

What's new this month

At this present time, varying levels of coronavirus restrictions continue to affect the provision of public transport across Europe with a reduced service level running in many areas. International travel restrictions remain in place between many countries so readers should continue to consult official government advice before planning any future trips. However, as national governments cautiously plan a pathway back to some form of normality, we hope it will not be too long before unrestricted leisure travel will once again be permitted.

We continue to publish our own tables based on the latest information available to us in the lead up to publication of this edition. The availability and type of data varies between countries with some operators providing full schedules (with cancellations or alterations indicated separately) whilst others are only showing trains that are currently running, sometimes for only limited periods of time. Where possible we have tried to show full schedules with known service suspensions indicated by either a note and/or a shaded column.

As always in our seasonal editions, we have included the latest versions of all eight Beyond Europe sections. Towards the back of this edition you will also find an expanded Rail Passes section together with our 13-page Rail Extra feature which is packed full of useful transport-based information presented on a country by country basis (including details of many popular tourist railways). We have managed to update the planned service for most featured tourist railways, but please bear in mind that the advertised service is likely to be subject to complying with the latest local coronavirus protocols.

In the latest of our occasional Historic Timetables features, which will be found on pages 563 to 565, we have included three long-distance international tables from the May 1968 edition. They show a selection of journey possibilities at the time from London and Paris to destinations in Spain, Italy, Austria and Poland. Note the use of miles in the distance columns.

INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar reinstated a second London to Paris service on May 27 and plan to insert a third journey from June 27 (Tables **10** and **18**).

Eurostar has cancelled all of its Disneyland Paris services between London and Marne la Vallée - Chessy for the summer season, but plan to restart on October 22 to coincide with the autumn school holidays (Tables **11** and **17**).

The latest version of the Thalys timetable has been released, valid from June 14 to September 4. It indicates that approximately two-thirds of the full service is planned to run from July 25.

Lyria, the operator of TGV services between France and Switzerland, is reinstating more services from July 3 (Tables **31**, **40** and **42**).

The introduction of Train **301/300 Berlin Night Express** Stockholm – Malmö – København – Hamburg – Berlin has been postponed again and is now expected to start running from June 27. The plan is to run daily until September 5, then twice a week until October 2 (Table **50**).

ÖBB *nightjet* international overnight services had a staggered restart between May 24 and 27 including the new routes between Amsterdam and Wien/Innsbruck (Table **53**).

The *Kulturzug/Pociąg do Kultury/Culture Train* service between Berlin and Wrocław is not now expected to restart until June 11 at the earliest (Table **58**).

Trains **461/1493/1492/460 Bosphor** Bucuresti – Halkali (Istanbul), **1461/1460** Bucuresti – Thessaloniki and **1493/1492** Sofia – Halkali (Istanbul) will not run this Summer (Table **61**).

Train **343/342 Ivo Andrić** Budapest – Kelebia has been extended across the Serbian border to Subotica (Table **61**).

The *Alpen-Syllt Nachtexpress* Westerland – Salzburg and Konstanz will not start running this summer until July 15. Table **78** has had to be temporarily moved to page 674 to accommodate the extended table.

Train **151/150 Emona** Wien – Ljubljana will convey through cars to Trieste from June 11 (Table **91**).

Train **149/749/140 Hortobágy** Wien – Budapest – Lviv – Kyiv restarted on June 1 conveying through sleeping cars (Table **96**).

GREAT BRITAIN

Reduced service levels are still in place on many routes, although some operators are planning a return to near normal schedules from mid-September. Our tables will be updated further as the latest schedules are confirmed.

The rail service between Ryde and Shanklin on the Isle of Wight remains suspended with, as yet, no precise date set for its return. The hope is that services can resume by mid-summer. In the meantime rail replacement bus services continue to run (Table **107**).

The Cambrian Coast line between Machynlleth and Pwllheli will be temporarily closed from September 12 to December 12 (Table **148**). Replacement bus services run every two hours; a semi-fast or stopping service is provided, neither of which can call at Dovey Junction as there is no road access to that station!

Most trains between Crewe and Derby have been extended to run to and from Nottingham (Table **155**).

Electrification of the Midland Main Line between Bedford and Corby is now complete and a revised service along the route commenced on May 16 making full use of the upgraded infrastructure. A new half-hourly service runs between London and Corby with all trains calling at Luton Airport Parkway, Luton, Bedford, Wellingborough and Kettering. Most services to Leicester and beyond no longer make station calls south of Kettering, although there are good connections at Kettering between the suburban and long-distance services. Note that the London to Corby service is shown in a new Table **170a** with the existing Table **170** dedicated to long-distance services via Leicester.

