

What's new this month

WELCOME

Welcome to the March 2015 edition of the *European Rail Timetable* which we are delighted to say marks the first anniversary since the timetable was re-launched this time last year. To celebrate our first year of publication we have included a small feature which will be found on page 592. We feel honoured to have been given the opportunity to continue production of this historic and unique publication and we are, of course, very grateful to all of our readers for supporting us in this venture.

This edition includes the first sixteen pages of our annual **Summer International Supplement** with advance timings for selected international tables valid from June 14. It will be found on pages 576 to 591 and will be expanded and updated in our April and May editions.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, editors of *hidden europe* magazine, join one of the local trains that cross the border between Poland and Belarus and observe how some of the local population take advantage of this particular cross-border route. Entitled *Slow train to Hrodna*, this article will be found on page 35 and the current timings for these services, which run twice a day in each direction, are shown in Table 1042.

CAR TRAINS

DB AutoZug has revised its services for the summer season resulting in large cutbacks. With the exception of Wien, no international routes will be operated this summer. This signals the end, at least for now, of Bolzano, Frankfurt, Hildesheim, Innsbruck, Narbonne and Verona as international car train terminals (Table 1).

INTERNATIONAL

Engineering work is currently affecting services on the high-speed line between Paris and Lille with many Eurostar and Thalys services from and to Paris retimed by a few minutes (Table 10). Until July 11 many services from Paris will depart up to nine minutes earlier. In the opposite direction trains to Paris may arrive up to 21 minutes later until May 23. Certain services from Brussels and Lille to the south of France may also be retimed by a few minutes and passengers are advised to check their reservation for confirmed timings.

Train **24/23 Trans European Express** Paris – Berlin – Moskva, which currently runs three times a week, will be reduced to running just once a week from April 4 to June 13 (Table 24). We are still awaiting confirmation of running dates from June 14.

From April 3 to May 23 train **22/21 Vltava** Moskva to Praha and Wien will also be reduced to running just once a week from the current three journeys a week. The weekly Moskva – Karlovy Vary – Cheb will not run from April 1 and we are still awaiting confirmation of when this service will resume operation. The weekly Moskva to Budapest will not run from April 2 to May 26 (Table 95).

Train **20/19** St Peterburg to Praha and Wien will continue running weekly until March 30, but the days of running from March 31 are still to be confirmed (Table 95).

GREAT BRITAIN

Owing to a landslide close to Harbury tunnel, the line between Leamington Spa and Banbury is currently closed with all services in Tables 128 and 129 replaced by bus between these points. Disruption is expected to last for several weeks with an initial estimate for the resumption of rail services being April 2. For details of replacement bus services, together with the latest updates with regards to the reinstatement of rail services, please see www.nationalrail.co.uk.

From March 1 services in Table 180 (and others shown with operator code GR) are run by Virgin Trains East Coast.

FRANCE

Many services to and from Grenoble run to an amended timetable from February 28 to June 19 to allow modernisation work to take place between La Tour du Pin and Voiron. TGV services between Paris and Grenoble and regional trains between Lyon and Grenoble are retimed by a few minutes during this period and Tables 342/343 have been updated with the revised timings.

ITALY

Included this month is a summary of services serving *Expo Milano 2015* which runs from May 1 to October 31. Many long-distance services will stop at the renamed station of Rho Fiera Expo Milano 2015 for the global exhibition, and during this period there will be minor retimings to services and train renumberings.

We are pleased to inform readers that we are now able to include Ferrovie del Sud Est services on a permanent basis and these will be found in Table 636.

SPAIN

The direct Alacant – Madrid – Santander *Alvia* service departs Alacant earlier at 0940 as train 4133 and a new AVE 5143 departs Alacant for Madrid at 1430 in the path vacated by train 4183 (Tables 663, 668, 681 and 684).

The afternoon southbound service from Madrid to Alacant has been amended with a new AVE 5412 running on Mondays to Fridays. AVE 5152, which previously ran on Mondays to Fridays, now runs on Fridays and Sundays only, whilst AVE 5162 runs additionally on Mondays to Thursdays with extra stops at Cuenca Fernando Zóbel and Albacete on these days (Table 668).

SWEDEN

The Stockholm to Göteborg services of new operator MTR are now expected to commence on March 21, and not March 2 as previously reported (Table 740).

GERMANY

Certain long-distance services to and from Hamburg Hbf are subject to alteration on Saturdays and Sundays from March 21 to 29 and also during the Easter holiday period April 3 to 6.

A notable ticketing development in Germany is that private operator Hamburg-Köln-Express (HKX) now accept many tickets issued by national operator Deutsche Bahn (DB). All standard price DB tickets are now valid together with Schönes-Wochenende and Quer-durchs-Land regional tickets. Interrail and Eurail tickets are also accepted. However, purely local tickets, including the SchönerTagTicket NRW and Niedersachsen day tickets, are not valid on HKX services.

POLAND

Disappointing news recently announced is the withdrawal of all cross-border services between Görlitz and Wrocław from March 1 (Table 1085). Reports suggest this is due to a lack of funding and it means there are no longer any passenger services operating across the border between Görlitz and Zgorzelec. Hopefully a financial solution can be agreed and the service restored at some point in the future.

New schedules will come into effect on March 15. Unfortunately, these were not available at press date but we expect to be able to show the new timings next month. In the meantime travellers should consult local information.

