

## 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 certain countries show timings valid through to the December timetable change, many others are only valid up to the date specified in the relevant country heading, usually around mid-June. The main exception is in Great Britain where timings are only valid to May 20, although no major changes are expected from May 21.

As well as various updates to current European rail schedules, this month's edition also includes the latest version of our **Summer International Supplement** which contains, where possible, advance timings for all our international tables valid from June 11. It will be found at the back of timetable on pages 583 to 623.

### ROUTE OF THE MONTH

The city of Koblenz is famously situated on the River Rhine at its confluence with the River Moselle and the main rail routes radiating from the city follow the general course of these two great rivers. The journey south from Koblenz along either bank of the Rhine is undoubtedly one of the most renowned in Germany. However, our *Route of the Month*, which will be found on page 34, features the line which heads west towards Trier, a route which offers some equally delightful scenery, particularly on the sections of line which run directly alongside the River Moselle. Our regular travel correspondents, Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, describe the journey and delve into the history of some of the communities along the way.

### TIP OF THE MONTH

If our *Route of the Month* has inspired you to explore the Moselle region then turn to page 35 to find out about some excellent ticket deals available in the area.

### CAR TRAINS

Urlaubs-Express will introduce new services from Hamburg to Verona and Villach this summer. The Verona service will run on Fridays from May 12 to October 6, and that to Villach on Sundays from May 21 to September 10. Services will return from Italy and Austria one day later. We understand that these car-trains are also available to passengers travelling without vehicles (Table 1).

### AIRPORT LINKS

The new People Mover at Pisa Galileo Galilei airport opened on March 18. It conveys passengers from Pisa Centrale station to within 40 metres of the airport's passenger terminal and runs every five to eight minutes from 0600 to 2400.

### INTERNATIONAL

Timings for both Thalys and Eurostar are now confirmed until September 2 and November 4 respectively. Full details are shown in the relevant tables of our Summer International Supplement.

We understand that the new direct London to Amsterdam Eurostar service starting in December will not now stop at Antwerpen and Schiphol. We expect one return service per day to commence on December 10, with a second service following early in 2018. Provisional timings are shown in Table 15.

In an attempt to show the Hamburg/Düsseldorf – Innsbruck/Wien group of ÖBB *nightjet* services more clearly, we have created a new dedicated Table 53.

The 0609 departure from Zürich to Milano (train EC11) will be extended to Venezia Santa Lucia (arriving 1240) on Saturdays and Sundays from June 17. Train EC10 will form the corresponding return journey, leaving Venezia at 1520 (Table 82).

Austrian Railways will increase the frequency of its *IC Bus* service between Venezia Mestre and Lido di Jesolo this summer from one to three daily (Table 88).

### FRANCE

Track renewal work is currently taking place between Mulhouse and Basel with an amended service in operation until July 28. During this period most regional TER journeys from and to Basel will require a change of trains at St Louis. Table 385 has been fully updated with the revised schedules. Please note that TGV services via Basel may also be retimed by a few minutes and readers intending to use these services until July 28 are advised to check their reservation for confirmed timings.

One of the main European rail events this year is the opening of two new high-speed lines in western France on July 2: *TGV L'Océane* between Tours and Bordeaux and *TGV Bretagne-Pays de la Loire* between Le Mans and Rennes. We have obtained advance timings for the new services and have reproduced these in some special tables which will be found on pages 566 and 567. Please note that in next month's Summer edition we will only show the new timings from July 2 so please use an earlier edition for journeys up to and including July 1.

### NETHERLANDS

Services on the Den Haag to Eindhoven route are once again running as through trains. There have been some minor timing changes as a consequence of this and Table 471 has been updated accordingly.

The line between Hoek van Holland and Schiedam is temporarily closed so that it can be modified and integrated into the Rotterdam metro system. On completion, which is expected during the autumn of this year, the route will operate as an extension of the existing metro lines A and B. In the meantime a special bus service is in operation with a combination of fast and stopping services. The interim bus timings are shown in Table 497 and it should be noted that these services are operated by RET, the local transport provider in the Rotterdam area, and so a revised fare structure applies. In last month's Newslines we stated that tickets for travel on Dutch Railways, including rail passes, would no longer be valid on this route. However, no sooner had we gone to press, we were pleased to be informed that rail passes will remain valid on the route and that rail-sea-rail passengers will be issued with a special Combi-Ticket valid on both RET and Dutch Railways to ensure a seamless journey in the Netherlands.

### SWITZERLAND / ITALY

From June 11 the cross border route between Cadenazzo and Luino will be closed for engineering work until December 9. Bus replacement services will operate on the section between Cadenazzo and Laveno Mombello with rail connections at both extremities: Bellinzona to Cadenazzo and Laveno Mombello to Malpensa Aeroporto. Journey times will be extended. Amended schedules will be shown in next month's edition (Table 592).

### ITALY

Following a reader's suggestion, the secondary line between Foggia and the Basilicata region's capital, Potenza, has been added as new Table 632.

### SPAIN

Work has recently started to add a third rail along the broad gauge (1668mm) line between San Sebastián and Irún which will allow future through running of standard (1435mm) gauge trains from France. The work is expected to continue until July 10, 2018 and during this time only one line will be in use, greatly reducing the number of trains able to run between San Sebastián and Irún. All *Alvia*, *Intercity*, *Media Distancia* and *Reginal Exprés* services will start from/terminate at San Sebastián. Only *Trenhotel 313/310 Surex/Sud Expresso* and *Intercity 283/280 Camino de Santiago* will run through to Irún/Hendaye (Tables 653/689). The Renfe Cercanías (suburban) service between San Sebastián and Irún has been reduced in frequency and passengers are advised to use the nearby EuskoTren narrow gauge route.

