

## What's new this month

### WELCOME

This edition of the European Rail Timetable includes some final updates for the current schedules which are valid until December 12. Most European railways will introduce revised timings from December 13 and these will be shown, where possible, in next month's expanded Winter edition. Pre-orders for the Winter edition can now be made and the printed version will be available for dispatch from Wednesday December 16.

Our Winter International Supplement has been updated further with the latest available advance timings valid from the December timetable change. It now includes winter versions of all our international tables and will be found on pages 585 to 623. The main changes are summarised at the end of the news section.

Readers are reminded that in most countries social distancing rules continue to apply and the wearing of face coverings on public transport is usually compulsory. Although many travel restrictions have now been eased, those intending to use public transport over the coming weeks are advised to familiarise themselves with the latest requirements for the countries they intend to visit. Travel restrictions between individual countries also vary and are subject to short notice changes, so it is particularly important to consult official government travel advice before planning any journeys. It should also be noted that there are likely to be some amendments or cancellations that currently apply which are not show in our tables and that further short notice changes are possible, especially if local or national lockdown conditions are imposed.

### INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar continues to monitor its timetable on a week by week basis and is currently running two or three trains a day in each direction between London and Paris, with two operating between London and Brussels, one of which extends to and from Amsterdam (Table 10).

Owing to the increasing number of coronavirus cases across Europe, all overnight *nightjet* services between Germany and both Austria and Switzerland will be suspended from November 8 to December 2. Services affected are: **470/471** Zürich – Berlin; **40470/401** Zürich – Hamburg; **490/491** Wien – Hamburg; **40490/40421** Wien – Düsseldorf; **50490/50425** Wien – Brussels; **420/421** Innsbruck – Düsseldorf; **40420/40491** Innsbruck – Hamburg; **424/425** Innsbruck – Brussels.

### GREAT BRITAIN

The line between Montrose and Stonehaven remains closed following the train derailment on August 12 with services unlikely to return until late November (Table 222). The current temporary timetable will therefore remain in place until further notice.

### SWITZERLAND

A bus replacement service operates between Interlaken Ost and Meiringen until December 7 (Table 561).

### SPAIN

The journey time of **IC 697/694** *Torre Del Oro* Barcelona – Sevilla has been reduced by 75 minutes. Previously the service ran on conventional tracks throughout, but now takes advantage of high-speed infrastructure on the sections Barcelona – Camp de Tarragona and Córdoba – Sevilla. This is made possible by the use of an S-121 type train with gauge changing equipment (Tables 661, 671, 672, 678).

A new 110 kilometre high-speed line between Zamora and Puebla de Sanabria opened on October 27 and journey times between Madrid and Ourense have been reduced by approximately 30 minutes as a result (Table 680). However the new station serving Puebla de Sanabria, Otera de Sanabria AV (situated five kilometres east of Puebla de Sanabria), will not be completed for another month. Passengers travelling from Madrid to Puebla de Sanabria should travel to A Gudiña, 52 kilometres further west, where a bus connection will be available. *Avant* services between A Coruña and Ourense via Santiago de Compostela have been retimed to provide additional connections at Ourense to and from Madrid. *Alvia* **4185/4254** Madrid – Santiago de Compostela has been extended to and from Pontevedra with new connections to and from A Coruña.

A new early morning *Regional* service from Ponferrada to Vigo has been introduced which provides a balancing service to the existing afternoon departure from Vigo in the opposite direction (Table 682).

### SWEDEN

Long-distance international services between Sweden and both Norway and Denmark remain suspended until at least December 12.

The winter service between Mora and Östersund has been suspended for 2020/2021 season (Table 766).

### FINLAND

Our Finnish section has been fully updated and is now valid through to December 12. Only minor amendments have been made to the previous schedules, mainly due to engineering work affecting services in Tables 791, 794 and 795.

### GERMANY

The whole of our German section has been fully updated this month following the reopening of the Mannheim to Stuttgart high-speed line on November 1.

The much delayed Berlin Brandenburg Airport was finally opened on October 31. From this date, all trains in our German tables that were serving Berlin Schönefeld station have been diverted to serve the new airport station (which has resulted in some minor timing adjustments). An enhanced regional service now operates between the airport and Berlin Hbf, timings for which will be found in Table 847. The Berlin entry in our Airport Links table has also been updated with a summary of all transport options to central Berlin.

### AUSTRIA

All Twin City Liner catamaran services between Wien and Bratislava are currently suspended owing to the increasing coronavirus infection rates in the area (Table 999).

### CZECH REPUBLIC

As we closed for press the Czech Republic was in a state of lockdown with many rail services suspended and only essential travel allowed.

