

What's new this month

In this final edition of the winter timetable period, most timings in Continental Europe are valid until June 11, although our international tables from June 12 are shown at the back of this edition (pages 540 to 588) in the **Summer International Supplement**. British timings in this edition are valid until May 21, and timings for Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine until May 28. Other exceptions include Finland, valid to June 5, and Sweden, where the winter timings continue until June 18.

RAIL PASSES

Our special **Rail Passes** feature has been updated with the latest information and will be found on pages 33 to 39. As well as the latest information on the InterRail, Eurail, and Britrail schemes, we also list a wide range of passes for individual countries or areas, including city passes and visitor cards for major cities.

CAR-CARRYING TRAINS

As usual in editions with a special feature, a one-page summary of Car-Carrying trains is included (on page 44 this month), and the full version of Tables 1 and 2 will be shown next month.

AIRPORT LINKS

Zaragoza Airport, and its bus link to the city, has been added to Table 5 following a suggestion by a correspondent.

INTERNATIONAL

Engineering work will affect *Thalys* services between Brussels and Amsterdam on June 4, 5, 25 and 26. The temporary timetables for these dates are shown in special versions of Table 18 on page 591.

In addition to calling at Dijon, the overnight Paris - Roma *Trainhotel Artesia Stendhal* (train 221/220) also calls at Dole, and this has been added to Table 44 following a correspondent's suggestion.

Elipsos services between Barcelona and Zürich, Barcelona and Milano and Paris and Madrid will not run on certain dates in May and June. See Tables 46, 49 and 90a for full details.

GREAT BRITAIN

As mentioned above, timetables in this edition are valid to May 21, and the new summer timetable valid from May 22 until December 10 will be shown next month. Amongst the changes next month will be a fully recast timetable (known as *Eureka*) for the East Coast Main Line from London to the north-east of England and Edinburgh.

IRELAND

Iarnród Éireann will be implementing a new timetable from May 8, which is shown this month. Only services out of Dublin Heuston are affected; please refer to the April edition for timings until May 7. The 1240 Waterford to Limerick Junction and the 1500 Limerick Junction to Waterford (Table 239) are retimed to run 60 - 65 minutes earlier. The 0705 Galway - Dublin (Table 240) is retimed 30 minutes later and there is one additional return trip between Ennis and Galway (Table 240).

The 1840 Dublin to Thurles is cut back to terminate at Portlaoise (Table 245) and the 0630 Cork to Tralee runs additionally on Saturdays (Table 246). Two Sunday trains are withdrawn: the 1405 Cork to Tralee and the 1305 Tralee to Mallow. The 1600 Dublin to Cork train no longer requires compulsory reservation on Fridays.

Trains serving Dublin Connolly station (Dublin to Belfast, Rosslare and Sligo) are expected to change in July, as are local DART services in the Dublin area.

FRANCE

Services between Toulouse and Latour de Carol are partly by bus until July 1 - temporary timings are shown on page 590.

Between May 2 and September 18 a major track reconstruction project will see trains replaced by buses between Toulouse and Tessonnières (Table 316), whilst services from Toulouse to Albi (Table 323) and Mazamet (Table 314) will be entirely by bus. We were hoping to show the revised timings this month, but information was not available as we went to press.

SPAIN

Renfe closed its Gijón Jovellanos and Gijón Cercanías stations on March 28 and are now sharing the previously opened temporary

terminus of Gijón Sanz Crespo (mentioned last month) with FEVE, operator of the narrow gauge lines.

The *Media Distancia* services between Sevilla and Huelva (Table 671) have been retimed with extended journey times.

On April 26, two new early-morning non-stop *AVE* journeys will be introduced on the Madrid - Barcelona line (Table 650), departing Madrid at 0610 and Barcelona at 0615. At the same time, two other journeys will be withdrawn, the 0930 from Barcelona and the 2040 from Madrid. In compensation for the latter, the 2030 and 2100 departures from Madrid will make extra stops.

A new bus service has been introduced between the high-speed station at Lleida and Andorra, running four times each day. Details are in Table 664.

PORTUGAL

Minor timing changes have been made to the Douro Valley service (Table 694), with some trains now leaving Régua for Porto up to 5 minutes earlier than before.

