

What's new this month

WELCOME

This month's edition of the European Rail Timetable includes various updates to current schedules together with the first appearance of our 2019 Summer International Supplement with advance versions of selected international tables valid from June 9. The supplement will be found towards the back of this edition (from page 585) and will be expanded and updated further in the April and May editions.

INTERNATIONAL

Intended to improve cross-border connections, French Railways has introduced four new services from Portbou to Cerbère, whilst Spanish Railways has introduced seven new services in the opposite direction. A new panel has been created within Table **657** showing a summary of these cross-border services which now total 11 from Portbou to Cerbère and 12 from Cerbère to Portbou.

From April 8, independent operators WESTbahn (Austria) and Meridian (Germany) will jointly operate three new through services in each direction between München and Wien. This has been made possible by extending selected WESTbahn services from and to München using existing Meridian train paths. WESTbahn fares are payable for international journeys and domestic trips within Austria (ÖBB tickets are not valid). However, the normal regional tariff applies for journeys between München and Salzburg. In order to accommodate these through services within our tables and also to undertake some general housekeeping, a number of table alterations have been made. Table **71** has been renumbered **77** and positioned directly under Table **76**, whilst Table **70** has been moved into the space vacated by Table **71**. Tables **68** and **62** have been combined allowing Table **66** to move one page (now located above Table **70**). This has enabled us to expand Table **65** to include the new direct WESTbahn services between München and Wien. German table **890** and the WESTbahn panel within Austrian table **950** have also been updated.

Train **301/300 Berlin Night Express** Berlin – Malmö will run on three days a week during the summer (Table **50**).

Thalys will introduce a new non-stop service between Brussels and Bordeaux on Summer Saturdays with a journey time of just over four hours (see Table **11** of our Summer International Supplement).

SWITZERLAND

The line between Sagliains and Scuol-Tarasp will be completely closed to rail traffic from March 11 to September 7 to enable route upgrade work to take place. During this period all services between Susch and Scuol-Tarasp will be operated by bus. We have included special versions of the affected sections within Table **545** which will be found on page 561. Please note that the car-carrying shuttle service between Klosters and Sagliains is unaffected by this work.

PORTUGAL

Engineering work on the Douro Valley line (Table **694**) has been extended to at least the end of March, and the special timetable continues to be shown on page 562.

DENMARK

Services on the section of line between Næstved and Nykøbing will be subject to alteration from March 24 to September 29 due to engineering work taking place in a series of five phases. Danish Table **720** is currently showing normal timings valid until March 23; we intend to show more details of amended schedules from next month.

This work also means that international services from and to Germany will be operated by bus between Rødby and København from March 30 to September 29. International Table **50** and German Table **825** have been updated with the amended timings.

GERMANY

Services between Ulm and Friedrichshafen will be disrupted from March 11 as the latest phase of work to electrify the route gets under way. Until July 14 the section of line between Biberach and Aulendorf will be temporarily closed with a replacement bus service in operation. Table **933** has been updated with the amended schedules for this period. A near normal service is expected to run from mid-July to mid-September before the next phase of upgrade work commences.

POLAND

Polish Railways has issued its latest timetable valid from March 10 to June 9. However, we have not been able to recheck all of our Polish tables in time for this edition so readers are advised to check timings if planning journeys in Poland from March 10.

SLOVAKIA

There are timetable amendments from March 3 and the Slovakian section this month is therefore valid from this date. Particularly affected (due to track reconstruction) is the Púchov – Žilina section of the two-hourly *Ex* trains from Praha which cross the Czech/Slovak border at Horní Lideč (Table **1161**). Having connected at Púchov into the Košice train, two of the *Ex* trains now terminate there instead of following a few minutes behind the Košice train, so passengers for Žilina will now have to change trains. A similar situation applies in the opposite direction, whilst the remaining trains which do start from Žilina (except one) will leave several minutes later omitting the 15 minute wait at Púchov.

Table **1182** has been extended from Plaveč across the Polish border to Muszyna in order to show two Poprad Tatry – Plaveč – Muszyna trains which will run on Saturdays and Sundays from June 29 to September 1, restoring a passenger service to this line after a break of many years.

