

What's new this month

WELCOME

Welcome to the May edition of the *European Rail Timetable*, the last covering the current winter timetable period. Although a number of countries have timings valid through to December 12, many others, including France, Germany and Italy, are only valid until June 13. Updated timings from June 14 will be included, where possible, in the June edition. As is usual, British schedules are the main exception with winter timings in this edition only being valid until May 16. However, no major changes are expected to existing services from May 17 (apart from the usual summer variations to the holiday resorts of south-west England) and all of the British tables will, of course, be fully updated in our June edition.

Our **Summer International Supplement** has been expanded to 46 pages with advance timings for most of our international tables valid from June 14.

This month we have included a special four page feature with details of European rail passes available for purely domestic travel. This occasional feature will be found on pages 572 to 575 and we have also included a summary of the latest InterRail and Eurail prices on page 36.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

With the opening of *Expo Milano 2015* on May 1, Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, editors of *hidden europe* magazine, explore the Simplon Tunnel route from Brig to Milano, unearthing some unusual historical facts in the process. Interestingly this route was inaugurated to coincide with the opening of the previous World Fair hosted by Milano in 1906 making it an obvious choice to be featured this month. Find out more in this month's feature which will be found on page 35.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Our regular Tip of the Month feature is located on page 93 and looks at how to get the best value from an InterRail pass.

INTERNATIONAL

From June 27 to August 9 there will be major disruption to *Thalys* and *ICE* services between Brussels and Köln. During this period services will be diverted between Aachen and Köln extending journey time by approximately 60 minutes. We have included a special table on page 34 to help with journey planning during the disruption.

It appears that compulsory reservation will be introduced for international journeys between København/Århus and Hamburg during the summer from June 14 to August 30 (Tables **50**, **710**, **720** and **825**).

Not mentioned last month were some table number changes in the International section. The Nice to Moskva Table **59** has been moved adjacent to the Paris to Moskva Table **24** and renumbered **25**. Also, the Frankfurt – Leipzig – Dresden – Praha Table **57** has been moved below Table **54** and renumbered **55**.

Further table number changes have been made this month following the recent withdrawal of the Paris to Oostende and Paris to Liège *Thalys* services. The Lille to Brussels Table **16a** is renumbered **16** and London to Marne la Vallée and Marseille, previously Table **17a**, becomes **17**.

CAR TRAINS

Dutch motorail operator Euro-Express-Treincharter (EETC) has announced the withdrawal of its services from Netherlands to Italy and Slovenia, citing substantial increases in infrastructure and stock hire charges as reasons. We understand the *Autoslaaptrain* summer service from 's-Hertogenbosch to Alessandria, Livorno and Koper was well used by UK holidaymakers, and this latest contraction of the European motorail network means the closest terminal to Great Britain is now Düsseldorf.

As we closed for press, we were informed of a new summer Düsseldorf to Verona car train. Departure will be on Fridays from July 3 to August 14, returning from Verona the following day (Table **1**).

AIRPORT LINKS

The bus service from Leeds/Bradford airport to Bradford now also runs on Sundays.

Praha metro line A has been extended to Nádraží Veleslavin from where there is a bus service to Praha Václav Havel airport.

GREAT BRITAIN

The latest franchise operator change has seen Abellio take over ScotRail from First (the operator code remains SR). Sleeper services between London and Scotland, previously operated by ScotRail, are now run as a separate franchise known as Caledonian Sleeper (operator code CS).

BELGIUM

Lille to Tournai (Table **416**) continues to be affected by technical problems, but the temporary shuttle service introduced in March has been further amended, with fewer journeys replaced by bus. The Saturday and Sunday service has reverted to running hourly.

ITALY

As a result of *Expo Milano 2015* there are minor retimings and train renumberings to several long-distance services (Tables **585**, **590**, **600** and **605**). Readers are reminded that a table of direct services serving the exhibition from and to Switzerland will be found on page 66, and a summary of domestic services on page 308.

SPAIN

The overnight *Estrella* service between Barcelona and Madrid has been withdrawn (Tables **651** and **652**).

