

South Western Railway has added several extra services between London Waterloo and Yeovil together with an additional train to and from Bristol on weekdays (Tables 108 and 140). The popular Saturdays only through train between London and Corfe Castle on the Swanage railway operates once again this year until September 7 (Table 114a).

Great Western has added additional local services between Plymouth and Penzance on Mondays to Saturdays (Table 112).

Cross Country has extended three of its services between Manchester and Bristol to run to/from Exeter on Mondays to Fridays (Table 116).

Chiltern Railways has provided additional through trains between London and Stratford-upon-Avon by extending certain services that previously only ran as far as Banbury (Table 128a).

The pattern of suburban services operated by West Midlands Trains along the West Coast Main Line has been completely recast. There are now five basic routes operating on weekdays as follows:

- 1) London to Crewe via Nuneaton (no longer running via Stoke)
- 2) London to Crewe via Northampton, Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent
- 3) London to Liverpool via Northampton and Birmingham
- 4) London to Birmingham via Northampton
- 5) Birmingham International to Liverpool

An amended pattern runs on Sundays with the London to Birmingham and Birmingham to Liverpool sections running separately. Our Tables 142, 143 and 144 have been adapted to reflect the new service pattern.

The service between Llandudno and Blaenau Ffestiniog is currently suspended owing to recent flood damage. A replacement bus service is provided until further notice, operating in similar timings (Table 160).

Transport for Wales has introduced a new hourly service between Chester and Liverpool via Runcorn utilising a previously freight only chord of track between Frodsham and Runcorn (Table 163).

There are numerous alterations to services operated by Northern. All trains between Manchester and Blackpool are now routed via Bolton (Table 156) whilst the increased number of through services between Manchester and Windermere/Barrow-in-Furness operate via Wigan (Table 158). A number of routes benefit from enhanced frequencies including Leeds to Harrogate (Table 175), Hull to Scarborough (Table 177) and Newcastle to Carlisle (Table 210). Gainsborough Central has also gained a regular weekday service to and from Sheffield for the first time in over 30 years (Table 178). A new direct service between Leeds and Chester has been introduced by extending certain services on the Leeds – Bradford – Halifax – Manchester Victoria route (Table 190).

Greater Anglia has introduced two additional services in each direction between Norwich and London on Mondays to Saturdays (Table 200). These new services complete the journey in just 90 minutes (with only one intermediate stop at Ipswich) which is the fastest ever scheduled timing between Norwich and London. The previous best was an ambitious 92 minute northbound schedule in 1992 but over subsequent years this has been gradually extended as the Great Eastern route has become more congested. However, by tweaking the schedules of certain suburban services and taking advantage of recent route upgrades, the new faster trains can now be reliably operated and other services should also benefit from journey time reductions in the near future as brand new rolling stock is introduced.

Following completion of electrification work in Scotland, Scotrail has been able to reduce journey times of services between Edinburgh and Glasgow via Falkirk High (Table 220) and between Edinburgh and Stirling (Table 224).

Readers planning to use the route between Aberdeen and Inverness should note that an amended timetable will be in force until August 19 with partial bus replacement in operation (Table 225).

### FRANCE

Timings in our French section are generally valid until December 14. However, some of our tables have shorter validity periods and these are clearly indicated on the relevant pages or in individual table headings. Please note that schedules in western France vary considerably during the high-summer period so, in this edition, tables covering services that radiate from Paris Montparnasse and Austerlitz stations are mostly valid from July 6 to September 1. Timings from September 2 will be included from the September edition (please refer to earlier editions for timings until July 5).

The expansion of low-cost OUIGO TGV services continues with the introduction of a daily return service between Paris Montparnasse and Toulouse from July 6 (Table 320).

Engineering work between Paris and Troyes will cause major disruption along the route from July 13 to August 24. During this period just three through services will operate between Paris and Belfort, diverted via Châlons en Champagne. A special version of Table 380 will be found on page 210 showing the amended timings.

The latest phase of work to upgrade the route heading north from Marseille via Aix-en-Provence is expected to cause some disruption for a four month period from July 1 (Table 362). Unfortunately, full details of amended timings along the route were not available as we went to press.

### ITALY

New schedules came into effect from June 9 but only partial information was available as we went to press, mainly timings of high-speed and other long-distance trains. However, readers should be cautious of any exception dates if travelling on or around public holidays or during August. Any changes to other services are expected to be of a minor nature but it is still advisable to confirm timings before travelling.

