

What's new this month

WELCOME

This month's edition of the European Rail Timetable includes the latest updates to European rail schedules, most notably some significant alterations in Portugal.

On page 559 we have included extracts from the timetable news that appeared in the July digital edition.

INTERNATIONAL

From September 3, **TGV 9704**, the 1320 from Barcelona to Paris, will be diverted to call at Montpellier's new Sud-de-France station instead of Saint-Roch and will no longer call at Nîmes. Other timings remain unchanged (Table 13).

Engineering work at Brussels Midi/Zuid will affect Eurostar journeys over the bank holiday weekends November 1–3 and 9–11.

Eurostar has released running dates and timings for its winter 2019/2020 ski trains to Bourg St Maurice and these are shown in Table 9.

GREAT BRITAIN

LNER will restore a full service between London and Leeds from September 9 (Table 180). The 0903 and 1503 departures from London Kings Cross on Mondays to Saturdays and return trains from Leeds at 1145 and 1745 will be reinstated after they were temporarily withdrawn a few months ago to help improve overall service reliability. On Sundays the 1333 from London and 1716 from Leeds will also return.

PORTUGAL

Significant alterations took place from July 14 on several lines. Timings have been recast on the *Linha do Douro* from Porto to Régua and Pocinho (Table 694), with a slight reduction in service. Withdrawal of the summer-only *Miradouro* on this route is confirmed.

There are also changes to Table 696 Porto – Viana do Castelo – Valença, including the introduction of an *IC* train formed by extending a Lisboa – Porto train to and from Viana do Castelo. This has been made possible by the completion of electrification on this section of line. The train runs daily except Saturdays from Lisboa leaving at 1730 (now numbered *IC731*), and on Mondays to Saturdays from Viana do Castelo at 0738 (*IC730*). The trains continue to run daily between Lisboa and Porto (Table 690), numbered *IC527/522* on days when they do not extend beyond Porto.

NORWAY

The express bus service between Sogndal and Bergen has been completely recast with buses only running between Sogndal and Voss (Table 782). Bergen passengers must now use rail services between Voss and Bergen (Table 781).

GERMANY

From September 7 the service between Bad Kleinen and Szczecin via Pasewalk will be disrupted with buses replacing trains between Teterow and Reuterstadt. A special version of Table 836 will be found on page 608 with the revised timings.

Readers travelling to Germany are reminded that numerous other service alterations are planned during the currency of this timetable and a summary of the most significant changes to long-distance services will be found in the shaded panel on page 369 whilst longer term changes to regional services are usually indicated within the relevant tables.

TURKEY

Turkish Railways has once again amended its high-speed schedules, this time from July 16, and Table 1570 has been fully updated with the revised timings. The service level remains the same although many trains are significantly retimed. Halkali still retains two daily through services to and from Ankara, but the previous 1155 departure from Halkali has been replaced by an earlier one at 0830 which provides an excellent connection with the overnight service from Sofia. In the opposite direction the 0600 departure from Ankara no longer extends into European Turkey, but a new 1500 departure runs through the Marmaray Tunnel, arriving Halkali at 2012 thus providing a good connection with the 2140 overnight service to Sofia. Timings of the connecting bus services to and from Bursa, Alanya and Antalya have also been revised.

Another significant and welcome change is the return of the overnight train between Istanbul and Ankara (Table 1570). The service, which conveys sleeping cars and seats, will actually start/end its journey at Halkali.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers three areas: India (from page 570), South-East Asia, Australia and New Zealand (from page 582) and North America (from page 594).

Indian Railways reissued its timetable on July 1 with many services benefitting from journey time reductions.

Malayan Railways updated its Electric Train Service (ETS) schedules from July 16 with some significant alterations (Table 6000). We have reduced the size of the Tumpat – Gemas Table 6010 which has enabled us to create a new table, numbered 6012, summarising services to and from Kuala Lumpur's two airports.

In Thailand, the two services between Bangkok and Aranyaprathet have been extended to and from Ban Klong Luk, which is located much closer to the Cambodian border (Table 6050). Just across the frontier, the service between the border town of Poipet and Phnom Penh now runs twice a week (Table 6091). Local press reports state that through services between Bangkok and Phnom Penh may start later this year.

V/Line, which operates services around Melbourne, has once again tweaked its schedules and the relevant tables have therefore been updated.

Since North America featured in our summer edition both VIA Rail (Canada) and Amtrak (United States of America) have updated many of their schedules. Most changes are of a minor nature except for Amtrak's *San Joaquin* service between Oakland and Bakersfield which has significant alterations (Table 9330). The *Pacific Surfliner* service between San Luis and San Diego via Los Angeles has the usual weekend summer alterations and these have been added to Table 9320. Please note that most of Amtrak's travel advisory warnings are still in place.

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