### DENMARK

Services between Denmark and Germany will again be subject to compulsory reservation during the summer months; this year from June 11 to September 3 (Tables 700 and 720).

### GERMANY

The extension of regional services on route RE19 Düsseldorf – Emmerich across the border to Arnhem commenced as planned on April 6 (Table 802).

### POLAND

Since April 20, engineering work around Gorzów has seen local trains replaced by buses on the short section between Gorzów Wielkopolski and Gorzów Wielkopolski Teatralna stations. TLK services call at Gorzów Wielkopolski Teatralna station instead of their usual stop at Gorzów Wielkopolski (Table 1000).

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

### CZECH REPUBLIC

From April 27 to June 7 trains between Praha and Plzeň (Table 1120) and trains from Praha to Pisek and beyond (Table 1124) will not call at Praha Smichov at certain times of day due to engineering work. Trains leaving Praha hlavní before 0900 will miss out Smichov, as will trains arriving at Praha hlavní from 0930 onwards. Details are shown in the affected tables. Local trains to Karlštejn (Table 1169) are similarly affected, and most local trains between Karlštejn and Beroun are replaced by bus.

From June 3 to September 10 trains between Praha and Brno, including those continuing to and from Břeclav and beyond (Tables 60 and 1150), will not serve the main station in Brno due to trackwork between Židenice and Brno hlavní. Instead they will call at Brno dolní nádraží (i.e. lower station), which does not normally have a passenger service. It is situated 900 metres south of hlavní nádraží (the main station), close to the UAN (central bus station). Most trains will also call at Brno Židenice, 2½ kilometres north-east of Brno hlavní. Further details are shown in Table 1150.

### HUNGARY

The Budapest – Fonyód – Keszthely / Nagykanizsa route (Table 1220) has a revised pattern of service from April 13, albeit with bus substitution continuing until June 16. The summer service, which operates from June 17 to August 27, has been added this month, and will be found on page 564. Tables 1225 and 1232, in the Lake Balaton area, have also been expanded to show the summer timings.

From May 2 to 16 the Budapest – Szombathely / Zalaegerszeg trains in Table 1230 are retimed by up to 30 minutes with bus substitution between Veszprém and Ajka. Most departures from Budapest are earlier, although the *Cittadella* to Ljubljana will maintain its usual 0830 departure time.

From May 17 to June 1 all IC trains on the Budapest – Győr – Szombathely and Sopron routes will depart/arrive at Budapest Déli instead of Budapest Keleti (Table 1250). Trains between Budapest and Pécs (Table 1200) are similarly affected, as are the southbound *Kvarner* from Budapest to Zagreb and Rijeka and the northbound *Rippl-Rónai* from Zagreb to Budapest. The southbound *Rippl-Rónai* and northbound *Kvarner* will continue to serve Budapest Keleti, the latter by running in a separate path to the train from Pécs to which it is normally attached.

### TURKEY

There has been a major revision to the timings of bus services that connect with the high-speed trains in Table 1570. The panels within this table showing the Eskişehir – Bursa, Konya – Alanya and Konya – Antalya services have been fully updated to reflect the new schedules.

### UKRAINE

From May 3, train 13 Kyiv – Lviv – Chop – Uzhhorod (Table 1700) conveys a portion on alternate days which is detached at Chop for Solotvyno in the Transcarpathia region. Solotvyno is situated close to the Romanian border, on the other side of the Tisza river from the Romanian town of Sighetu Marmatiei. This remote region did not previously have a through train to Kyiv.

### BALTIC STATES

From May 1 Lithuanian Railways has introduced an additional journey from Vilnius to Trakai at 1030, returning at 1121 (Table 1815). Trakai, with its 14th Century castle, is a popular tourist destination.

Estonian Railways has reconstruction work on its line from Tallinn to Tartu from April 29, with bus substitution between Tapa and Tartu on certain days of the week until June 27, as shown in Table 1880.

### RUSSIA

From May 1, the service of nine fast day trains each way between Moskva Kurskaya and Nizhni Novgorod (Table 1990) has been reorganised, and all of these trains now run daily, giving an increase in service on most days of the week.

In the same table it should be noted that Mongolia has abandoned daylight saving time this year, having adopted it only two years ago, and has therefore not put its clocks forward this summer.

### SHIPPING

Grimaldi Lines' route between Italy, Spain and Morocco will use the port of Savona instead of Livorno this year. Consequently Table 2580 has been deleted and replaced by two new tables: Savona – Barcelona (Table 2585) and Savona – Tanah Med (Table 2590). Two new Sardinian routes have also been added: Civitavecchia and Livorno to Olbia (Table 2675).

Sailings will resume between Italy and Montenegro from May 18 when Jadrolinija introduce a weekly or twice weekly service between Bari and Bar. Actual schedules were not available when we closed for press (Table 2738).

Stena Line has announced revised timings to its Fishguard – Rosslare route from May 22 (Table 2030).

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers North America and will be found on pages 568 to 581.

New Amtrak schedules were introduced in early April but the only significant changes are along the Northeast Corridor route (Table 9215) where several services have been completely retimed and some trains extended. Updated timings for services in California that are not operated by Amtrak (Tables 9350 to 9368) have also been included this month.

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