

What's new this month

Summer has come around once again and most railways have supplied us with their new summer schedules. These are generally valid from June 10, but exceptions include Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and the Baltic States, where the new timings are valid from May 27, whilst our tables for Finland start on June 4 and those for Spain on June 17. The summer timings for Great Britain commenced on May 14. As the new schedules for Sweden do not start until July 1, these will be shown in the July edition.

INTERRAIL ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the InterRail Europe-wide pass scheme, we are including on page 35 a special timeline provided by InterRail. Purchasers of our expanded Summer edition will also find the full **Rail Passes** feature in the extra section at the front of the timetable.

AIRPORT LINKS

The latest airport to be added to Table 5, our Airport Links table, is Tirana, capital of Albania.

The new rail link to Warszawa Chopin Airport is due to open on June 1. SKM trains will run to Warszawa Wschodnia (East) either via Centralna station, or via Śródmieście and other stations on the cross-city line.

Opening of the new Berlin Brandenburg airport (BER), which was due on June 3, has been delayed, and it is not now expected to open until March 17, 2013. Tegel and Schönefeld airports, which were scheduled to be replaced by the new airport, will therefore remain open and train services which were planned to call at the new airport station from June will not now do so.

Budapest Ferihegy airport (BUD) has temporarily closed its Terminal 1 and moved all traffic to Terminal 2B. Terminal 1, which handled low-cost airlines, was 200 metres away from Budapest Ferihegy railway station (for trains to Budapest Nyugati), but a special minibus shuttle service is available linking Terminals 2A and 2B with the airport station.

INTERNATIONAL

Three international trains which traditionally have run on Summer Saturdays have returned to action this Summer as usual. Eurostar is running its London to Avignon train (Tables 11, 17a), Thalys is running *Thalys Soleil* from Amsterdam and Brussels to Marseille (Tables 11, 18), whilst German Railways runs the *Grossglockner* from München to Zell am See (Table 70).

Table 10 - Eurostar timings are valid until August 27, although we are awaiting details of the amended timetable which will operate during the London 2012 Olympics from July 27 until August 12.

Tables 16, 17 - The Paris - Oostende and Paris - Liège via Charleroi Thalys services are being withdrawn for the summer season and we are waiting to hear whether they will recommence from August 26.

Table 43 - Train **EC90/91 Vauban** Brussels - Chur and Zürich - Brussels and train **EC97/96 Iris** Brussels - Zürich and Chur - Brussels have both been cut back to run between Brussels and Basel only.

Table 44 - *Thello*, operator since December of the Paris - Venezia night train, was expected to introduce its second night train running between Paris and Roma on June 10. However, we understand that it will not now enter service until December 9.

Table 50 - Train **EN301/300 Berlin Night Express** Berlin - Malmö is running on three days a week throughout the season, the plan to run on a fourth day (Mondays) during the Summer period having been dropped.

Table 51 - A new direct Berlin - Gdynia EuroCity service, **EC55/54 Berlin Gdansk Express**, will run from June 6. Engineering work will occur on the route between Berlin and Frankfurt (Oder) from July 6 until July 12 and **EC55/54** will terminate at Fürstenwalde (between Berlin and Frankfurt am der Oder).

Table 56 - For the duration of the Euro 2012 football tournament, all *Berlin Warszawa Express* services will run daily. The engineering work between Berlin and Frankfurt (Oder) will lead to the withdrawal of Berlin - Warszawa **EC41/40** from July 6 to 12 whilst the remaining Berlin - Warszawa expresses will have their journey times extended by up to 106 minutes.

Table 59 - Weekly train **18/17 Moskva** - Nice is diverted via Villach and will not call at Linz, Innsbruck Hbf or Bolzano / Bozen. This is due to engineering work on the Brenner Pass route until September 25.

Table 60 - **EC 179/178 Alois Negrelli** Praha - Berlin - Szczecin has been withdrawn between Berlin and Szczecin.

Table 61 - Through sleeper and couchette cars run this summer from Praha to both Burgas and Varna, conveyed by the *Metropol* between Praha and Budapest. The train runs between June and September, twice weekly to Burgas and once weekly to Varna, with an additional portion from Budapest running for a slightly longer season than that from Praha.

