

## NEWSLINES

At this present time, varying levels of coronavirus restrictions continue to affect the provision of public transport with a reduced service level continuing to operate in some countries. However, a gradual return to normal schedules is being seen across Europe with many more services expected to be reinstated over the coming weeks. International travel restrictions remain in place between certain countries so readers should always consult official government advice before planning any trips for the foreseeable future.

We continue to publish our own tables based on the latest information available to us in the lead up to publication of this edition. The availability and type of data varies between countries with some operators providing full schedules (with cancellations or alterations indicated separately) whilst others are only showing trains that are currently running, sometimes for only limited periods of time. Where possible we have tried to show full schedules with known service suspensions indicated by either a note and/or a shaded column.

### INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar introduced a third service between London and Paris from June 27 (Table 10).

Train **301/300 Berlin Night Express** Stockholm – Malmö – København – Hamburg – Berlin ran southbound for the first time on June 27. It will run daily until September 5, then five times a week until October 2, reducing to four a week until November 6 (Table 50). A restaurant car is conveyed between Stockholm and Malmö so that travellers can enjoy dinner in the evening southbound and breakfast in the morning northbound.

The *Kulturzug/Pociag do Kultury/Culture Train* between Berlin and Wrocław was reinstated from June 18 although, as we closed for press, it had only been confirmed until July 9 (Table 58).

Since October 5, 2020 the key international route between Villach (Austria) and Jesenice (Slovenia) has been temporarily closed so that work to completely renovate the 8 kilometre long Karawanken Tunnel can take place. The line was originally scheduled to reopen on July 11, but this has now been postponed until July 31 (Tables 62 and 86).

Alpen-Sylt Nachtexpress is planning to restart its overnight service between Westerland and Salzburg from July 15. The summer service will also convey a portion between Westerland and Konstanz. Note that Table 78 has been temporarily moved to page 582 to accommodate a new format which clearly shows timings for both portions.

Thello announced on June 25 that its Marseille – Nice – Milano services would cease on June 30, the last train being *EC 139/140*, the 0757 from Nice to Milano. Trenitalia will run two pairs of *Frecciabianca* services between Ventimiglia and Milano from July 1 to replace the services within Italy (Tables 90 and 580). Overnight Thello service **221/220 Paris – Milano – Venezia** will also officially cease on the same day, although it hasn't actually run since March 10, 2020 owing to the coronavirus restrictions (Table 44). We understand Thello will be concentrating on introducing its *ETR 1000* high-speed service between Paris and Milano.

### GREAT BRITAIN

East Midlands Trains has temporarily suspended a number of services shown in Tables 155, 172, 189 and 206. The affected trains have been clearly indicated and will remain suspended until further notice.

### IRELAND

Northern Ireland Railways introduced its latest timetable from June 14, earlier than originally advertised. More services have been reinstated between Belfast and Londonderry/Portrush (Table 233) and between Belfast and Larne (Table 231).

Three *Enterprise* train pairs between Belfast and Dublin currently convey just standard class seating with no catering (Table 230).

### FRANCE

The scenic *ligne des Causses* route between Neussargues and Béziers is temporarily closed from July 5 to September 17 for planned engineering work. A special version of Table 332 will be found on page 213 with timings of replacement bus services that will operate during this period.

Corsican Railways has issued a new timetable for the summer period from June 28 to September 5 (Table 369).

### ITALY

As more information has become available we have checked and updated most Italian long-distance services in our tables (those shown with train numbers). However, many are only confirmed as running until August 30 or September 18. Readers should note that changes continue to occur on a regular basis making it difficult for us to keep our tables fully updated. It is therefore advisable to check timings locally before travelling.

### SPAIN

A new *Alvia* service, numbered **4484/4165**, has commenced between Madrid and Vigo via Ourense and Pontevedra using a new chord of track which avoids Santiago de Compostela (Table 680).

Additional services have been reinstated between Madrid and Málaga / Sevilla (Table 660) as has a fourth service between Madrid and Cádiz (Table 671). A weekly Intercity service between Madrid and Granada now runs from Madrid on Fridays, returning from Granada on Sundays (Tables 660 and 678a).

Following the reopening of the line between Ribes de Freser and Latour de Carol on May 10, schedules along the route were further revised from June 21 with faster journey times (Table 656).

Portuguese train **5501/5500** *Entroncamento* – Elvas once again extends across the Spanish border to Badajoz (Tables 677 and 691).

### GERMANY

Last month we reported that Harzer Schmalspurbahnen had increased its service provision from June 9 after running only a very limited service during the height of the pandemic. A further announcement has now been made stating a full summer timetable will operate from July 1, including steam services on all routes. Table 867 has been updated with the revised schedules from July 1.

### HUNGARY

A number of minor changes have been made to various tables throughout the Hungarian section.

Due to maintenance work, Budapest Nyugati station is closed until July 17. International trains in Table 1175 will be diverted to call at either Rákospalota-Újpest or Budapest Keleti. Other services will start from / terminate at the following stations: Table 1255 Kobánya Kispest; Table 1270 Zuglói; Table 1290 Kelenföld; Table 1299 Rákosszentmiklósi. Schedules are altered to allow for these changes but we do not have space to show them so please confirm timings locally.

We have received the final high-summer schedules in the Lake Balaton area and have updated Tables 1220 and 1225 on pages 561 and 562 accordingly. Note that the final timetable includes a significant number of changes to the advance information published in the Summer edition. Owing to time constraints, the regular versions of Tables 1220 and 1225 on page 497 have not yet been updated with new information received for services from August 30 (these tables will be fully updated in time for the August edition).

### SLOVENIA

The current Slovenian timetable was originally valid until July 10, but existing schedules will now continue until July 30.

### ALBANIA

An updated timetable was advertised from June 21, now reduced to just four trains a day (Table 1390). One train pair operates between Durrës and Elbasan and another between Durrës and Kashar (Tiranë).

### TURKEY

An additional high-speed train pair was added between Ankara and Konya from June 22 (Table 1570).

More regional trains have been reinstated on the Adana to Mersin route (Table 1585) and also to lines south of Izmir (Table 1572).

### FERRY SERVICES

Grimaldi Lines has introduced a twice weekly sailing between Napoli and Cagliari (Table 2675).

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers India and will be found on pages 570 to 581. All services have been checked against the latest information available.