

## NEWSLINES

Timings in this edition generally cover the period from June 9 to December 14 although there are a number of exceptions that apply to either whole country sections or individual tables. Readers are therefore advised to consult the introductory text at the beginning of each country section for confirmation of timetable validity. Individual tables are also clearly marked where a different validity period applies.

Our fully updated *Rail Extra* feature will be found on pages 589 to 601 which contains useful transport based information presented on a country by country basis, including schedules for selected tourist railways that do not appear in our regular country sections.

### INTERNATIONAL

**Table 11:** Train **9926/9955 Eurostar Sun** (previously *Thalys Soleil*) will run again this year between Amsterdam and Marseille on summer Saturdays.

**Table 18:** Eurostar (formerly Thalys) has issued a new timetable between Paris and Amsterdam via Brussels valid from July 21. The main changes are as follows:

- Train **9301** Brussels – Amsterdam will run one hour earlier, (departing Brussels 0552) and will run additionally on Saturdays.
- Train **9309** Paris – Amsterdam will run additionally on Saturdays.
- The Marne la Vallée-Chessy Disneyland – Amsterdam service will reduce to running thrice weekly northbound and twice weekly southbound.
- Until July 20 services will arrive Schiphol 10 minutes later and Amsterdam Centraal 9 minutes later.

Major renovation work will be taking place at Amsterdam Centraal station from June 15 and the dedicated Eurostar departure area will be temporarily closed as a result. During this period the London to Amsterdam service will reduce from four to three services on weekdays with the temporary withdrawal of train **9114**, the 0816 from London St Pancras. Direct trains from Amsterdam to London will be temporarily withdrawn, but services with guaranteed connections at Brussels will still be available. The connecting time will usually be around 45 minutes, enough time for border formalities to take place.

Belgian Railways International will introduce a loco-hauled *EuroCity* service between Paris and Brussels during the summer using the classic route via St Quentin and Aulnoye. Starting from July 24, two daily return services are planned, all making a single intermediate stop at Mons.

**Table 52:** Due to construction works and track damage, through cars **EN50466/50467** between Praha and Zürich via Linz are suspended until further notice. The through cars are expected to restart at some point during the first half of August.

**Table 82:** From June 9 to September 8 trains will be replaced by buses between Domodossola and Milano due to engineering work. During this period three additional direct buses will run between Genève and Milano via Lausanne, timings for which will be found in a special panel below **Table 82**.

**Table 89:** Train **247/246 Citadella** Budapest – Ljubljana once again conveys a portion to Koper between June 16 and August 24. Train **1205/1204 Adria** Budapest – Split runs three days a week.

**Table 92:** *EuroNight 1153/1152* Bratislava – Split runs three days a week until October 3.

### GREAT BRITAIN

Cross Country has removed some of its station calls at Basingstoke, Chesterfield and Wakefield Westgate on Saturdays until September 9, while Winchester is restricted to pick up only (northbound) or set down only (southbound) on the same dates (**Tables 107 and 119**). This is to discourage local journeys on busy summer Saturday services.

The Southern service between Brighton and Southampton has increased to half hourly (**Table 102**).

Great Western Railway has doubled the Sunday service between Reading and Gatwick Airport (**Table 108**). **Table 110**, which covers services between London and stations in Devon and Cornwall, has been updated for the summer period until September 8. On Mondays to Fridays the 1618 and 1918 services from London Paddington to Swansea now run non-stop between London and Bristol Parkway (in just under 70 minutes) with the overall journey time to South Wales reduced by around 20 minutes as a result (**Table 133**). A new direct service between Bristol and Oxford will be trialled from September 14 with two trains operating in each direction on Saturdays (**Table 137**).

Avanti West Coast has made some changes to its service between London and Birmingham, including the provision of a couple of additional trains on weekdays (**Table 151**). However, the direct service between London and Shrewsbury has been withdrawn. Note that there are now more variations than before between the service provided on Mondays to Fridays and that running on Saturdays.

TransPennine Express has reinstated a regular hourly service between Manchester Airport and Scottish destinations via Carlisle (**Table 154**). TransPennine Express services in **Table 188** are affected by ongoing route upgrade work taking place at certain times in June, July, October and November. Details of amended timings during these periods will be found in separate versions of the table on pages 602 and 603.

Northern has introduced a new Saturday service between Rochdale and Ribbleshead via Manchester and Clitheroe. Marketed as the *Yorkshire Dales Explorer*, two services will be provided in each direction and timings will be found in **Table 159**.

Greater Anglia has introduced a revamped timetable on its London to Norwich route, the main change being revised station calling patterns (**Table 200**). One service in each direction on Mondays to Saturdays has been accelerated with a journey time of under 100 minutes (the Saturday service will complete the journey in just 93 minutes). However, this does not quite match the previous 90 minute journey time that was launched in 2019, but subsequently withdrawn during the pandemic.

