

What's new this month

WELCOME

This month's edition of the European Rail Timetable includes the latest updates to current rail schedules together with the first appearance of our 2018 Summer International Supplement with advance versions of selected international tables valid from June 10. The supplement will be found towards the back of this edition (from page 585) and will be updated further in the April and May editions.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

This month our regular travel correspondents, Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, sample the cross-border link between Białystok, located in north-eastern Poland, and Kaunas in Lithuania. This service was introduced in the summer of 2016 with two journeys provided in each direction on Saturdays and Sundays (with a single service also running northbound on Fridays and southbound on Mondays). The description of their journey will be found on page 36 and the latest schedules are shown in Table 1042.

INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar will start operating direct services from London to Amsterdam on April 4. Two trains will run each day Mondays to Fridays with one service provided on both Saturdays and Sundays. In the opposite direction passengers will have to take a Thalys service from Amsterdam to Brussels and, after border and security checks have taken place, will then be able to continue their journey to London by Eurostar. This arrangement for journeys to London is expected to remain in place until December 2019 by which time it should be possible for border formalities to take place in the Netherlands. Table 15 has been updated with the new timings.

It has been confirmed that the Amsterdam to Brussels Intercity service will be significantly altered from April 9 when trains will start using the high-speed line between Amsterdam and Antwerpen thus avoiding Den Haag and Dordrecht (but will call additionally at Breda where the train will reverse). However, we understand that Den Haag will continue to be served by four trains a day in each direction. The timetable is currently being finalised and we will show full details in the April edition.

FRANCE

The line between Annemasse and La Roche sur Foron will be closed to all rail traffic from March 15 to December 8 so that essential work can be carried out in relation to the CEVA project (which will eventually provide a direct rail link between Genève Cornavin and Annemasse). During this period all St Gervais services will run from/to Annecy with a replacement bus operating over the closed section between La Roche sur Foron and Annemasse. Passengers making journeys between Lyon and St Gervais are advised to travel via Annecy where trains are timed to connect. For journeys from and to Paris either use the bus replacement service via Bellegarde or travel by train all the way via Annecy or Lyon. Table 365 has been fully updated to show the revised schedules from March 15. Please note that rail services continue to operate between Bellegarde, Annemasse and Évian les Bains, although there have been some timing alterations so Table 363 has also been updated for this edition and is valid from March 15. Please refer to earlier editions for journeys in the area until March 14.

ITALY

Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (NTV) will introduce two additional *.italo* train pairs from March 1 between Venezia and Napoli. These will depart at 1600 and 1800 from Venezia Santa Lucia, and at 0655 and 0945 from Napoli Centrale; the latter train actually starting from Salerno at 0855 (Table 600).

DENMARK

Engineering work will take place south of Vordingborg from March 24 to June 4. Domestic trains will start and terminate at Orehoved, a temporary station just south of the bridge over the Storstrøm, which has been added temporarily to Table 720. During this period København – Hamburg international trains will be replaced by bus between København and Rødby.

POLAND

New schedules valid from March 11 have been received and tables have been updated accordingly.

CZECH REPUBLIC

A short section of line south-west of Plzeň on the line to Domažlice and the German border at Furth im Wald (Table 885) will be closed from March 1 to May 30. This affects the Praha – Plzeň – Regensburg – München trains, and revised timings during this period are shown in Table 76. Timings are unchanged between Praha and Plzeň (Table 1120) but passengers for Regensburg and München will need to alight (before Plzeň is reached) at Rokycany, where a special stop is made for transfer to and from replacement buses. These will carry passengers between Rokycany and Nýřany, where trains to Regensburg and München start and finish, regaining their normal timings between Domažlice and München.

Passengers travelling between Plzeň and Regensburg or München will be conveyed by bus between Plzeň and Nýřany, leaving Plzeň 20 minutes earlier, whilst arrivals at Plzeň from the München direction will be 20 minutes later. The replacement buses from Plzeň will depart from the bus stop on ulici Šumavská on the north side of the station.

HUNGARY

IC trains between Budapest and Pécs are affected by engineering work from February 26 to June 15. Passengers will have to start their journey at Kelenföld station (linked by metro, see map on page 31). From there a replacement bus service will run for 20 kilometres to Százhalom where the trains to Pécs will commence. One peak-hour train each way will, however, extend to and from Budapest, but will serve Déli station rather than Keleti. Full details are shown in Table 1200. The through Budapest – Baja trains are also affected, as shown in Table 1210.

GREECE

February saw the new southern alignment of the Athina – Thessaloniki mainline open between Tithorea and Lianokladi. As a consequence readers should be aware that schedules may be revised shortly as services are expected to benefit from shorter journey times. Amfiki station will be closed (Table 1400).

TURKEY

Turkish Railways has once again altered its high-speed schedules shown in Table 1570, together with the timings of the connecting bus services shown in the same table. The latest version of the timetable is valid from March 1 and indicates that all high-speed trains will serve Ankara Lale station rather than Sincan. There is currently no indication as to when trains will revert back to using Sincan station.

RUSSIA

A through *Sapsan* high-speed train will link St Peterburg with Nizhni Novgorod via Moskva from March 1, leaving St Peterburg at 1700 and returning from Nizhni Novgorod (from March 2) early morning. Timings have been added to Tables 1900 and 1990. In Moskva it will serve Kurskaya station.

SHIPPING

Brittany Ferries has announced a new twice weekly sailing between Cork and Santander. Due to commence towards the end of April, departures will be on Wednesdays and Fridays from Ireland, and Thursdays and Sundays from Spain (Table 2105).

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section features China and will be found on pages 570 to 583.

The high-speed corridor between Xi'an, Chengdu and Chongqing opened in January and, to enable us to show the service on this route, we have made a few changes to our Chinese pages. Schedules along the new high-speed line are shown in a new table, numbered 7132. The Guiyang to Guangzhou table has been renumbered 7146 (formerly 7185) and has been expanded to include Chengdu and Chongqing. Another new table is 7187 which shows high-speed services between Kunming and Guangzhou via Nanning. Most other tables have been updated with the latest available information.

CLOCK CHANGE

Daylight Saving Time will start during the early hours of March 25 with clocks moving forward one hour in most European countries. The only exceptions are Iceland, Russia, Belarus and Turkey. Please note that changes to timings of cross-border services to and from Russia and Belarus are incorporated in our tables.