

NEWSLINES

INTERNATIONAL

From November 2, Eurostar will align the names of the three classes of service available across its entire network. The new names will be *Eurostar Premier*, *Eurostar Plus* and *Eurostar Standard*. These will replace *Business Premier*, *Standard Premier* and *Standard* on its services to and from London. On its services between Paris, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany (formerly known as *Thalys*) the new names will replace *Premium*, *Comfort* and *Standard* classes.

The daily through *ICE* service between Amsterdam and Basel (train **105/104**) will be withdrawn from July 16 (Table **73**). This is due to major engineering work taking place between Frankfurt and Mannheim during the remainder of 2024 and then the temporary closure of the line between Oberhausen and Emmerich during 2025. There are currently no plans to reinstate the service in 2026.

SPAIN

Further to last month's news item regarding engineering work at Madrid-Chamartín, there has been a temporary modification to the Valladolid – Segovia – Madrid *Avant* service and the Salamanca – Segovia – Madrid *Alvia* service (Table **679**).

From May 21, two *Alvia* services in each direction between Gijón and Madrid (one of which extends to/from Castelló de la Plana) will be reclassified *AVE* with minor alterations to timings (Tables **668** and **681**). From the same date, one *Alvia* service in each direction between Vigo and Madrid and another between A Coruña and Madrid will be similarly reclassified and also slightly retimed (Table **680**). All of these newly classified *AVE* services will utilise new *Talgo Avril S106* trains. Spanish Railways has announced a cascade programme utilising the displaced *Alvia* rolling stock. This includes providing an additional service on three routes from Madrid, to Badajoz, Cádiz and Salamanca. Two new direct routes are also proposed: Madrid – Córdoba – Granada – Almería and Madrid – Zaragoza – Teruel. However, it has not yet been announced when these additional services will commence.

From May 6 to 31 services in the Cáceres, Mérida and Badajoz area are subject to alteration (Table **677**).

AVE 3393 Madrid – Huesca has been renumbered **2861** and now starts from Sevilla (running in the path of former service **2161**). In the opposite direction *AVE 3272* Huesca – Madrid has been renumbered **3872** on Mondays to Saturdays and extends to Sevilla (running in the path of former service **2110**). See Tables **650a** and **660** for full details.

As a follow up to last month's news item, we can confirm that a new daily return *Ouigo* service commenced from April 19 between Valladolid and Alicante by extending an existing Madrid – Alacant service (Tables **668** and **679a**).

PORTUGAL

Owing to modernisation work taking place on the *Oeste* line, services between Torres Vedras and Mira Sintra-Meleças are operated by bus until further notice. Table **693** has been updated with the revised timings.

SWEDEN

Independent operator *Snälltåget* will run a daily through service in each direction between Stockholm and København Hovedbanegård from May 16 to September 29 (Table **730**). These will be extensions of existing services between Stockholm and Malmö. The southbound service departs Stockholm 0933, with the return journey departing København at 1607. The operator's overnight service between Stockholm and Berlin will also be available for seated journeys between Stockholm and København during the same period, although this will serve København Ørestad station.

NORWAY

There is some welcome news from Norway with the announcement that the *Dovrebanen* route between Oslo and Trondheim will fully reopen from May 21. The section of line between Fåvang and Ringebu has been closed since August 2023 owing to significant infrastructure damage caused by extreme weather conditions. A full service between Oslo and Trondheim via Dombås will be restored from May 21 (including the return of the overnight service) and Table **785** has been updated to show timings from this date. Services via Røros will also return to normal (Table **784**).

GERMANY

German Railways is implementing a policy of compulsory reservation for most international journeys from/to Germany on long-distance *ICE*, *RJX*, *RJ*, *EC* and *IC* services during the summer period from June 1 to September 1 (inclusive). The only exceptions will be journeys to Salzburg and Kufstein (in Austria) and services to Switzerland via Basel or Singen. Note that domestic journeys on these trains will not require reservation, only trips that cross the border. This will particularly affect holders of Interrail and Eurail passes who may be required to make additional reservations. However, most routes do have alternative local cross-border services (which do not require reservation) so it will still be possible to make spontaneous international journeys without paying a reservation fee – it will just require some extra advance planning.

Readers should note that the German section as a whole is valid until June 8, although most tables will continue to be valid until July 15. There may be a small number of changes for the period from June 9 to July 15 so readers are advised to check any journey plans during this interim period. In addition, the 2024 European Football Championship will be taking place from June 14 to July 14. Services are expected to be busier than usual during the tournament and some additional trains will be operating to provide extra capacity.

From July 16 to December 14 the important route between Frankfurt and Mannheim will be temporarily closed so that major infrastructure upgrade work can take place. This will result in some significant changes to many long-distance services with extended journey times and different train routings. Full details of these changes will be published in the Summer 2024 edition. Readers travelling up to July 15 are therefore advised to use the Spring, April or May editions to plan their journeys in Germany.

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Table **18** (Summer): Major renovation work will be taking place at Amsterdam Centraal station from June 15 and the dedicated Eurostar departure area will be temporarily closed as a result. During this period the London to Amsterdam service will reduce from four to three services on weekdays with the temporary withdrawal of train **9114**, the 0816 from London St Pancras. Direct trains from Amsterdam to London will be temporarily withdrawn, but services with guaranteed connections at Brussels will still be available. The connecting time will usually be around 45 minutes, enough time for border formalities to take place.

Belgian Railways International will start running a loco-hauled *EuroCity* service between Paris and Brussels during the summer. Two daily return services are planned, running via St Quentin and Mons (but only calling at Mons).

Table **89** (Summer): Train **247/246** *Citadella* Budapest – Ljubljana will once again convey a portion to Koper between June 16 and August 24. Train **1205/1204** *Adria* Budapest – Split will run three days a week to Split.

Table **92** (Summer): *EuroNight 1153/1152* Bratislava – Split will run three days a week from May 3.