

What's new this month

WELCOME

This month's edition of the European Rail Timetable includes some significant updates, particularly affecting services in Hungary, Turkey, Ukraine and Estonia. A number of our French tables have also been updated including adjustments to certain high-speed services.

Our 2019 Summer International Supplement has been expanded to 40 pages and now includes advance versions of all international tables valid from June 9. The supplement will be found towards the back of this edition (from page 601) and will be updated further in the May digital edition.

On page 560 we have included extracts from the timetable news that appeared in last month's digital edition. This will enable our readers who prefer the printed publication to keep fully up to date with the latest developments.

Fresh off the press, the 2nd edition of our popular Rail Map of Europe is now in stock and available for purchase. All passenger rail routes across Europe are shown (other than suburban networks of major cities) including lines scheduled to open by mid-2019 and so is the ideal companion to the European Rail Timetable for planning journeys across Europe. It is not only available in the traditional folded format, but also as a flat map for wall display.

We are pleased to welcome Graham Benbow to the editorial team and we hope he enjoys a long and successful career with us.

INTERNATIONAL

Last month we reported that independent operators WESTbahn (Austria) and Meridiam (Germany) were to jointly operate three new through services in each direction between München and Wien from April 8. We have been informed that the start date has now been postponed to an unspecified later date, although the expectation is that it will be in June this year.

Engineering work will affect certain international high-speed services between Spain and France during April and May. Some services are cancelled on certain dates whilst others are diverted within France, not calling at Montpellier or Nîmes. Table 13 has been updated with full details of these alterations.

Leo Express train **401/400** Praha – Kraków resumed on March 22, but is currently diverted between Katowice and Kraków, not calling at Oświęcim. The diversion means train **401** arrives Kraków 40 minutes earlier (the Kraków departure of train **400** remains unchanged). The latest timings will be found in Tables **99** and **1076**.

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).

FRANCE

The line between Brive and Aurillac was temporarily closed to rail traffic on March 25 for planned engineering work and is expected to reopen late in July. Table **311** has been updated with details of the rail replacement bus service.

Amended timings at the southern end of the Méditerranée high-speed line came into force from March 31 affecting most TGV services to and from Marseille. Tables **350** and **360** have been updated with the latest schedules and these will remain in force until July 5.

SWITZERLAND

This year the tourist service *Train du Chocolat* will run attached to the 0844 *MOB Belle Époque* service from Montreux to Zweisimmen as far as Montbovon with onward coach transfer to the Cheese Dairy and Chocolate Factory at Gruyères (Table **566**).

Owing to major infrastructure work between Châtel-St Denis and Palézieux, a bus replacement service will be in place between these points until November 30 (Table **568**).

SPAIN

Intercity service **632/631** Barcelona – Valladolid was extended to and from Salamanca from March 25 resulting in the withdrawal of the previous connecting *Media Distancia* services between Valladolid and Salamanca (Tables **650a**, **653** and **689**).

Engineering work is currently affecting services on the route between Murcia and Cartagena with buses replacing trains until April 11 (Table **668a**). Further north on the same line towards Albacete, a new direct 26.3 kilometre alignment is scheduled to open on April 12 between Hellín and Cieza. This new section of line via Camarillas will shorten the route between Madrid and Cartagena by 1½ kilometres reducing the journey time by up to 25 minutes as a result. Following the introduction of an *Alvia* 730 series high-speed train on the Madrid – Murcia – Cartagena route last Autumn, a second *Alvia* service will be introduced from May 20 replacing *Altaría* services **222/225**. In order to provide clarity with these changing schedules, three separate versions of Table **668a** are included in this edition, two of which are located on page 642.

DENMARK

Trackwork on the section of line between Næstved and Nykøbing will affect services until September 29 with a rail replacement bus service in operation (Table **720**). International services from and to Germany are operated by bus between Rødby and København; Tables **50** and **825** have both been updated with the amended timings.

HUNGARY

After an extended period of track reconstruction, trains from Budapest to Pécs are due to recommence running from Budapest Keleti from April 1. Initially departures from Budapest will be 10 minutes earlier than in the original timetable and the revised timings are shown in Table **1200**.

Another line to be affected by engineering work is that from Debrecen to Füzesabony (Table **1278**) where buses will replace trains from April 1 on the 27 kilometre section between Debrecen and Balmazújváros, leaving 10 minutes earlier. This work is scheduled to last all year.

Timetable amendments from April 7 affect several lines and have been incorporated into our tables this month. A notable change is the introduction of a new late-evening *IC* train on the Budapest – Debrecen – Nyíregyháza route (Table **1270**) on Fridays and Sundays, leaving Budapest Nyugati at 2023, though not during the summer period. There is an equivalent train in the other direction which also serves Záhony, leaving there at 1835 and Nyíregyháza at 1931.

Further changes to the Budapest – Kelebia line also take place from April 7. With the overnight Budapest – Beograd train **340/1** having recently been withdrawn for the rest of the year due to trackwork in Serbia, the remnant of that train within Hungary will now also be withdrawn and replaced by other trains. This affects early morning services from Kelebia to Budapest and evening southbound departures, as shown in Table **1295**.

TURKEY

Last month we advised readers of various updates to our Turkish pages including changes to high-speed schedules. However, just days after going to press with the March digital edition, further changes to Turkish high-speed services were announced, effective from March 13. The new timetable includes the extension of all services to run from and to İstanbul Söğütliçeşme station which is situated in a much more central location than Pendik. Three services in each direction also run through the Marmaray Tunnel to serve Halkalı in European Turkey. Table **1570** has been adapted and updated to show the new schedules and useful connections with services from and to Europe are included in Table **61**.

Services along the full length of the Adapazan branch line have been restored with five services operating daily in each direction between İstanbul Pendik and Adapazan (Table **1570**). In recent months these services have only been running as far as Mithatpaşa.

UKRAINE

Timetable revisions from March 31 are mostly of a minor nature but with more significant changes in certain tables. An example is train **102** Kyiv – Kherson (Table **1760**) which now leaves at 1937 instead of 2031.

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

ESTONIA

Estonian Railways has a new timetable from March 31 with many trains retimed (Tables 1870 to 1890). Particularly affected is the Tallinn – Narva service where the 0755 from Tallinn is retimed to 0700, returning from Narva 65 minutes earlier than before at 1000.

FERRY SERVICES

After years of negotiations between the two countries, a new ferry route linking mainland Greece with Turkey will commence on June 2, running every day. Operated by Aegean Seaways, it will run from Lavrio to Çeşme, which is situated some 90 kilometres from Izmir, with a crossing time of seven hours. A free connecting bus service will be provided from Patras and Athens to Lavrio, and in Turkey from Çeşme to Kuşadası and Bodrum. Further details are in Table 2847.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers services in China (from page 570), Japan (from page 584), South America (from page 596) and South Korea (from page 599).

Japanese Railways (JR) updated its timetable on March 16 and all amendments have been incorporated in our tables this month. The main change is the speeding up of *Nozomi* services along the Tokaido Shinkansen corridor (Table 8005) and *Hayabusa* services on the Hokkaido Shinkansen line (Table 8020) by a few minutes. JR has also introduced a limited express service connecting Tokyo Shinjuku, Mount Fuji and Kawaguchiko. Named *Fuji Excursion*, full details can be found in Table 8190.

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