

What's new this month

WELCOME

As well as the latest updates to rail schedules around Europe, this month's edition of the *European Rail Timetable* includes the full 44 page **Summer International Supplement** which contains advance timings for all our international tables valid from June 12.

We are pleased to announce that, in addition to our regular printed timetable, there is now a digital version available for you to download onto your smartphone, tablet, eBook or computer. Please check our website for further information regarding this new way to obtain the European Rail Timetable (www.europeanrailtimetable.eu).

This summer we have decided to discontinue our regular June edition in order to concentrate our efforts on the Summer 2016 seasonal edition. This highly popular product includes everything contained within the June edition, plus additional pages that include our full rail passes feature together with detailed country by country information on embassies, tourist offices, public transport and more. At the back are an extra 72 pages containing all of the most recent Beyond Europe sections. Please note that if you are a subscription holder you will receive the Summer 2016 edition as a replacement for your regular monthly June copy at no extra cost.

EUROPE BY RAIL

Any idea what it might be like to ride over the Lika Railway as it climbs through formidably barren terrain on its way to Split? Or what you might see as you take the Torre del Oro Talgo train all the way from Barcelona to Seville? You can find out in our brand new guide book, *Europe by Rail: The Definitive Guide for Independent Travellers*. Written by Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, authors of our regular *Route of the Month* feature, this fourteenth edition of the much loved title (previously published by Thomas Cook) has been entirely reworked in a completely new format. It will be published on June 8 and is now available for pre-order. Further details of this exciting new publication, including two sample page layouts, will be found on page 517.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, our regular roving travel writers, have been tempted north by the longer spring evenings. For their regular Route of the Month they travel north across the Arctic Circle on the Nordland Railway to the Norwegian port of Bodø. The description of their journey will be found on page 35 and the latest timings are shown in Table 787.

TIP OF THE MONTH

For our Tip of the Month, which will be found on page 36, Nicky and Susanne investigate the creative use of through carriages and the hidden connections that can be made by simply moving from one carriage to another during part of the journey. They have discovered some particularly long unadvertised trans-European journeys that can be made without needing to leave the train en route.

INTERNATIONAL

All Eurostar timings in our tables are now valid until December 10. The 0650 departure from London to Brussels now leaves earlier on Mondays, at 0613. The 0719 departure from London to Marseille stops additionally at Lille Europe on Mondays until October 24.

Thalys schedules are now confirmed up to and including August 27.

A new table, numbered **18a**, has been created to show the new low-cost *Izy* service. It appears that the €10 standing and the €15 tip-up seat tickets are proving very popular as they are being snapped up quickly on most trains.

Following the permanent withdrawal of international trains **91/90** and **97/96** between Brussels and Basel, we have taken the decision to remove Table 43. The remaining services that were previously shown in that table can be found in Table 73.

Arriva introduced its new international service between Berlin Lichtenberg and Krzyż via Kostrzyn on March 20 (Table 51). The service was originally planned to run to and from Toruń.

A new service has commenced on Saturdays and Sundays between Berlin and Wrocław via Forst and timings will be found in a newly created Table 58. Our friends at *hidden europe* have noted that this is the only international train that stops at Berlin Ostkreuz.

On Mondays to Fridays from July 4 the Marseille to Milano *EC* service, operated by Thello, will run approximately four hours earlier (Table 90). The service on Saturdays and Sundays remains unchanged, as does the daily service in the opposite direction.

GREAT BRITAIN

The storm damaged line between Folkestone and Dover is not now expected to reopen until December 2016. Therefore, the amended timetable shown in Tables **101** and **102** will remain in place until repairs have been completed.

The line between Appleby and Carlisle (Table **173**) also remains closed for repairs although, in this case, no estimated date has yet been given for a return to normal service.

SPAIN

As we went to press for this edition, we had still not received the revised timetable for the Lleida to La Pobla de Segur line valid from April 30 (Table 655).

A fourth *Alvia* service, running on Mondays to Fridays, has been introduced between Madrid and Salamanca (Table 679).

IC train **280/283 Camino de Santiago** between A Coruña/Vigo and Irún/Hendaye/Bilbao has been reduced to just two portions. The Vigo to Irún/Hendaye cars have been withdrawn, together with the Preferente (first class) car between A Coruña and Irún/Hendaye. The remaining portions are Vigo – Bilbao and A Coruña – Irún/Hendaye, both Turista (second) class only. See Tables **680**, **681**, **682** and **689** for the current timings.