Table 70 - *City Night Line 363/358 Pictor* München - Venezia is being diverted via Tarvisio from the start of the summer timetable. This is due to engineering work on the Brenner Pass route until September 25.

Table 88 - The weekly relief Wien - Roma *Euro Night* has been diverted to Pisa and Livorno.

Table 89 - A new Budapest - Pula train named *Istria* will run twice weekly between late June and late August.

Table 97 - The coastal town of Bar in Montenegro has been added in order to show the twice-weekly through service to and from Moskva. A new weekly service from Moskva to and from Split (Croatia) runs this summer and timings have been added to this table. Both these journeys take three nights.

The three times weekly *Elipsos Trenhotels 11274/11273 Salvador Dalí* Barcelona - Milano (Table 90a) and **274/273 Pau Casals** Barcelona - Zürich (Table 49) will not run between May 27 and June 21 due to engineering work in the Lyon area.

GREAT BRITAIN

The summer timetable in Great Britain came into effect on May 14. The 2012 Olympic Games will be held in London and at various venues around the United Kingdom, with the main events taking place between July 27 and August 12. Information about reaching the various Olympic venues will be found in a special feature on pages 562 and 563, which also includes details of additional rail services which will be operated during the games.

FRANCE

Engineering work and major modernisation projects are the order of the day in France, notably on the Toulouse to Aurillac and Mazamet lines (Tables 317 and 314), also from Toulouse to Albi and Rodez (Table 323) and between Grenoble and Chambéry (Table 364). In all these cases, buses replace trains until September 2 as shown in the relevant tables. Other shorter term changes are likely throughout the network and it is not always possible to show them in our tables.

As usual, services in Brittany have a revised timetable in high-summer, which this year is between July 8 and August 26. Separate versions of Tables 280 to 285 will be found at the back of this edition, whilst the summer versions of Tables 286 to 288 are on page 209.

Major retimings of services in the Bordeaux area will take place from July 23. In most cases we have been able to show the revised timings alongside the current ones. In the case of Table 305 (Bordeaux to Irún and Tarbes) a separate version from July 23 appears on page 337.

BELGIUM

There are minor alterations to timings on the Benelux service between Brussels and Amsterdam (Table 420).

SWITZERLAND

Services are currently disrupted on the Martigny - Chamonix line owing to engineering work on the French section of the route. Until June 3 buses replace trains from Le Châtelard Frontière to Argentière, extending to Chamonix from June 4 until December 8; the timetable for this latter period is shown in Table 572.

ITALY

Changes to timetables are expected from June 10, but few details had been received as we went to press. Further minor changes are anticipated, mainly to local services.

Following a reader's suggestion, Table 592 has been expanded to reflect that Bellinzona (or Cadenazzo) to Luino services now extend to Milano Malpensa Aeroporto.

SPAIN

Due to the large number of changes in Spain from June 17 our tables are valid from this date and readers should refer to the May edition for services up to June 16.

Amongst the changes are that **AVE 3083** Madrid to Barcelona calls additionally at Camp de Tarragona on Saturdays and Sundays and in the return direction **AVE 3192** calls additionally on Sundays. A number of *Alvia* services between Madrid and Pamplona / Iruña have been re-timed. Trains **605** and **606** both run 60 minutes later, while trains **602** and **610** run a few minutes earlier.

On the Madrid to València high-speed route one of the two *Alvia* train pairs between Madrid and Castelló de la Plana has been withdrawn (**5481/5570**). A further casualty is the *Alvia* train pair operating between Madrid and València via Albacete (trains **5953/5992**).

A new direct *AVE* service is expected to be introduced shortly between València and Sevilla, but timings are still to be confirmed. Other changes are expected, particularly in the north and west of the country and these will be added to the relevant tables when details become available.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

DENMARK

It is confirmed that engineering work north of Aalborg, mentioned in last month's *Newslines*, will go ahead as planned. From June 2 buses will replace trains between Aalborg and Frederikshavn. Then from September 10 to October 28, subject to repairs being completed on the damaged Limfjord bridge, trains should resume between Aalborg and Hjørring with bus connections to Frederikshavn. Travellers should expect extended journey times (Table 701).