The service between Peterborough and Lincoln via Sleaford has been recast with more frequent trains throughout the day, some of which extend to and from Doncaster (Table **178**).

Tables **184** and **189** have merged to form an enlarged Table **189** covering the entire Grimsby – Lincoln – Nottingham – Leicester route. Schedules have been recast on this line with trains running every two hours between Grimsby and Leicester (hourly on the section between Lincoln and Leicester). The service between Lincoln and Newark North Gate is now self-contained with up to four extra services per day provided in each direction.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

AERA 
Association of European Rail Agents

Supporting Rail Travel Worldwide

PLANNING A RAIL JOURNEY IN EUROPE?

Our members are experienced rail agents and tour organisers who would be pleased to help you.



www.aera.co.uk
Email: info@aera.co.uk

Newslines (continued from page 5)

IRELAND

Northern Ireland Railways latest available timetable is only valid until June 30, so timings from July 1 are subject to confirmation.

FRANCE

Timings in our French section are generally valid until December 11. However, as we closed for press, there was still some uncertainty with regards to service provision over the summer months and beyond in some French regions. Many services in the Champagne-Ardenne region were only confirmed until mid-July while most schedules we show in the Hautes-de-France region are only valid during July and August. Suitable warnings have been added to the relevant tables. We will, of course, update these tables in subsequent editions as schedules are confirmed. As is usual, most schedules in western France vary considerably during the high-summer period, so most of our tables radiating from Paris Montparnasse and Austerlitz stations are only valid from July 3 to August 29. Our September digital edition will be updated with autumn schedules valid from August 30.

The final phase of work to upgrade the Marseille to Aix en Provence route will see partial bus replacement in operation between Marseille and Manosque-Gréoux until October 2. Table 358 has been updated with the amended schedules.

Various services in the Lyon area will run to amended schedules from July 4 to August 29. As well as altered timings, certain services will be diverted to call at Lyon Perrache instead of Lyon Part-Dieu.

LUXEMBOURG

The first few kilometres of the main line towards Trier (between Luxembourg and Sandweiler-Contern) will be temporarily closed from July 17 to December 12. During this period, most through trains between Koblenz and Luxembourg (shown in German Table 915) are replaced by bus over the affected section. Note that there is an alternative route within Luxembourg which will allow other local rail services between Trier and Luxembourg to continue to run without the involvement of rail replacement bus services. A list of these alternative services has been temporarily added to Table 915.

ITALY

As we closed for press we had been unable to obtain accurate data for Italy so all services (except *Italo*, see next entry) should be considered as subject to confirmation. We hope to have updated information in time for the July digital edition.

Open-access high-speed operator *Italo* introduced a Caserta – Milano Centrale return service from May 27 and will add three train pairs between Roma Termini and Bari Centrale from June 13 (two pairs of which extend from and to Torino Porta Nuova).

SPAIN

Ouigo, the low-cost high-speed service operated by French Railways, started running between Barcelona and Madrid from May 10 using TGV Euroduplex (double-deck) trains. Services are only bookable through its website (www.ouigo.com).

Spanish Railways will inaugurate its own low-cost high-speed service, branded *Avlo*, along the same route from June 23. One of its services will be extending to serve Figueras. As well as being bookable through its website (www.avlorenfe.com), tickets can also be purchased through travel agents.

Rail services resumed between Ribes de Freser and Latour de Carol from May 10 (Table 656).

The line between Dos Hermanas and Antequera-Santa Ana was partially swept away during storms in October 2018. Since then, rail replacement bus services have been provided over the affected section between Osuna and Pedrera. Repairs are now complete and a near normal service was restored on May 31 along the whole route between Sevilla and Málaga (Table 673).

From this summer Spanish Railways is planning to rebrand its travel classes from *Turista*, *Turista Plus* and *Preferente* to *Estándar* and *Confort*.

PORTUGAL

Confirmed timings of the recently introduced service between Covilhã and Guarda (Table 691) have been received, as have revised schedules for services in Table 692 which have been affected by the introduction of the aforementioned Covilhã – Guarda trains.

Schedules in Table 694 were amended on May 16. A new *IR* train pair between Porto São Bento and Pocinho has been introduced that will run until October 16 (from Porto at 0820, from Pocinho at 1512). There is also an additional service between Régua and Pinhão formed by the extension of existing trains, and a quicker evening connection between Régua and Porto will operate from July 3 to October 16.