ITALY

Several services between Milano and Venezia have recently been reclassified from *Frecciabianca* (*FB*) to *Frecciarossa* (*FR*), with further changes due to take place on May 1 (Table 605).

The local service from Trento to Malé and Marilleva, operated by Trentino Trasporti, is now shown in a new dedicated table, **595a**.

PORTUGAL

From May 1 the Alfa Pendular trains at 0800 from Lisboa to Porto and 1745 Porto to Lisboa (Table 690) now run daily instead of six days per week, and are extended to and from Guimarães (Table 695a). These trains are renumbered *AP141* and *AP140* respectively. The steam-hauled tourist train on the Douro line will commence earlier this summer, with the Saturday train starting on June 4 and the Sunday service on July 3. It will also run on Wednesdays in August; see Table 694 for further details.

GERMANY

From April 28 to July 20 work on the high-speed line between Stuttgart and Mannheim will affect certain long-distance services. *ICE* services from/to Stuttgart and München are mostly affected with journey times extended by up to 20 minutes (most westbound departures from München, Augsburg, Ulm and Stuttgart depart earlier than normal). Northbound *IC* services on the Stuttgart – Heidelberg – Mannheim – Köln route are also subject to amended timings at Stuttgart and Vaihingen.

POLAND

Readers are reminded that from May 27 many services will use Warszawa Gdańska station instead of Warszawa Centralna and Wschodnia. Owing to the complexity of amendments it is not possible on this occasion to show these detailed changes in our tables, and readers are advised to consult local information.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Since early April, trains between Praha and Žilina (Table 1160) have once again been running via Bohumin, instead of being diverted via Haviřov. There are still, however, some retimings in the area and certain trains are not calling at Bohumin. Passengers transferring from *EC113* from Praha onto *Ex145* for Žilina should now change at Ostrava instead of Bohumin, and a similar arrangement is in place in the other direction with trains *Ex144* and *EC112*. Train *Ex530/1* will run only between Břeclav and Ostrava, instead of continuing to Bohumin.

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

SERBIA, FYRo MACEDONIA and GREECE

A landslide has disrupted services between Beograd and Bar. Currently only one (night) train pair is operating throughout – diverted via Kraljevo – and retimed to depart Beograd at 1814 and Bar at 1700, with subsequent amended intermediate timings. Day trains 430/1 are operated by bus for part of the journey between Beograd and Požega, with onward train to/from Bar. Other services are cancelled (Table 1370).

International services between Beograd and Skopje (trains 334/5/6/7) are suspended until mid-June owing to engineering work between Niš and Preševo. Work will be halted for the summer season but is expected to resume in early September (Table 1380). No replacement bus service is provided.

ALBANIA

In late March, and at minimal notice, all rail services in the country were withdrawn owing to fuel shortages. A few days later some services were reinstated and the new skeletal schedule is shown in Table 1390. Unfortunately, not all times are available.

TURKEY

Turkish Railways has issued a new high-speed timetable and Table 1570 has been updated with the new schedules. An additional return journey between Istanbul and Ankara has been added and most other services have been retimed with some train number alterations.

Services in Table 1571 have been updated with the latest schedules. On the Bandirma to Izmir route, rail services are currently running between Soma and Izmir three times a day in each direction with one daily return journey also provided on the Bandirma to Ballikesir section.

SHIPPING

European Seaways has shifted its Albanian route from Bari – Durrës (Table 2880) to Brindisi – Vlorë (Table 2780).

RAIL PASSES

Our Domestic Rail Pass feature has been fully updated this month and appears on pages 621 to 624.

However, one change which came to light after completion relates to the German Rail Pass. The *German Rail Pass Consecutive Euro* is now available to European residents (except those living in Germany). Tickets may be purchased between April 1 and September 30 for travel on either 5 or 10 days consecutive travel until October 31. Prices for an adult 5 day pass are €288/213 (1st/2nd class), and a 10 day pass costs €417/309. Youth passes are also available and up to two children (6–11 years old) can travel free with each adult, but they must hold a child pass.

In Great Britain, the *Freedom of Scotland Travelpass* was renamed the *Spirit of Scotland Travelpass* on March 14. This year there is no price increase on Scottish rovers, but the 8 from 15 day pass has been withdrawn.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section features two areas: Tables 9000 to 9368 show the latest North American schedules, whilst Tables 9970 to 9981 cover South Korea.

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