DENMARK

Four *InterCity Lyn* trains have been temporarily suspended owing to a shortage of stock caused by a depot fire. The trains affected are the departures from København H at 1720 and 1727 to Århus and Odense respectively (Table 700), also the 0629 from Odense and 0553 from Århus.

SWEDEN

The *X2000* services operating Göteborg - Malmö - København have been replaced with loco-hauled trains and no longer operate into Denmark (Table 735). Changes have also been made to Tables 730, 740 and 750.

FINLAND

As expected, the two additional *Allegro* services between Helsinki and St Peterburg (Table 1910) will commence on May 29.

GERMANY

Max Maulwurf, German Railways' cartoon character denoting engineering work, has been very busy this year, and things are set to get a lot busier for this friendly mole as we move into summer! The work taking place between Berlin and Cottbus (Table 838) over the past 12 months was scheduled to end on April 30 but Max has decided to hang around for a little bit longer meaning the temporary timetable will remain in place until June 11.

Engineering work starts on May 1 between Hamburg and Hannover resulting in extensive alterations to services that will remain in place until October 29. All affected tables have been updated accordingly.

The Stuttgart - Singen - Zürich route (Table 940) is affected by engineering work Apr. 29 - May 28. All trains (including international *IC* services) are replaced by bus between Horb and Rottweil. A special version of this table covering this period will be found on page 591. A brief outline of other known service alterations can be found in the shaded panel on page 361.

POLAND

The engineering work which will result in the closure of Łódź Fabryczna station has been delayed until September 1, and services from Warszawa will continue to serve this station for now (Table 1090). However, the schedule will alter from June 1, as shown on page 590.

The daily direct train between Bohumin and Kraków via Zembrzydowice and Wadowice has been added to Table 1079. However, we now understand that this route is in danger of being withdrawn from June 1!

The line between Wolsztyn and Poznań (Table 1099) was closed from March 14 for five months due to engineering work. The line will not be shut in its entirety for the whole period but buses will convey passengers over the affected stretches. The Wolsztyn steam trains which normally use the line will now run from Leszno to Zbąszynek via Wolsztyn and Zbąszyń.

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SLOVAKIA

Mid-term timetable changes from May 1 bring significant alterations to a number of local services, particularly affecting minor international borders. Two cross-border services are withdrawn altogether, namely Fil'akovo to Somoskőjfalu in Hungary (Table 1190) and the seasonal service from Medzilaborce to Łupków in Poland (Table 1079). The two local trains from Štúrovo to Budapest (Table 1175) are also withdrawn, and the service to the Czech Republic via Vlárský průmysk (Table 1181) is reduced to just one Sunday journey each way.

Table 1185 also has significant alterations, including the withdrawal of summer trains 1854/5 Žilina - Zvolen, whilst local services via Červená Skala in Table 1190 are also revised. Trains to Plaveč, which lost its service to Poland last year, have been substantially reduced, both from Poprad Tatry (Table 1182) and Košice (Table 1196). Finally, there are fewer connections to Tatranská Lomnica via Studený Potok (Table 1182 has been restructured as a result) and Medzilaborce has lost a late journey from Humenné (Table 1194). All relevant tables have been updated.

ROMANIA

The suspension of train 376/377 *Mureş* between Arad and Târgu Mures in early April was short lived, as it has been announced that the train will return to its normal route from April 20/21.

GREECE

As we went to press, the situation regarding international trains to and from Greece remained the same, with all services suspended. On the domestic front, train pair IC47/8 Athina - Kalambáka and return has been reintroduced (Tables 1400/8).

Early April saw the opening of a new station at Acharnon, known simply as SKA. The new facility will provide an interchange point between services on three routes: Athina Airport - Kiáto (Table 1440), Athina Lárisa - Halkída (Table 1420), and also mainline services between Athina and Thessaloníki (Table 1400). The new timings are shown in Table 1440, but were not available for the other routes as we closed for press.

RUSSIA

A new timetable for the *Sapsan* high-speed service between Moskva and St Peterburg (Table 1900) was introduced on April 11. All journey times have been increased by between 5 and 17 minutes.