The service between Vigo and A Coruña has been recast following the opening of a new high-speed line between Santiago de Compostela and Vigo (Table **680**). *Media Distancia* services between Vigo and A Coruña serve new stations at Vigo Urzáiz and Redondela AV, whilst *Regional* trains continue to use Vigo Guixar and Redondela de Galicia stations.

Services between Palencia and Santander have been accelerated (Table **684**).

Engineering work has necessitated closing the line between Antequera -Santa Ana and Granada until August 7. This has affected the Madrid to Granada *Altaría* (Table **660**) and the Sevilla/Algeciras to Granada/Almería *Media Distancia* services (Table **673**) with buses replacing trains between Antequera-Santa Ana and Granada, albeit in the same timings. The Málaga to Madrid service has been recast with additional stops at Antequera-Santa Ana to serve the bus connections. When the line reopens, *AVE* services will ply the Madrid to Granada route in around three hours.

DENMARK

The current programme of engineering work will affect several routes in the forthcoming weeks, with possible disruption and bus substitution.

Work between Odense and Fredericia will affect services from and to København all summer. During this time passengers may encounter a reduced service frequency and in the evenings it will be necessary to change trains at Fredericia on all Esbjerg, Sønderborg, Padborg and Flensburg services (Tables **700**, **705** and **710**).

Between Vamdrup (south of Lunderskov) and Vojens there will be further disruption to all services serving Sønderborg, Padborg and Flensburg on Mondays from 0900 to 1730, and Saturday evenings, when all trains will be replaced by bus (Table **710**). There will be additional variations to schedules during the Ascension holiday period (May 14–17).

GERMANY

Table **867** has been updated with the summer schedules of the Harzer Schmalspurbahnen which are valid from April 25 to November 1.

POLAND

New schedules valid from April 26 are shown this month and all tables have been updated.

Several periods of engineering work impinge upon schedules throughout the country, but in particular readers should be aware of bus substitutions affecting Szczecin – Gdynia – Gdańsk services until June 12 (Table **1015**). The Zakopane route is also the subject to bus replacement between May 4 and June 12 (Table **1066**). Both routes could see journey times extended by up to one hour.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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

SLOVAKIA

Having retimed the Bratislava to Košice IC trains from March 1, Slovak Railways made further significant changes from April 15. IC 501 now leaves Bratislava two hours later at 0937 and no longer runs at weekends, whilst IC 503 at 1337 has been withdrawn and IC 505 at 1537 no longer runs on Saturdays. In the westbound direction IC 500 at 0524 has been withdrawn, IC 502 at 0924 runs only on Mondays to Fridays, and IC 504 at 1524 is withdrawn on Saturdays. The amended service is shown in Table 1180.

HUNGARY

Following the landslide in January, temporary repairs have meant that Budapest Déli station was able to be reopened on April 3, a little earlier than anticipated in these pages last month.

Engineering work and track renewal continues to affect many lines, and several of our tables show temporary timings which are subject to alteration at short notice.

TURKEY

The Pamukkale Ekspresi from Eskişehir to Denizli has been retimed to run during the day instead of overnight (Tables 1581 and 1587).

ROMANIA

Following a period of suspension, Regiotrans resumed operating from April 19. However, a few services are yet to recommence, particularly around Rosiori Nord (Table 1620).

UKRAINE

The current situation in the Ukraine has resulted in many services being cutback or withdrawn. InterCity services from Donetsk to Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv have been temporarily suspended (Tables 1705, 1715).

ESTONIA

The twice weekly service between Tallinn and St Peterburg will be suspended from May 12 and the daily overnight service between Tallinn and Moskva will be suspended from May 20 (Table 1870). We await further advice regarding the future of this service.

SHIPPING

Stena Line will not operate its Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire seasonal sailings this summer, instead concentrating its North Wales operation at the Dublin terminal (Table 2045).