Engineering work will also affect Table 712 until September 30. Initially, buses will replace trains between Skive and Viborg (see our updated table), then from June 23 this will be extended to Langå. Timetables will again change on July 7 with buses operating all the way from Struer to Langå. Finally, phase four of reconstruction will see the Struer - Skive section replaced by buses. During this work Danske Statsbaner (DSB) will run no direct København - Struer (via Langå) trains until August 13.

SWEDEN

In a late change, when Norrtåg take over the service between Östersund and Trondheim on June 10, schedules will continue as previously without the need of a change of train at Åre (Table 760).

NORWAY

Engineering work in the vicinity of Oslo Sentral station will affect most long-distance and regional services to and from the Norwegian capital from June 24 to August 5. Most services will terminate at or start from stations outside of Oslo, such as Lillestrøm, Lysaker and Drammen, which will be linked by bus with central Oslo. Further details will be found in the Norwegian tables.

FINLAND

There are a number of significant changes in the new Finnish timetable, which is valid from June 4.

The location for loading cars on to car-carrying trains in Helsinki has been moved to a site just to the north of Pasila station. As a result all overnight trains between Helsinki and northern Finland will depart Helsinki earlier (and arrive later) so that the car carrying wagons can be attached/detached.

The first morning service heading north from Kouvola towards Kuopio now leaves just over one hour later at 0728 (Mondays to Saturdays). This new train (IC 69) actually starts from Helsinki on Mondays to Fridays (d.0540), thus providing a new early morning option between Helsinki and Kouvola. The morning Express service heading north to Oulu and Rovaniemi now starts from Kuopio 57 minutes later so that it connects with train IC 69. In the opposite direction the late night Express 714 between Pieksämäki and Kouvola is withdrawn. There are also changes to the Saturday afternoon/Sunday morning service on this route. Please note that services in Table 798 are disrupted until August 12 owing to engineering work (see below).

A notable new addition is an early morning Tampere to Vaasa service (IC 455) on Mondays to Fridays leaving Tampere 0605, arriving Vaasa 0845 (Tables 793 and 794).

Engineering work will affect a number of routes during this timetable period. The Tampere to Pori route (Table 792) will be subject to bus substitution on most Mondays to Fridays until mid-afternoon. Until August 12 the Kouvola - Kuopio - Oulu route will run to an amended timetable with buses replacing trains between Pieksämäki and Kuopio (see Table 798). Finally, on Mondays to Thursdays from August 13 to November 8 (between 0930 and 1730) trains are replaced by bus between Ylivieska and Oulu (Table 794), disrupting journeys to/from the far north.

GERMANY

From June 10 regional routes Leipzig - Gera - Saalfeld, Gera - Hof (Table 871) and Erfurt - Saalfeld (Table 872) will be taken over by private operator *Erfurter Bahn* and revised schedules introduced. The most significant changes are between Leipzig and Saalfeld with faster journeys available throughout the day. The number of direct trains between Gera and Hof will be increased from four to seven in each direction, with good connections at Hof for Regensburg and Nürnberg. There are also minor timing changes to certain services between Erfurt and Saalfeld.

From June 11 engineering work will affect services on the Rostock/Stralsund - Neustrelitz - Berlin - Lutherstadt Wittenberg/ Falkenberg route (Table 835) with the work taking place in two phases. Amended schedules during the first phase (until September 9) will be found in Table 835. During this period the Rostock/Stralsund - Berlin and Berlin - Lutherstadt Wittenberg/ Falkenberg will operate separately with extended journey times on the route north of Berlin. Please note that trains IC 2209/2304 and RE 18590/1 are diverted via Schwerin. From September 10 through to April 26, 2013 another revised timetable will be introduced with many more diversions and bus replacement services in operation (further details will be shown from the September edition).

POLAND

Many retimings have occurred throughout Poland from June 1, but valid only to June 30. Additional changes from July 1 have been included where space permits, but further information will be shown in the July edition. One pair of the two Eiblag - Braniewo stopping trains has been retimed (Table 1038).