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Table 10 – Eurostar timings in the Summer Supplement are valid from July 3 until December 10 (see page 46 for the service to July 2). The summer timetable includes the usual additional trains running during the high-summer period. Two Paris-bound services running during July and August are 9016 1000 Mondays to Fridays and 9026 1300 on Fridays only, whilst daily train 9044 at 1730 will reduce to running on Saturdays and Sundays. In the opposite direction trains 9025 at 1143 and 9037 at 1443 will run on Fridays only, whilst 9033 at 1343 will run on Sundays only. Train 9035 at 1413 will increase from running three days a week to daily during July and August.

On the London - Brussels route, train 9112 (0734 from London) calls additionally at Lille Europe to improve connections into TGV 5164 for Marseille and Nice, and train 9181, the 1129 Saturday departure from Brussels, will call additionally at Ebbsfleet.

Table 18 – *Thalys* will withdraw certain peak-hour services over the peak summer period.

Table 20 – From August 29, *Thalys* 9412/9453 Köln - Paris will be extended to and from Essen calling at Düsseldorf and Duisburg. This service will be increased from December with three trains each way.

Table 22 – The engineering work between Hannover and Berlin from June 12 until August 27 is affecting the international trains between Amsterdam and Berlin. Services are diverted, not calling at Wolfsburg, Stendal and Berlin Ost, with extended journey times of up to 60 minutes.

Table 28 – From July 23 until August 28, services between Amsterdam and Köln are diverted via Eindhoven, Venlo and Mönchengladbach. A temporary table has been created to show the altered timings, located below Table 30 (Summer).

Table 73 – Prior to December, overnight travellers on the Basel - Frankfurt - Köln - Hamburg route who did not wish to use sleeping or couchette accommodation could use ICE 609/608. This was replaced in December 2010 by IC 2009/2008 Basel - Frankfurt (Main) and IC 2003/2000 Frankfurt (Main) - Köln - Hamburg, albeit with a tight 5 or 7 minute connection in the early hours. From June 12 this will be further amended with the cutting back of IC 2003/2000 to Köln - Hamburg and the withdrawal of IC 2009/2008 Basel - Frankfurt (Main). However the connection is maintained by the provision of additional seating accommodation (reservation not compulsory) on CNL 478/479 between Basel and Duisburg via Köln as IC 60478/61419, with good connections at Köln to and from Hamburg.

Table 98 – Train 59/60 *Bulgaria Express* Moskva - Sofiya will be retimed from June 12 and will no longer have different summer and winter timings between Moskva and Kyiv.

Three international trains which traditionally have run on Summer Saturdays will return to action this summer as usual. Eurostar will be running train 9084/9087 from London to Avignon (Tables 11, 17a), *Thalys* will be running 9928/9954 *Thalys Soleil* from Amsterdam and Brussels to Marseille (Tables 11, 18) whilst German Railways (DB) will run train 1280/1281 *Grossglockner* from München to Zell am See.

NEXT MONTH

The June edition of the European Rail Timetable will mark an important milestone in our history - the 1500th edition to be published since it started in 1873!

We will also be including some sample tables from our new *Beyond Europe* section, which will start in earnest from the August edition. See the panel below for more details.

All of our timetables, maps and guidebooks can be ordered online at www.thomascookpublishing.com. There is a 10% discount for online purchases of the monthly European Rail Timetable.

BEYOND EUROPE

With the Thomas Cook *Overseas Timetable* having ceased at the end of last year, we have been looking at ways in which we can continue to provide some of the information for services outside Europe to our readers. With this in mind, we will be introducing a new *Beyond Europe* section to the European Rail Timetable from August 2011. Each monthly edition will cover a different area of the world, and there will be six areas, each appearing twice yearly as follows:

South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand: *August and February editions*

China: *September and March editions*

Japan: *October and April editions*

North America: *November and May editions*

Africa and Middle East: *December and June editions*

India: *January and July editions*

Each section will include principal rail services in the areas covered. The months have been chosen so that we can bring you up-to-date information for those countries which make seasonal changes.

From the August edition we will also be expanding our tables for **Turkey**, **Russia** and the **Ukraine**.

As a taster, we will be including some sample tables from each *Beyond Europe* section in our **June 2011** edition.