

NEWSLINES

INTERNATIONAL

Owing to the dedicated Eurostar departure area at Amsterdam Centraal station being temporarily closed until December, travellers to London are now required to change trains at Brussels where border formalities will take place. In order to make the revised journey options clearer, we have split Table 18 to show the Amsterdam to London and Amsterdam to Paris services separately.

The following *ÖBB nightjet* services will be suspended from August 12 to October 25 due to extensive engineering work taking place in France and Germany: Berlin – Brussels (Table 20), Berlin – Paris (Table 30) and Wien – Paris (Table 32).

GREAT BRITAIN

The Island Line timetable between Ryde and Shanklin has been completely revamped with a service pattern of three trains every two hours (Table 106). As a result, good connections with the Wightlink catamaran service from and to Portsmouth are now only available every two hours (other services either make no connection at all or require a wait of nearly half an hour). In addition, the whole of the Island Line will be closed from September 6 to October 6 with the section between Ryde Pier Head and Ryde Esplanade closed for an extended period thereafter. Replacement bus services will operate during the closure.

FRANCE

From July 6, long-distance TER *Fluo* (regional) services from Paris Est will require compulsory reservation for all journeys from and to Paris. This affects routes to Mulhouse via Troyes (Table 380) and to St Dizier and Strasbourg via Châlons en Champagne (Table 381). A reservation will be provided free of charge when purchasing regular tickets, but holders of Interail and Eurail passes will be charged €1.70 per journey. This is similar to the system already in place for TER *Nomad* services operating from Paris St Lazare.

ITALY

The Italian section has now been fully checked and updated for the summer period with long-distance and high-speed trains generally valid until September 15. Timings for regional and local services are mostly valid until December 14. Note that there is a considerable amount of engineering work taking place in Italy this summer and readers are advised to consult the panel on page 284 which outlines the main areas affected.

An overnight *Frecciarossa* service runs on ten dates this summer in each direction on the Milano – Bologna – Foggia – Bari – Lecce route. The southbound train departs Milano Centrale at 2245 on July 12, 13, 19, 20, August 2, 3, 9, 10, September 6, 7 with the return service departing Lecce at 2105 the following day. Full details will be found in Table 615. In the same table, *IC* trains 603 (Bologna – Foggia – Bari – Lecce) and 606 (Bari – Foggia – Bologna) are both extended to run from /to Milano Centrale.

It has now been confirmed that the section of the *Ferrovie Circumetnea* between Catania Borgo and Paternò has temporarily closed for conversion to metro operation. The interim schedules are included in this edition which has a bus connection between Nesima (the current end of the metro) and Paternò (Table 644).

SPAIN

The weekly *Intercity* service between Madrid and Archeda-Fortuna (11326/10033) has been withdrawn, together with the connecting bus to and from Aguilas (Table 672b).

The morning *Intercity* service from Madrid to Badajoz (190) and the equivalent evening return train (193) now operate as *Alvia* services, thus matching trains 197/194 on the same route (Table 677). A third *Alvia* service between the two cities is expected to be introduced at some point.

The temporary modification of the Salamanca – Segovia – Madrid *Alvia* service has ended with timings reverting back to those that were in place until April 7 (Table 679).

Alvia 4114/4325 Madrid – Ourense – Lugo has been reinstated, although a rail replacement bus still conveys travellers between Ourense and Lugo due to ongoing engineering work (Table 682).

All rail services between Palencia and Santander will be suspended during August and replaced by buses (Table 684).

GERMANY

German tables in this edition are valid from July 16 to December 14 and include all service amendments in relation to the temporary closure of the line between Frankfurt and Mannheim (which apply for the duration of this timetable period). However, additional planned engineering work will result in further alterations which unfortunately we do not have the space to show. The most significant is the temporary closure of the high-speed line between Köln and Frankfurt from July 16 to August 12 for track renewal work which will result in wholesale changes to services which normally use this important section of line. Note that the stations of Montabaur and Limburg Süd, which are located directly on the high-speed line, will be served by bus during this period. Further south, the section of line between Rastatt and Baden-Baden will be closed from August 10 to 30 affecting services heading south from Karlsruhe, including all international services to Switzerland and France. We have added appropriate warnings to the relevant tables and we strongly advise readers to check timings on the Deutsche Bahn website for journeys during the periods specified.

Further checks to our German tables have revealed a reduction in the number of direct *IC* services between Köln and Frankfurt via Koblenz compared to what is shown in the Summer edition. Most services on the Dresden – Leipzig – Hannover – Köln corridor normally extend south towards Stuttgart via Koblenz but, as part of the changes to be implemented during the temporary closure of the Frankfurt to Mannheim line, it was originally planned to divert most of these trains to Frankfurt (Main) Hbf. However, the confirmed timetable indicates that only two of these services in each direction will extend as such, with the others terminating at or starting from Köln Hbf. This means that the long-distance service heading south from Köln via Koblenz and Mainz will only operate every two hours for most of the day. Table 800 has been updated with the confirmed service. Note that semi-fast regional services also operate along this scenic section of line, timings for which will be found in Tables 802 (hourly between Köln and Koblenz) and 914 (every two hours between Koblenz and Frankfurt via Mainz).

SLOVAKIA

All of the Slovakian tables have now been updated with confirmed timings valid from June 9 to December 14.

Due to engineering work services in Table 1170 are operated by bus between Kozárovce and Nová Baňa. Trains 801/800 *Pol'ana*, together with the through cars it conveys from and to Praha, are cancelled for the duration of the work.

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