### HUNGARY

In Table 1260 the service between Budapest and Eger has increased from every two hours to hourly. This has impacted on the former two hourly through semi-fast trains between Budapest and Sátoraljaújhely which now only run as slow trains between Füzesabony and Sátoraljaújhely. However, a new daily InterCity train pair continues to provide a fast through service between Budapest and Sátoraljaújhely.

Due to engineering work, almost all slow trains in Table 1270 now require a change at Nyíregyháza resulting in extended journey times. Owing to space constraints we are unable to show full details of these alterations so please enquire locally for confirmed timings.

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers North America and will be found on pages 570 to 583.

We understand that, once the coronavirus situation settles down, those VIA Rail Corridor services that have been suspended are likely to be retimed when the normal service resumes, so we have decided to remove them from Tables 9010, 9015 and 9020 for the time being. The restart of the *Canadian* is now expected to happen on December 11 but, as the province of Manitoba still requires anybody arriving from points east of Lake Superior to self-isolate upon arrival, it will initially only operate west of Winnipeg and only once a week. Train 2 will leave Vancouver on Fridays with train 1 returning from Winnipeg on Mondays (in the current timings). The *Ocean* service between Montréal and Halifax remains suspended.

As announced in our October edition, all of Amtrak's long-distance services will now only operate three times a week instead of daily. Other services have seen a slight increase in frequency since the last time we featured North America. In fact the *Downeaster* service between Brunswick and Boston has almost returned to a normal service level (Table 9200).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

## Newslines (continued from page 5)

### WINTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Table 18 (Winter): Eurostar is expected to start running through services from Amsterdam to London at weekends from the start of the new timetable on December 13.

Tables 20 and 21 (Winter): The following four ICE services on the Brussels – Frankfurt route will run daily (instead of six days a week): Trains 12 and 18 from Frankfurt and trains 11 and 317 from Brussels.

Tables 44 and 90 (Winter): It has been reported that all Marseille – Nice – Milano *Thello* services will cease from December 13, 2020. We are also awaiting a resumption date for the temporarily suspended *Thello* 221/220 Paris – Milano – Venezia overnight service.

Table 50 (Winter): Train 301/300 *Berlin Night Express* Berlin – Malmö was cancelled for the Summer 2020 season but it will return next summer as a Stockholm – Malmö – København – Hamburg – Berlin overnight service, running daily from June to August and twice a week in April, May and September. The train will call at Høje Taastrup instead of København H, presumably to avoid the train having to change direction.

Table 53 (Winter): Train 421/420 Düsseldorf – München/Innsbruck and Wien will be extended to and from Amsterdam and run daily (increasing from the current five days a week from and to Düsseldorf). A Brussels – Wien portion (numbered 50425/50490) will run three days a week, being attached to/detached from the main train during an unadvertised stop at Köln West station. The Brussels – München – Innsbruck portion will be withdrawn.

Table 65 (Winter): In a joint initiative, Austrian and Hungarian Railways intend to introduce three additional services between Budapest and Wien thereby creating an hourly service between the two cities throughout the day.

Table 75 (Winter): Electrification of the line between München and Lindau via Memmingen has been completed meaning the number of daily services between München and Zürich will double from three to six. Operated by Swiss RABe 503 tilting trains, the journey time will reduce to four hours, partly due to higher speeds on the route, but mainly due to services no longer calling and having to reverse at Lindau Hbf. Services will instead call at a brand new through station called Lindau Reutin. However, these services will no longer extend to and from Basel.

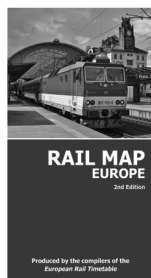
Table 77 (Winter): Train 57/56 *Wawel* Berlin – Wrocław – Katowice – Kraków has been reintroduced, six years after it was withdrawn (in December 2014).

Table 78 (Winter): The *Alpen-Sylt Nachtexpress*, currently running between Westerland and Salzburg twice a week until November 2, is scheduled to run for seven days over the Christmas and New Year period when it will be extended to serve the spa town and resort of Bad Gastein. It has been moved to new Table 78 to accommodate the extra stations served.

Table 82 (Winter): The *EuroCity* service between Zürich and Milano will increase to ten trains a day with journey times reduced by about 20 minutes following the opening of the Ceneri Base Tunnel. From Zürich services will depart hourly in the morning from 0633 to 1133 and then every two hours until 1933. In the opposite direction services will depart Milano every two hours from 0710 to 1310, then hourly from 1510 to 2010. Three of these services will extend to provide through services to and from Venezia, Bologna and Genova.

Table 91 (Winter): We are awaiting confirmation that train 151/150 *Emona* Wien – Ljubljana will be extended to and from Trieste.

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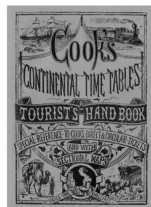


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