

What's new this month

WELCOME

As well as the latest updates to current European rail schedules, this month's digital edition of the European Rail Timetable includes the first sixteen pages of our **Summer International Supplement** with advance timings for selected international tables valid from June 11. It will be found at the back of timetable, on pages 581 to 596, and will be updated and expanded further in our April and May editions.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

For our Route of the Month, which will be found on page 34, our regular travel correspondents, Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, describe a journey between Genève and Valence on board one of the *transport express régional* services shown in Table 364. The daily TGV service via Lyon may provide a faster journey, but by opting for the traditional route via Grenoble the traveller will be rewarded with some delightfully varied scenery as the train works its way through the Savoy Alps and on to the Lower Rhône region.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Nicky Gardner recalls a recent Eurostar trip where she was able to sample the new first-class lounge at the Gare du Nord in Paris. On arrival Nicky found a completely new concept in lounge design created in the style of a chic Parisian apartment. Find out more on what the new lounge has to offer in our Tip of the Month on page 35.

INTERNATIONAL

Thalys service **9401** (the 0601 from Paris to Essen) and return train **9412** (the 0520 from Dortmund to Paris) will both cease running on Sundays from April 2 (Tables 20 and 21).

The overnight service between Bulgaria and Turkey is once again running as a through train between Sofia and Halkalı (Istanbul) and has been retimed in Bulgaria resulting in a reduced journey time. Through cars from and to Bucureşti will be conveyed during the summer months. Tables 61 and 1550 have been updated with the revised timings.

The 0609 departure from Zürich to Milano (**EC11**) is extended to Venezia Santa Lucia (arriving 1240) on Saturdays and Sundays from June 17. **EC10** will form the corresponding return journey, leaving Venezia at 1520 (Table 82).

Timings for both Eurostar and Thalys are now confirmed until September 2 and these are included in the relevant tables of our Summer International Supplement.

FRANCE

Services between Le Châtelard Frontière, Chamonix and St Gervais will be replaced by bus from April 3 to June 23 (Tables 365a and 572).

SPAIN

A new early morning service from Ripoll to Barcelona has been introduced on Mondays to Fridays, departing Ripoll at 0530, arriving Barcelona Sants at 0734 (Table 656).

Additional summer services between Madrid and Cádiz/Huelva have been added to Tables 660 and 671.

GERMANY

As reported last month, engineering work taking place on the main line between Nürnberg and Würzburg will affect most services using the route from March 6 to June 25. All affected tables have now been updated to reflect the revised timings and these will remain in place until the May edition. Regular timings from June 26 will be included in the Summer edition.

The key international route between München and Salzburg is another that will soon be affected by engineering work, this time for around three months from April 14 to July 16. During this period many trains will be retimed and a number of *EC/IC* services will not run between München and Salzburg (these trains will continue to run either side of the affected section, albeit with different train numbers in some cases). To help readers plan upcoming journeys, we have included details of the modified timetable in a special version of Table 890 on page 564.

There are numerous other locations around Germany where engineering work will affect long-distance services over the coming months and, to help readers plan their journeys, we have included a summary of the most significant alterations on page 367. Please note that this list is not exhaustive and other alterations may occur, particularly at weekends and during holiday periods.

SLOVAKIA

Slovakian Railways has doubled the number of *InterCity* trains on its Bratislava to Košice route from two to four (Table 1180). This follows the decision by RegioJet to withdraw all three of its trains on the route at the end of January. RegioJet has, however, introduced an evening Vrútky to Košice journey, which connects out of its Praha to Zvolen train leaving Praha at 1444. In the other direction there is an early morning equivalent departing Košice at 0403, allowing arrival into Praha at 1212 with the change at Vrútky.

From February 26 there was a general timetable amendment in Slovakia with minor retimings to several trains.

ALBANIA

A recent visit to Albania revealed an infrequent service operating between Durrës and Kashar. No timings are available.

ROMANIA

A new night service between Bucureşti and Arad has been started by open access operator Astra Trans Carpatic. The train will feature sleeping berths, couchette cars and first class seats (Tables 1600/10).

UKRAINE and MOLDOVA

Recent changes include the introduction of a Kyiv – Lviv – Ivano-Frankivsk *IC* train (Table 1700). The early morning Kyiv – Lviv *IC* train via Korosten now continues across the Polish border to Przemyśl (instead of Truskavets), and is shown between Lviv and Przemyśl in new Table 1732. It returns from Przemyśl at 1426 allowing connections from southern Poland. Truskavets is now served by an evening *IC* instead, returning early morning.

Many trains will be retimed from March 26 and the variations are shown this month where possible. The schedule change coincides with the introduction of daylight saving time for the summer. As usual, cross-border services into Russia and Belarus have revised times from March 26 to October 28 as these countries do not change their clocks.

The allocation of an extra page has allowed our coverage of Ukraine to be improved, and inevitably there are some changes to table numbers.

RUSSIA

All *Allegro* trains from Helsinki to St Peterburg (also the Helsinki to Moskva train) will depart Helsinki one hour later from March 26 when Finland puts its clocks forward. Similarly, arrivals into Helsinki will be one hour later (Table 1910). Services from Poland and Lithuania to Belarus and Russia will also be retimed due to the clock change (Table 1950), as will trains from Riga (Table 1840) and Tallinn (Table 1870).

SHIPPING

Minoan Lines' Trieste – Pátra route has switched Italian ports and now operates from Venezia via Ancona (Table 2875).

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers China and will be found on pages 566 to 579. A number of changes have been made since this section last appeared in December.

We have expanded Table 7010 to include high-speed services between Dandong and Dalian. Table 7097 has also been adjusted so that connecting services are better shown.

Following a request from a reader, we have used the "compilers shoehorn" to add He Kou to Table 7145. He Kou is situated opposite Lao Cal in Việt Nam and gives an alternative route across the border other than that via Dong Dang.

Another station addition is Kunming, which is now included in Table 7192. This enables us to show services along the whole of the Shanghai to Kunming high-speed route.

CLOCK CHANGE

Summer time (also known as daylight saving time) will commence in the early hours of Sunday March 26 with clocks going forward one hour in most European countries. The only exceptions are in Belarus, Iceland, Russia (including Kaliningrad) and Turkey. A summary of European time zones will be found on page 2.