

What's new this month

WELCOME

Welcome to the May edition of the *European Rail Timetable*, the last covering the current winter timetable period. Many countries will be introducing new or amended timetables for the summer period and these will be shown, where possible, in the June edition. In most countries these changes will come in to effect on June 15, but there are a number of exceptions. For example, updated British schedules will be valid from May 18, whilst in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and the Baltic states new timings will take effect from May 25. In Sweden the current timetable will remain in place until June 28.

Readers will find an expanded rail pass feature this month showing detailed information on InterRail, Eurail, BritRail and other international passes (pages 559–561). Changes this year include France rejoining the *Eurail Select Pass* (although the three and five country passes appear to have been withdrawn - leaving only a four country pass), the withdrawal of Poland from the *European East Pass* and Turkey moves into a higher price band for the *InterRail One Country Pass*.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries opt for a boat journey as they sail with *Smyril Line* from Hirtshals in Denmark to the Icelandic port of Seydisfjörður via the Faroe Islands (Table 2285). This is the first time a journey by sea has been featured as our *Route of the Month* and will be found on page 35.

INTERNATIONAL

We have received Eurostar timings valid through to December 13 and Table 10 has been updated accordingly.

We understand the fourth Barcelona to Paris service (Table 13) and the second Barcelona to Toulouse, Marseille and Lyon services (Table 49) will start running from July 6. Connections to and from Genève have also been added to Table 49.

A correspondent has suggested adding *Intercity direct* connections between Rotterdam and Amsterdam in Table 18 for travellers wishing to avoid *Thalys* services between Brussels and Amsterdam. The relevant connections have been inserted, although readers should be aware that a small supplement may still be payable depending on the type of ticket held. It is understood that the present Brussels – Den Haag service will be extended to Amsterdam from December 2014, thus restoring the traditional through service between Brussels and Amsterdam.

City Night Line have withdrawn all restaurant cars and replaced them with additional sleeping cars or couchettes.

GREAT BRITAIN

As mentioned above, revised schedules will be introduced on May 18 and these will be shown in the June edition.

FRANCE

Engineering work continues on the route linking Lyon with Genève, Évian, St Gervais and Aix les Bains (via Ambérieu) and the latest available timings, valid from May 5, are shown in the relevant tables. Readers travelling in the area are advised to confirm timings locally.

SPAIN

A new station, Villanueva de Córdoba-Los Pedroches, has opened on the Madrid – Córdoba high-speed line. Served by four trains a day (three at weekends), timings have been added to Table 660 in the form of a footnote.

Alvia 631, the 0720 Valladolid to Barcelona, departs Valladolid 1132 on Sundays as train 633 (Tables 650a, 653 and 689).

Updates to the Barcelona – Girona – Figueres – Portbou local service have been incorporated into Table 657 and the route between Lleida and La Pobla de Segur has a revised Sunday service (Table 655).

DENMARK

The København to Kalundborg route is disrupted from May 3 to August 17, with no through services operating. Passengers will be required to use replacement bus services between either Lejre or Hvalsø (both west of Roskilde) and Holbæk. Owing to the complexities of the temporary schedules it is not possible to show the amended service in Table 704 this month.

ICELAND

Summer schedules valid from May 15 for operator Straetó have been added to Table 729.

GERMANY

Until September 28 regional services between Freiburg and Basel operate to a special timetable with only a limited number of regional trains operating south of Schliengen (other services are replaced by bus). To help passengers make their journeys easier a number of ICE services to and from Basel call additionally at Müllheim (regional tickets are valid, but only between Müllheim and Basel Badischer Bahnhof). Details of the revised service will be found on page 558.

The international link between Trier and Luxembourg is affected by engineering work between May 2 and June 27. Buses replace all trains on the German side of the border resulting in extended journey times. Full details will be found in a special table on page 558.

POLAND

Further timetable alterations were made from April 27 and tables have been updated accordingly.

The Kraków Główny to Balice airport service is currently suspended whilst construction of a new terminal building and station takes place. It is expected to reopen in the latter half of 2015 (Table 1099).

There is also a change to the Modlin airport service which now serves Warszawa Wschodnia station instead of Centralna (Table 1030).

CZECH REPUBLIC

Engineering work is affecting trains on the Praha – Karlovy Vary – Cheb route (Table 1110) by up to 30 minutes until the end of July. Two SC trains in Table 1160 are now running on additional days, namely the 0411 Bohumin – Praha (SC518) and 1636 from Praha (SC513).

SLOVAKIA

The Poprad Tatry to Zakopane international bus service (Table 1183) has been suspended due to a new ruling preventing the operator carrying passengers wholly within Slovakia.

CROATIA

As we closed for press details were received of significant country-wide timetable alterations involving many cancellations, with weekend services especially affected. Of particular note Knin – Zadar (Table 1330), Ploče – Metković (Table 1355) and Strizvojnina-Vrpolje – Slavonski Šamac (Table 1345) are completely replaced by bus.

GREECE

Very welcome news is the expected reinstatement of international services from May 10 reconnecting Greece with Bulgaria, FYRO Macedonia and Serbia. Readers may remember that all international services were suspended in February 2011.

The *Hellas* will run daily Beograd – Skopje – Thessaloniki and v.v. conveying both seats and couchette cars. Full timings are not yet available but departure from Beograd will be at 1845, arriving in Thessaloniki at 1110 the following day. The return service will depart from Thessaloniki at 1552 and arrive in Beograd at 0533 the following morning (Table 1380).

A daily daytime train will also resume between Thessaloniki and Sofia. Once again precise timings are still to be confirmed but departure from Thessaloniki is expected to be at 0700, arriving in Sofia at 1400. The return journey departs Sofia at 1520, arriving in Thessaloniki at 2220. We hope to include full details of these services in the June edition.

BEYOND EUROPE

In a change to the previous pattern, this month's *Beyond Europe* section covers Africa and the Middle East, not North America as previously in the May edition. From now on the North American region will be included in the June and December editions, whilst Africa and the Middle East will appear in May and November. This change will enable us to show the most up to date schedules in North America. Details of when each *Beyond Europe* region is shown will be found on pages 5 and 564. Readers are reminded that all of the latest *Beyond Europe* sections are included in the seasonal Summer and Winter editions of the *European Rail Timetable*, together with three additional pages covering South America. The Summer 2014 seasonal edition can now be ordered from our website (www.europeanrailtimetable.eu).

Timetables in Israel have been completely recast from June 14 and so we are showing two versions of Tables 4500 and 4510 this month. Timings to June 13 will be found on pages 573 and 574 and the revised schedules from June 14 are located on pages 562 and 563.