### FRANCE

As is usual in northern and western France, timetables tend to vary considerably during the high-summer period. Our tables covering northern France (**250–278**) together with those on page 191 (**326–329**) are generally valid from June 8 to September 1, whilst our tables covering western France (**281–325**) are mostly valid from July 6 to September 1. Unfortunately we do not have enough space to show most timings in western France until July 5, although they will be broadly similar to those found in our May edition. However, we have included two versions of the TGV tables from/to Paris Montparnasse (**280 and 300**) in this edition covering the periods June 8 - July 5 and July 8 - September 1 (with the high-summer tables found on pages 604 to 607). Note that most tables in eastern and southern France are generally valid for the whole year, with any exceptions clearly indicated.

Due to engineering work on the route between Paris and Maubeuge via St Quentin, an amended service will be operating most weekends (**Table 255**). The very high number of variations to the weekend service pattern has made it impossible for us to show schedules in a worthwhile way in the space available. Therefore, we advise readers to check the latest information on the French Railways website for weekend journeys on this route.

There will be no overnight service between Paris and Hendaye this summer (**Table 319**).

Journeys between Thionville and Luxembourg will be modified from July 13 to September 15 due to a period of major engineering work which will be carried out in two phases. From July 13 to August 11 services will be operated by bus between Thionville and Luxembourg. From August 12 to September 15 trains will run between Thionville and Bettembourg with a rail replacement bus service operating between Bettembourg and Luxembourg. Both regional and TGV services will be affected by this work and readers are strongly advised to check timings for cross-border journeys during this period (**Tables 379, 384 and 390**).

### ITALY

As is usual for the Summer edition, we have only been able to update timings for high-speed and long-distance trains (those services shown with a train number). We hope to be able to update all other trains in time for the July digital edition. There is an unusually large amount of engineering work taking place across Italy this summer with many of the routes we show affected at some point. We therefore advise readers to confirm timings for all journeys in Italy this summer by consulting the Trenitalia website. We have included a panel on page 284 with a summary of the most significant alterations.

One of the two pairs of IC trains between Reggio di Calabria and Taranto is extended to/from Lecce (**Tables 615 and 637**).

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## NEWSLINES (continued from page 5)

### ITALY (continued)

The Milano – Siracusa / Palermo *InterCity Notte* overnight train will run via Genova and Pisa this summer (Table 641).

Reports earlier this year suggested that the section of the narrow gauge *Ferrovía Circumetnea* railway between Catania Borgo and Adrano would close at the end of May for conversion to a standard gauge metro route. However, we have not been able to obtain any further information about the closure, so for the time being, services in Table 644 should be treated as subject to confirmation.

### SPAIN

From June 2 the number of *Alvia* services between Madrid and Cádiz increased from three to four a day on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays (Table 671).

Low-cost high-speed operator *Ouigo* has announced it will run two daily services between Madrid and Murcia from September 5 (Table 668).

### FINLAND

The Finnish section has been updated with confirmed timings for the five weeks from June 24 to July 27. During this period all services between Helsinki and Turku are operated by bus (Table 791) as are certain services between Oulu and Rovaniemi (Table 794) and between Jyväskylä and Pieksämäki (Table 795). Readers travelling until June 23 should refer to the May edition and we will update the section with timings from July 28 in the August edition.

### GERMANY

German tables in this edition are valid from July 16 to December 14. During this period the important section of line between Frankfurt and Mannheim is temporarily closed so that major infrastructure upgrade work can take place. This has resulted in some significant changes to many long-distance services with extended journey times and different train routings. Note that regional services outside of the Frankfurt/Mannheim area are generally valid from June 9 although minor amendments are possible. Readers travelling on long-distance trains until July 15 are advised to consult the Spring, April or May editions, particularly for journeys via Frankfurt and Mannheim. It should also be noted that the 2024 European Football Championship is taking place in Germany from June 14 to July 14. Services are expected to be busier than usual during the tournament and some additional trains will be operating to provide extra capacity.

Some of our readers may be interested in various unusual train routings that are operating during this timetable period. For example, many *ICE* services from the Rhein-Ruhr to Basel or Stuttgart utilise the little used link between the high-speed line and Wiesbaden Hbf where trains reverse direction before continuing south via Mainz. As a result, the city of Wiesbaden temporarily enjoys a much improved service of direct long-distance connections (including an hourly non-stop service from and to Köln). Darmstadt Hbf also sees an increase in long-distance trains calling there as it lies on the other main diversionary route. *ICE* service 118/119 *Bodensee* Innsbruck – Lindau – Stuttgart – Dortmund, no longer operates between Stuttgart and Dortmund, instead running to Berlin via Heilbronn and Würzburg. This means Heilbronn benefits from a rare scheduled *ICE* service for five months.