Celta trains 421/420 were reinstated on May 1 (Table 696). All other cross-border trains in Table 696 remain suspended.

SWEDEN

The Swedish section has been fully updated with schedules valid from June 27 to December 11. Journeys between Stockholm and Göteborg will be subject to considerable alteration from June 27 to July 17 owing to engineering work taking place between Herrljunga and Göteborg. Unfortunately we do not have space to show the amended service so travellers should check timings locally if travelling during this period. Services of independent operator MTRX run to amended schedules between Stockholm and Göteborg during the summer period (until August 22) so we have included a special version of Table 740 covering this period which will be found on page 559.

Engineering work in the Gävle area from August 2 to November 21 will affect main-line services heading north from Stockholm. Journey times are extended and fewer services will operate between Stockholm and Sundsvall during the work. Special versions of Tables 760 and 761 will be found on page 560 with full details of the amended schedules.

NORWAY

Our Norwegian section has only been partially updated as timings had not been confirmed on certain routes.

Engineering work from June 26 to August 8 will affect services which normally use the Oslo – Drammen and Oslo – Rygge sections of line. During this period most services will be subject to partial bus replacement between these points. However, trains between Oslo and Bergen can make use of a diversionary route between Oslo and Hønefoss, but will not be able to call at Drammen.

FINLAND

Schedules shown in our Finnish section are valid until August 15. Note that possible cancellations owing to coronavirus restrictions are still indicated.

GERMANY

FlixTrain has expanded its German network with new routes München – Würzburg – Frankfurt (*FLX25*) and Hamburg – Berlin (*FLX35*). One service in each direction on the Hamburg – Berlin route extends to and from München overnight on four days a week. Our special FlixTrain summary table on page 366 has been expanded to accommodate these new services.

Rail services between Chemnitz and Aue are expected to resume from July 22 as an extension of the Chemnitz tram network (Table 883). Rail services last ran on the route in September 2018.

Since November 2, 2020 the Harzer Schmalspurbahn has only been running a limited diesel service between Wernigerode and Schierke, together with regular local trains along the urban section between Ilfeld and Nordhausen. However, the railway has announced that it will reinstate a service on all of its routes from June 9, albeit with fewer trains than would normally run during the summer months. Steam trains will return between Wernigerode and Brocken, with diesel railcars operating all other services. Table 867 has been updated with the revised schedules which are valid from June 9 until further notice.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

Newslines (continued from page 36)

GERMANY (continued)

German schedules during this timetable period have proved to be rather more difficult to compile than is usual with infrastructure upgrades or renewals affecting timings at numerous locations across the network. We have done our best to include details of the most significant changes, although this has resulted in many more footnotes than would normally be expected, so please take extra care when using our German tables. Details of the most significant changes are outlined below.

Amended schedules as a result of the temporary closure of the high-speed route between Kassel and Göttingen will continue until July 16. Special versions of Tables **830**, **900** and **902** will be found on pages 566 to 569 with the revised schedules.

From July 3 many services in the Dortmund area, both long-distance and regional, are subject to alteration with many trains retimed. Certain services are diverted, omitting their usual Dortmund Hbf stop.

Engineering work at various locations between Hamburg and Berlin from September 11 will not only affect services in Table **840**, but also services on the Hamburg to Schwerin route (Table **830**). During this period all trains between Hamburg and Berlin will be diverted via Salzwedel resulting in extended journey times. Further details will be published in later editions for all the affected routes.

Services on the Wismar – Berlin – Cottbus route will be altered from July 10 to November 19. Initially, until September 10, the section south of Königs Wusterhausen will be disrupted with a bus replacement operating between Bestensee and Halbe (details of which are currently shown in Table **837**). Then, from September 11 to November 19, the Wittenberge to Ludwigslust section will be subject to partial bus replacement (between Wittenberge and Karstädt).

Services in the Hamburg area are subject to alteration from July 17 to August 13 with certain long-distance trains not calling at Hamburg Hbf.

Rail replacement bus services between Hausach and St Georgen (on the Karlsruhe to Konstanz route) continue until July 27. A near normal service resumes from July 28 to September 12 before a return to partial bus replacement from September 13 to November 25. The amended timings during the periods of engineering work will be found in a special version of Table **916** on page 569.