SERBIA

Further to our report last month regarding engineering work in Serbia, we now have more details on how services are affected. The line between Subotica and Beograd (Tables **61**, **1295** and **1360**) is being upgraded resulting in the complete closure of the route between Novi Sad and Beograd until December 2019. The three trains which formerly ran between Budapest and Beograd are reduced to domestic Hungarian trains between Budapest and Kelebia only (Table **1295**). Train **343/344 AVALA** will run only between Wien and Budapest. There is now just one train crossing the Hungarian/Serbian border between Kelebia and Subotica, train **343/342 IVO ANDRIC**, retimed to leave Budapest at 1157 in the path of the former *AVALA*. Although advertised as a Budapest – Novi Sad service, a change of train at Kelebia is necessary. Note that Serbian Railways are not providing replacement buses between Novi Sad and Beograd, but regular privately operated bus services are available (rail tickets are not valid on these).

Services on the Zrenjanin – Pančevo – Beograd route have also been suspended (Table **1362**).

NORTH MACEDONIA

Following the country's recent official name change to Republic of North Macedonia, we have changed all occurrences in our timetable to the shortened version of North Macedonia.

TURKEY

Our Turkish pages have been fully updated this month with the latest schedules. Most services have been retimed since our last update.

ROMANIA

A major rewrite of our Romanian section has enabled us to show the many additional trains that run during the summer, linking various parts of the country with București and the coast. Most tables have been renumbered, and of course the new numbers are shown both in the index and on the map on page 505.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

What's new this month (continued from page 5)

UKRAINE

Timings from March 31 are now shown for cross-border services (apart from those to Moldova), either with a second column or footnotes. This is the date when summer time starts, and since Russia and Belarus do not change their clocks, services to and from these countries are retimed in Ukraine by approximately one hour. There are also minor timing changes to domestic services from this date and these will be shown in the April edition.

A not unexpected development is that several of the trains linking Moskva with destinations in Ukraine and Moldova have been reduced in frequency from daily to every other day. Some of these changed during February, namely Moskva – Odesa (train **23/24**), Moskva – Khmelnytsky (**55/56**) and Moskva – Kharkiv (**19/20**). Train **47** Moskva – Chisinău reduced to four days per week in February but will resume daily operation for the summer from April 7. Train **73/74** Moskva – Lviv and Kovel will remain daily until March 30 but thereafter will run every other day.

RUSSIA and UZBEKISTAN

The recently introduced Moskva – Toshkent train **350** via Makat and Samarkand has been rerouted in Uzbekistan via Bukhara, adding 72 kilometres to the overall distance travelled. The revised timings are in Table **1976**.

FERRY SERVICES

From March 14 Irish Ferries will carry foot passengers as well as passengers with vehicles on its Dublin to Cherbourg route (Table **2027**). From this date all sailings on the route will be with the new vessel, *W.B. Yeates*.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers China and is located on pages 570 to 583. In the general information section on page 570 we have added a new chart which hopefully makes it easier to understand what types of accommodation are available on the various Chinese train classifications.

As more high-speed lines open in China we are having to adapt our pages to enable us to show more high-speed schedules in the space we have available. A few of the more significant alterations in this edition are outlined below.

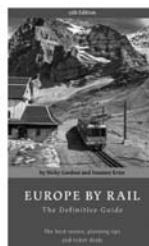
Table **7005** has been modified to show the new Harbin – Mudanjiang – Suifenhe high-speed services. Conventional trains between Harbin and Beijing are now shown in Table **7047** (previously **7025**). A new table, numbered **7023**, has been created to show the recently introduced high-speed service between Harbin and Jiamusi, whilst Table **7062** now includes timings of the high-speed service between Hohhot and Baotou. Schedules on the second Jinan to Qingdao high-speed line will be found in Table **7105** with the fastest journey time between the cities now reduced to just 1 hour 44 minutes, about one hour faster than before.

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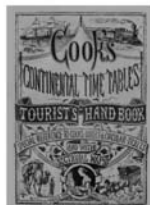
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