CZECH REPUBLIC

There are significant changes from June 10 to the Prague - Ostrava route (Table 1160) and as a result the Czech section is now shown as starting on this date. The changes mainly affect *SuperCity* tilting trains, many of which have reduced days of running, particularly in July and August, and those which extended over the border to Žilina on certain days of the week no longer do so. There are nevertheless two additional *SuperCity* departures, leaving Praha at 1412 on Fridays and Sundays and at 2012 on Sundays, whilst the 1912 now runs daily. In the other direction there is an additional train on Fridays and Sundays leaving Ostrava at 1641. Early morning Praha - Žilina train Ex 140 has been cut back to start from Olomouc (except on Mondays), whilst late evening Ex 141 similarly terminates at Olomouc, continuing to Praha only on Sundays.

SLOVENIA

The minor cross-border route between Maribor and Bleiburg (Austria) has been added as a panel to Table 1315, also showing connections to and from Klagenfurt. Although only two trains per weekday operate in each direction, this scenic route provides a useful alternative to travelling via Jesenice and Villach.

CROATIA

It is reported that Croatian Railways has withdrawn its catering vehicles from Zagreb - Beograd train 412/3 and also its IC services.

GREECE

A correspondent recently returned from Greece advises of timetable alterations. Passengers travelling from Athina to Kórinthos and Kiáto now have to change trains at SKA (Acharnon) rather than Ano Liosia. Some Kiáto - Pátra buses are also affected (Tables 1440/50). Consequently, there are changes to timings on these tables and also between Athina and Halkida (Table 1420).

Additionally, unconfirmed information suggests that the Peloponnese branch lines from Pírgos to Katákoló and Olimbia may have had services reduced to just three trains serving Olimbia and one serving Katákoló (Table 1455).

UKRAINE

From May 27 Ukraine Railways are introducing fast Intercity day trains between principal cities, following the delivery of new electric units from Hyundai and Skoda. Timings are shown in new Tables 1705, 1710 and 1715. There is some reduction in overnight services as a result.

ESTONIA, LITHUANIA AND LATVIA

A new daytime service between Tallinn and St Peterburg has commenced (Table 1870), whilst the line from Tartu to Koidula has been extended a few kilometers to Piusa, close to the Estonian/Russian border (Table 1880)

Train 38/37 Riga - Krustpils - Daugavpils - Minsk (Table 1932) and 388/387 Riga - Krustpils - Rezekne - St Peterburg (Table 1820) have been combined between Riga and Daugavpils; therefore train 388/387 will not run via the direct route between Krustpils and Rezekne and will combine with train 92/91 Vilnius - St Peterburg at Daugavpils instead of Rezekne II.

RUSSIA

Sapsan train 154 from Moskva to St Peterburg (Table 1900) runs additionally on Saturdays and the return working, 163, also runs on Fridays. Most *Sapsan* trains have a longer journey time between Moskva and St Peterburg. In Table 1960 train 75 has been extended to/from Sukhumi and now leaves from Moskva Kurskaya instead of Paveletskaya. In Table 1965 train 1 Moskva - Volgograd now runs daily whilst 35 is withdrawn. Train 5 to/from Astrachan runs in a separate path as a result. The weekly Kharkiv - Baki train (Table 1977, formerly 1972) now takes a longer route via Saratov instead of Volgograd whilst the Kyiv - Baku train in the same table has been withdrawn.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's section covers Africa and the Middle East (Tables 4000 onwards). Iran has finally introduced a passenger service on the line from Bam to the city of Zahedan (Table 4700). Once the Bosphorus tunnel in Istanbul is completed, this will theoretically allow a journey from the north of Scotland to the south of India to be completed entirely by rail, albeit with several changes along the way!

Note that our expanded Summer edition has all six of the Beyond Europe sections. In New Zealand, Transzscenic has made major changes to the *Overlander* service between Auckland and Wellington. From June 25 the trains will leave Auckland on Monday, Thursday and Saturday, and will leave Wellington on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. These running days will stay the same all year, rather than changing during the peak tourist season. In order to accelerate journey times the train will now only make intermediate calls at Hamilton, National Park, Okahune and Palmerston North.

NEXT MONTH

As well as the latest updates to the summer timetables, the July edition of the European Rail Timetable will contain our special feature on **Tourist Railways**, showing an extensive selection of heritage and steam railways.