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## What's new this month (continued from page 5)

### SPAIN

Three direct high-speed AVE services between Madrid and Granada are due to start this month, possibly on June 24. We understand that tickets were due to go on sale on June 3. Another AVE service will also be introduced between Barcelona and Granada bypassing Madrid and a new Table **678a** has been created to show the provisional timings. Madrid and Granada have been without a direct service via Antequera since April 7, 2015 and we reported at that time that we expected the line would reopen in August 2015! The future of the direct Talgo service via Linares-Baeza (Table **661**) is uncertain once the high-speed services start running.

A full service has resumed on the route between Algeciras and Bobadilla (Table **673**). This stretch of line was temporarily closed in October 2018 following storm damage.

Engineering work taking place until December 2019 in Madrid's Recoletos tunnel, between Charmartin and Atocha stations, means many Media Distancia services in Tables **679**, **681** and **689** are diverted to Madrid Principe Pio station (see the Madrid city plan on page 32).

### DENMARK

Engineering work will be carried out between Odense and Frederica from June 14 to August 4 and this will result in fewer InterCity and InterCityLyn services during the periods June 30 to July 13 and July 21 to August 2. In addition, buses will replace trains from the evening of August 3 to the afternoon of August 4.

### SWEDEN

From June 24 to August 18 engineering work will disrupt services in the Stockholm area, particularly affecting trains to and from the south of the country which will be unable to call at Stockholm Central. Affected trains will instead serve either Stockholm Södra or Flemingsberg and passengers wishing to travel from or to the city centre should use alternative local services.

### NORWAY

Many services in the Oslo area are disrupted from June 22 to August 4. Trains in Tables **775**, **783** and **785** are replaced by buses between Oslo and Drammen or Kongsberg whilst services between Oslo and Bergen are diverted between Oslo and Hønefoss, not calling at Drammen (Drammen passengers are conveyed by bus to/from Hønefoss). The Oslo – Halden – Göteborg route (Table **770**) is also affected with buses replacing trains between Oslo and Rygge. Timings at Oslo may vary during this period so readers are strongly advised to check timings locally before travelling.

### GERMANY

Various infrastructure upgrade projects will continue to disrupt both regional and long-distance services around the German network, in some cases for considerable lengths of time. We have included amended schedules where space permits but the complexity of temporary timetables often means it is not always possible to include full details.

The section of high-speed line between Hannover and Göttingen is completely closed to rail traffic from June 11 to December 14 meaning all long-distance services are diverted over the original main line via Kreiensen. Fewer services are running during this period and journey times are extended. As the amended service covers the whole of this timetable period, full details are included in the regular tables. The work on this stretch of line is the start of a programme to upgrade the country's high-speed infrastructure meaning other sections of line will be similarly affected over the next few years.

Another section of line closed until the mid-December timetable change is that between Magdeburg and Halle via Köthen. All long-distance trains in Table **866** are retimed and diverted via Dessau whilst local services are partially replaced by bus.

Services that normally use the principal Rhein-Ruhr route between Köln and Dortmund via Duisburg will be severely disrupted from July 13 to August 25 when most services are retimed with various diversions in operation. Unfortunately, the complex nature of these alterations means that it is simply not possible for us to show the amended timings so readers are advised to confirm travel arrangements beforehand if travelling to or from stations in Table **800**. Many regional services shown in Table **802** will also be affected.

Ongoing bridge renewal work in the Bielefeld area means most long-distance and regional services via Bielefeld are operating to amended schedules until October 11. In this edition we have included two versions of Table **810** with the service from October 12 located on pages 564 and 565.

Services using the main line via Eisenach and Fulda will be subject to major alterations from August 10 to October 27 with some services diverted via Kassel resulting in considerably extended journey times. A special version of Table **850** showing the amended timings will be found on pages 566 and 567.

Readers intending to visit Germany need to be aware that there are numerous other alterations planned during the currency of this timetable and a summary of the most significant changes will be found in the shaded box on page 369 whilst changes to regional services are usually indicated in the table concerned. Readers should also note that further short-term alterations are possible and these may not be mentioned in our tables.

Independent operator Flixtrain started operating a new service between Köln and Berlin from May 23 and we have revamped our special Flixtrain table on page 369 to include the timings. Owing to engineering work taking place at various locations along the route, the schedules will initially be rather complex and so the timings we show will vary on certain dates. We hope to show the service with more clarity once the work along the line is completed.

Two new operators have taken over the running of certain regional services in the Baden-Württemberg region. Go-Ahead now operates the Stuttgart – Aalen – Crailsheim (Table **925**) and Stuttgart – Pforzheim – Karlsruhe (Table **931**) routes whilst Abellio is the new operator of local services between Stuttgart and Heidelberg (Table **931**).