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers North America with tables numbered 9000 upwards. We have made a decision to return to the previous norm of including the North American tables in the May and November editions, with Africa and the Middle East appearing in June and December. This change will enable us to include two additional pages covering rail services in California that are not operated by Amtrak (these pages were first included in the November 2014 edition as a special feature and we feel it would make more sense to include them, space permitting, in tandem with the North American feature).

This month we are also including a bonus two page section covering South Korea which will be found on pages 622 and 623.

PARIS - BRUSSELS - KÖLN

June 27 - August 9

train type train number notes	ICE		ICE		ICE		ICE		train type train number notes	ICE		ICE		ICE		ICE		
	11	9401 9413	15	9437	17	9461	19	9473		9412 9416	18	9424	16	9448	14	9472 9484	10	
Paris Nord.....d.	...	0601 0801	...	1201	...	1601	...	1801	Frankfurt (Main) Hbf.....d.	...	0510x	...	0830	...	...	...	1829
Brussels Midi/Zuid.....a.	...	0723 0923	...	1323	...	1723	...	1923	Frankfurt Flughafen +.....d.	...	0525x	...	0845	...	...	...	1843
Brussels Midi/Zuid.....d.	0625	0728 0928	1025	1328	1300	1728	1825	1928	Essen Hbf.....d.	0540	0540	...	...	...	...	1728	...
Brussels Nord.....d.	0633	...	1034	...	...	1834	...	...	Duisburg Hbf.....d.	0553	0554	...	...	...	...	1748	...
Liège Guillemins.....a.	0710	0811 1011	1112	1411	1347	1811	1912	2011	Düsseldorf Hbf.....d.	0610	0617	...	...	...	...	1817	...
Liège Guillemins.....d.	0712	0814 1014	1114	1414	1350	1814	1914	2014	Köln Hbf.....d.	...	0640x	...	0939	...	...	...	1939
Aachen 德.....a.	0737	0836 1036	1136	1436	1413	1836	1936	2036	Köln Hbf.....d.	...	0645	0743	0943	1143	1443	1543	1943	
Aachen 德.....d.	0746	0846 1046	1146	1446	1419	1846	1946	2046	Aachen 德.....d.	0724	0724	0821	0924	1121	1324	1621	1724	1924
Köln Hbf.....a.	0915	1015 1215	1315	...	1615	2015	2109	...	Liège Guillemins.....a.	0749	0749	0844	0946	1144	1346	1644	1746	1946
Köln Hbf.....d.	0920	1620	...	2128	Brussels Nord.....d.	0752	0752	0846	0949	1146	1349	1646	1749	1949
Düsseldorf Hbf.....a.	1558	2157	...	Brussels Nord.....a.	0926	...	1226	...	1726	...	2226
Duisburg Hbf.....a.	1615	2214	...	Brussels Midi/Zuid.....a.	0832	0832	0935	1032	1235	1432	1735	1832	2032
Essen Hbf.....a.	1633	2232	...	Brussels Midi/Zuid.....d.	0837	0837	...	1037	...	1437	...	1837	2037
Frankfurt Flughafen +.....a.	1010	1715z	...	2216	Paris Nord.....d.	0959	0959	...	1159	...	1559	...	1959	2159
Frankfurt (Main) Hbf.....a.	1024	1730z	...	2230										

x - ①.

z - 14-16 minutes later on ⑥⑦.

⇔ - Thalys high-speed train. ⑧ ⑨. Special fares payable.

European Train Travel made Easy ~ Book Rail Tickets through Ffestiniog Travel

We sell tickets covering most journeys within this timetable.

Here are some sample fares:

- Table 11 London to Nice starts from £123.00pp return
- Table 20 London to Prague starts from £124.00pp return
- Table 21 London to Budapest starts from £230.00pp return
- Table 40 London to Milan starts from £129.00pp return
- Table 42 London to Zermatt starts from £240.00pp return
- Table 56 London to Moscow starts from £477.00pp return



Call 01766 772050 ~

Email: info@ffestiniogtravel.co.uk

Visit www.myrailtrip.co.uk

Ffestiniog Travel will: Plan your route * Provide Free Quotation * Book your Tickets