CZECH REPUBLIC

An unexpected change from February 2 was the rerouting of the Praha to Děčín semi-fast trains to serve Praha Masarykovo instead of Holešovice and hlavní stations (see city plan on page 32). This affects trains numbered 671 to 692 in Table 1100. Train 601 Chomutov – Praha (Table 1110) is also diverted to Masarykovo, but calls first at Holešovice. Most trains on the České Budějovice to Praha route (Table 1130) now extend beyond Praha hlavní to and from Praha Holešovice station. Modernised carriages, which formerly operated in EC trains, are being introduced on this route.

SLOVAKIA

Timetable amendments from March 1 include significant retimings to IC trains between Bratislava and Košice, as shown in Table 1180. In particular there are new daily trains from Bratislava at 0737 and 1537, but the 0937 is withdrawn. Friday train IC 1503 Bratislava to Humenné runs two hours later at 1737. IC 504 now runs daily from Košice to Bratislava, slightly retimed to 1524. All IC trains on the route now call additionally at Ružomberok and Vrútky.

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

HUNGARY

Many lines continue to be affected by engineering work and passengers are advised to check timings before travel. In particular, the Budapest – Fonyód – Nagykanizsa line (Table 1220) has frequent timetable changes involving bus substitution over a section of line.

There are no trains running between Budapest Déli and Kelenföld until further notice, with a small number of trains diverted to Keleti station. This is due to the temporary closure of Déli station for safety reasons and it is understood that this situation could continue into early April. Kelenföld can be reached from Budapest Keleti by using metro line 4.

SLOVENIA

Owing to engineering work on weekdays from February 17 to May 8, some ICs services will be replaced by bus on the Celje – Pragersko – Maribor axis. Some local services will also be affected (Table 1315).

SERBIA

Reports suggest that the direct route between Beograd and Požega may reopen shortly, although no official reopening date has been communicated to us. This will enable reinstatement of full Bar traffic and avoid the lengthy detour via Lapovo and Kragujevac imposed on the single service currently running (Table 1370).

BULGARIA

It appears that most of the services withdrawn on January 12 have now been reinstated and our Bulgarian tables have been updated to reflect this positive news.

RUSSIA

The *Sapsan* high-speed service between Moskva and St Peterburg has been revised and Table 1900 has been updated accordingly.

Timings of the St Peterburg to Helsinki service from March 29 have been confirmed and these will be found in a special version of Table 1910 below.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers China with tables numbered 7000 upwards. Due to the rapidly expanding high-speed network in China we have decided to increase the size of our Beyond Europe China section by two pages so that we can show these services in more detail.

The additional space has been used to show the high-speed services to Guilin, Beihai and Fanchenggang, together with the high-speed line between Shanghai and Nanchang. Table 7200 has been expanded to include the line from Xiamen to Shenzhen. We intend to include further high-speed lines in the September edition.

There has also been considerable timing alterations and changes to train types and numbers. For example, all services that we show in Table 7020 have been reclassified from G class (300km/h) to D class (250km/h). Table 7250 has been amended to reflect changes to the twice-weekly service between Hà Nôi and Beijing, where passengers now have to change trains at the border.

RZHD, VR		ST PETERBURG - HELSINKI										1910
Service March 29 - October 24, 2015. Service until March 28, 2015 will be found on page 531.												
km		151 AE30 A	Fir 32A/J B	153 AE34 A	155 AE36 A	157 AE38 A	AE33 152 A	AE35 154 A	AE37 156 A	Fir 31A/J B	AE39 158 A	
***	Moskva Okt. 1900	...	2300	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
0	St Peterburg Ladozhski	...	0556	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
129	St Peterburg Finlyandski	0640	...	1025	1525	1925	0612	1100	1500	1856	2000	
129	Vyborg	0735	0751	1120	1620	2020	0618	1106	1506	1903	2006	
129	Vainikkala	0745	0855	1130	1630	2030	0628	1116	1516	1914	2016	
159	Vainikkala	0814	0937	1159	1659	2059	0702	1150	1550	2018	2050	
159	Vainikkala	0821	1000	1206	1706	2106	0728	1216	1616	2057	2116	
250	Kouvola 797	0900	1057	1245	1745	2145	0807	1255	1655	2145	2155	
312	Lahti 797	0926	1136	1311	1811	2211	0814	1302	1702	2235	2202	
400	Tikkurila 797	1001	1242	1346	1846	2246	Vyborg	1327	1727	2316	2227	
413	Pasila 797	1010	1310	1355	1855	2255	Vyborg	1332	1732	2343	2232	
416	Helsinki 797	1016	1317	1401	1901	2301	St Peterburg Finlyandski	1048	1436	1836	2336	
							St Peterburg Ladozhski	...	...	0141	...
							Moskva Okt. 1900	...	...	0824	...

A – Allegro St Peterburg - Helsinki and v.v.

B – LEV TOLSTOI – 1 cl. with ensuite, 1,2 cl., Moskva - Helsinki and v.v. (also 32 VJ).

*** 143 km St Peterburg Ladozhski - Vyborg.

FI – Finland (East European Time, GMT+2 hours winter, GMT+3 hours summer).
RU – Russia (Moskva Time).

www.hiddenEurope.co.uk



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