### POLAND

Polish Railways has issued a new timetable valid from June 9 to August 31. Most services between Poznań and Warszawa are no longer being diverted via Inowrocław and so will take their normal route via Konin. However, until June 24 services are subject to extended journey times between Konin and Warszawa which is affecting *Berlin Warszawa Express* services in Tables **56** and **1001**. Unfortunately information was not available in time for all Polish timings to be checked so readers are strongly advised to verify their travel plans before visiting Poland.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

Trains from Praha to Turnov and Tanvald (Table **1140**), which are currently serving Praha Masarykovo rather than Praha hlavní nádraží as an engineering work alteration, will continue to do so for the rest of the timetable year. From June 9 the Praha – Žilina *Ex* trains via Vsetín (Table **1161**) will revert to running for the full route rather than some being curtailed at Püchov, following completion of engineering work.

The morning *Arriva Express* Praha – Trenčín – Nitra train and afternoon return (Table **1163**) will not increase to daily from June 7 as originally advertised but will continue twice weekly until the end of August, becoming daily from September 1.

### SLOVAKIA

The principal alteration from June 9 (apart from the extension of a Praha – Břeclav Railjet service to and from Bratislava as mentioned under the International heading) is the introduction of two fast trains each way between Košice and the Ukrainian town of Mukachevo via Chop (Table **1195**). This follows the recent opening of a standard gauge track within Ukraine, removing the gauge change requirement. Connections at Košice and Mukachevo will allow a range of new journey opportunities from Slovakia and the Czech Republic to destinations in Ukraine.

Other changes involve evening retimings on the TEŽ (Tatra Electric Railways) lines shown in Table **1182**, and some revisions to Table **1180** mostly affecting departure times from Považská Bystrica.

### HUNGARY

Summer timings for trains in the area around Lake Balaton will apply from June 15 to August 25 and special versions of Tables **1220**, **1225** and **1232** will be found on pages 560 and 561. As final timings were not available by press date these tables are subject to alteration.

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## What's new this month (continued from page 36)

### ALBANIA

Albanian Railways amended its timetable in May. The service between Durrës and Lushnjë has been withdrawn but an additional service now runs between Durrës and Shkodër (Table 1390).

### GREECE

Services between Athína and Thessaloníki were recast from May 20 to take full advantage of the new alignment between Tithoréa and Lianokládi. Four daytime services between Athína and Thessaloníki now take exactly one hour less than before with a fifth, IC 51, taking just 3 hours and 57 minutes to complete its journey.

Buses replace trains between Lianokládi and Stílida. Amfíklia station, which was planned for closure, remains open for now with one service Mondays to Saturdays and two on Sundays (Table 1400).

### BULGARIA/TURKEY

A new international service between Plovdiv and Edirne was expected to start running on Saturdays and Sundays from June 1, although only limited information was available as we went to press (Table 1550).

### LITHUANIA

Full details are now shown of the revised Vilnius – Kaunas service (Table 1811) where all trains are terminating at Palemonas, 10 kilometres from Kaunas station, due to work on the *Rail Baltica* project. Six fast journeys each way have connections by replacement bus between Palemonas and Kaunas station organised by the railway company; on other journeys passengers will need to use local city buses.

### KAZAKHSTAN

In March Kazakhstan's capital city Astana was renamed Nur-Sultan, after the former president Nursultan Nazarbayev, and our tables now reflect the new name. A general timetable revision took place on May 22. The most significant alteration concerns train 85/6, shown in Table 1980 between Nur-Sultan and Shymkent, which now serves the recently opened Nur-Sultan Nurly Zhol station rather than Nur-Sultan 1.

### BEYOND EUROPE

As always in our seasonal editions, we have included all eight of our *Beyond Europe* sections. A list of the areas covered and their locations within the timetable will be found on page 583. The Africa & Middle East section has been fully updated but only limited changes have been made to the other sections since they last appeared in regular monthly editions.

We have recast the Moroccan section which will hopefully improve our presentation of services in this country. The changes have also allowed us to show services between Casablanca and Oued Zem (Table 4003).

In Israel, electrification work on Fridays and Saturdays started on May 31 and affects services shown in Tables 4500 and 4510. A limited service on Sundays to Thursdays between Nahariyya and Be'er Sheva recommenced on May 26 (Table 4510).

In South Africa, the service between Cape Town and Queenstown / East London appears to have been discontinued (Table 4400).

Various infrastructure improvement projects continue to affect services in North America until September and we have included suitable warnings in the relevant tables.

In Cuba, a new service between Habana and Holguim is expected to start in mid-June. Only limited information was available as we went to press and this has been added to Table 9920.

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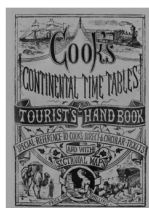
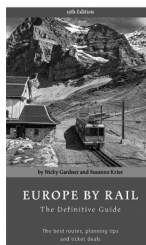


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