The *Franken-Thüringen Express* regional service between Nürnberg and Sonneberg via Coburg has been revamped from June 9 with a regular hourly service now operating throughout the day, all of which utilise the high speed infrastructure between Bamberg and Coburg (Table 875). Five services in each direction are rerouted north of Coburg running along the high-speed line (at up to 190 km/h) to Erfurt, thus offering an alternative regional service option between Nürnberg and Erfurt. Note that a connecting service between Coburg and Sonneberg is provided for those services running to and from Erfurt so as to maintain the hourly pattern to Sonneberg.

From August 17 engineering work at various locations on the main Berlin to Hamburg route will affect services in a number of tables. All services between Berlin and Hamburg will be diverted via Stendal and Uelzen and a special version of Table 840 will be found on page 609 with the amended timings. Services on the Hamburg – Rostock – Stralsund route will be modified from August 17 to November 22 and special versions of Tables 830 and 844 will be found on pages 608 and 610. Regional services on the Berlin – Wismar (Table 837) and Magdeburg – Stendal – Uelzen (Table 841) routes will also be affected and amended versions of these tables will be found on page 609.

German Railways has implemented a policy of compulsory reservation for most international journeys from / to Germany on long-distance *ICE*, *RJX*, *RJ*, *EC* and *IC* services during the summer period from June 1 to September 1 (inclusive). The only exceptions are journeys to Salzburg and Kufstein (in Austria) and services to Switzerland via Basel or Singen. Note that domestic journeys on these trains will not require reservation, only trips that cross the border. This will particularly affect holders of Interrail and Eurail passes who may be required to make additional reservations. However, most routes do have alternative local cross-border services (which do not require reservation) so it will still be possible to make spontaneous international journeys without paying a reservation fee.

### AUSTRIA

Schedules of the useful cross-border bus network linking Landeck (Austria), Malles (Italy) and Scuol Tarasp (Switzerland) have been completely recast. As well as amended timings, the other main change is that journeys between Landeck and Scuol Tarasp now require a change of buses at Pfunds instead of Martina. We have restructured Table 954 to reflect the new timetable arrangements.

The *Pinzgauer Lokalbahn* narrow gauge line between Zell am See and Krimml was severely damaged by flooding in the summer of 2021 and is currently only running rail services on the 15 kilometre section between Zell am See and Niederrisill. However, from June 17 a further 13 kilometres of the line will reopen with trains being able to run as far as Mittersill. A rail replacement bus service will continue to operate between Mittersill and Krimml. Table 957 has been updated with timings valid from June 17.

### POLAND

Polish Railways publishes its annual timetable in five periods, the third of which is valid from June 9. Unfortunately, timings for the latest period were received too late for inclusion this month (except for international services which have been checked). Readers are therefore advised to confirm timings of any domestic journeys from June 9.

Koleje Dolnośląskie has reintroduced its *KD Premium Nadmorski* summer weekend service between Wrocław and Świnoujście (Tables 1004 and 1010).

*EIC 1351* Warszawa – Kraków – Zakopane now takes just 2 hours and 7 minutes to travel from Kraków to Zakopane with just one stop at Nowy Targ. We believe this is the fastest ever timing between these two stations (Table 1066).

### CZECH REPUBLIC

Services between Cheb and Zwicau (Table 1122) are partially operated by bus until August 4. Due to the complicated nature of the replacement bus schedule there is insufficient space for us to show the altered service, so please check your journey plans before travelling.

### BULGARIA

Engineering work in the Sofia area, which started on May 13, will affect services from and to the Bulgarian capital for a period of up to 15 months. During this time trains will be either diverted and retimed to start earlier/arrive later at Sofia Central station, or will instead start from/terminate at Sofia Sever (North), with a connecting rail shuttle service operating between Sever and Central stations. Arrangements may vary for individual trains during the work so readers are strongly advised to confirm timings before travelling.

### TURKEY

Starting from May 4, Turkish Railways extended one of its three daily Ankara to Sivas services in each direction to run as a through service from / to Istanbul Söğütluçeşme (Table 1570).

From May 25 the section of track between Ulukışla and Ereğli will be closed for a three month period so that route upgrade work can be undertaken as part of Turkish Railways' high-speed train project. This means the *Toros Express*, which operates between Adana and Konya, will be cancelled throughout this period (Tables 1581 and 1582).

### STOP PRESS

We are pleased to announce that European Rail Timetable Limited has just been sold to a private individual with a wide range of business interests in the travel industry, and who has been a long-term subscriber of the timetable. This means the future of the timetable is secure and that production will carry on as normal.