The regional route between Neckargemünd and Eberbach will be temporarily closed from July 2 to October 8. Services which normally run between Heidelberg and Heilbronn via Eberbach will be diverted via Sinsheim and a special version of Table **924** with the revised timings will be found on page 569. A replacement bus service will be provided for local journeys between Neckargemünd and Eberbach.

POLAND

Latest updates to the Polish Railways timetable, valid from June 6, were unfortunately received too late for inclusion in this edition and so all Polish domestic timings should be treated as subject to confirmation. However, timings of all international services to and from Poland have been checked and updated.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Engineering work taking place from June 13 to August 30 means train **EN443** Praha – Humenné departs Praha 2048 and runs up to 90 minutes earlier as far as Bohumin.

HUNGARY

As has been the case for many years now, a significant number of extra trains will run to and around the Lake Balaton area during the high-summer period from June 19 to August 29. Details of the enhanced service will be found on pages 561 and 562 in special summer versions of the relevant tables. Please note that some services are shown as subject to confirmation as we had not received full details of the summer service as we closed for press.

Engineering work to modernise the route in Table **1275** sees all trains replaced by bus between Püspökladány and Biharkeresztes until August 29. Train **IC407/406** *Corona* is diverted and will run Budapest – Püspökladány – Debrecen – Valea lui Mihai (reverse) – Episcopia Bihor – Oradea – Braşov, rather than the usual direct route via Biharkeresztes. The diversion will result in slightly longer journey times. Please note that, at the time of writing, this is the only international train using this route, all others having been suspended owing to coronavirus restrictions.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Train **1720/1721**, which normally provides an additional service between Sarajevo and Čapljina during the summer months, has been cancelled this year (Table **1355**).

UKRAINE

We have fully checked our Ukraine section. Please note that trains which are shown as suspended may return at any time. There are also a number of minor alterations to various trains which it has not been possible to show due to time and space constraints, so readers are strongly advised to confirm all schedules locally.

LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA

Our tables covering the Baltic States have been fully checked and updated. Of note is the drastic reduction in the general service levels (and in some cases total suspension) of long-distance bus routes. All international trains remained suspended as we closed for press.

RUSSIA

Our Russian tables have also been fully checked and updated. As we closed for press almost all international services remain suspended with only those to Belarus operating (Table **1950**). The resumption of services to Belarus has seen the introduction of two daily fast daytime train pairs between Moskva Belorusskaya and Minsk via Smolensk.

Most of the trains shown in our Russian section that previously used Moskva Kurskaya station switched to the new Vostochny station from late May. Most daytime fast trains from Moskva to Nizhni Novgorod (Table **1989**) will also use the new station which is located in eastern Moskva and is part of the Cherkizovo transport interchange hub, which also covers Cherkizovskaya metro station and Lokomotiv station of the Moscow Central Ring railway.

BEYOND EUROPE

Our section covering Africa and the Middle East has been fully updated this month with the latest available information. In Morocco, services between Marrakech and Fes (Table **4000**) and high-speed Casablanca – Tanger services (Table **4001**) have returned to pre-pandemic levels. Algerian Railways (SNTF) has also increased its service levels although overnight services are still not operating. In Israel, some lines will also operate on Fridays and Saturdays from May 29. All three passenger services in Saudi Arabia are now operated by the Saudi Railway Company (Table **4620**).

In Japan, following a significant rise in coronavirus cases, Japanese Railways has suspended more of its services. No timescale has been given as to how long these suspensions may last. The tables most affected are **8130**, **8145**, **8150**, **8160** and **8235**.

In the United States of America, in addition to the gradual return to daily operation of Amtrak's long-distance trains, various other services are also expected to recommence or have timings adjusted by June 7. *Vermont* services in Table **9220** and trains **354/355** in Table **9275** are expected to resume from July 19. Journey times between Baltimore and Washington have been extended (Table **9215**). Train **20** *Crescent* has been completely retimed (Table **9245**); it now departs New Orleans at 0915, with a New York arrival at 1814 the following day. In California, timings of Capitol Corridor services have been adjusted with additional journeys added (Table **9325**). Californian operator Metrolink reissued its timetable on May 29 and, for the first time, a Saturday service is now available between Moorpark and Los Angeles (Table **9354**).

OBITUARY: KEVIN FLYNN

The timetable team were saddened to belatedly learn that our former Thomas Cook colleague, Kevin Flynn, had passed away in April 2020. Kevin joined the Thomas Cook timetable team in August 1994 and worked on the timetable for just under 14 years until his retirement in June 2008. Not only was he well known for his great attention to detail and for coming up with some innovative ideas, but also for his witty sense of humour.