

NEWSLINES

Most tables in this edition have been updated with summer schedules, many of which are valid through to December 9. However, a different validity period applies for certain countries and readers should consult individual country headers for confirmed validity.

As is usual in our Summer seasonal edition, we have included a fully updated *Rail Extra* feature (on pages 653 to 665) containing useful transport based information presented on a country by country basis, including schedules for selected tourist railways which do not appear in our regular country sections. This is followed by our expanded rail passes feature with an overview of international and domestic rail passes that are currently available.

As part of our ongoing review of the future of the European Rail Timetable, we have decided to make some changes to the content included in future seasonal printed editions. Our small team of compilers are finding it increasingly difficult to keep both our European and Beyond Europe pages fully up to date and, with new services being introduced around Europe we are often finding it problematic fitting these in to our existing table structures. As a result, we have made the decision to stop publishing our Beyond Europe pages in the seasonal printed editions so that we can focus principally on our core European content. This will take effect from the Autumn 2023 edition.

Although we will be prioritising our European content, we will continue to update our Beyond Europe pages as and when our workload permits, and will make the latest version of the Beyond Europe section available as a separate digital download. Readers who purchase a seasonal edition will be granted free access to the Beyond Europe section by quoting a code printed in the timetable. These changes will provide some additional pages which we will utilise to improve the presentation of many European country sections and will also make it easier for us to include any new (or more frequent) services that are introduced.

INTERNATIONAL

The frequent car-carrying service between Folkestone and Calais through the Channel Tunnel previously known as *Eurotunnel Le Shuttle* is now known simply as *Le Shuttle*. See the panel on page 46 for further details of this service.

Thalys summer schedules are confirmed until September 2 and all relevant tables have been updated accordingly.

An additional *Berlin Warszawa Express* service has started running in each direction between the German and Polish capital cities. This means there are now six journeys available each way Mondays to Fridays with five running on Saturdays and Sundays (Table 56).

The *Kulturzug / Pociąg do Kultury* (Culture Train) will run between Berlin and Wrocław this summer from June 16 to September 9 (Tables 58 and 1086).

Further to last month's report, Austrian Railways' *nightjet* service between Wien and Roma (train 40233 / 40294) is temporarily rerouted during the summer period to serve Rimini and Ancona instead of the Italian capital. Its normal route to Roma will be restored from September 10 (Table 88). Train 295/294 München – Roma, which is combined with service from Wien, is similarly rerouted (Table 70).

From June 10, service *EC 104/105 Porta Moravica*, between Przemysł and Graz via Bohumin and Wien, will convey first-class panorama cars for which normal fares and reservations will apply (Tables 99, 1150, 1162 and 1164).

GREAT BRITAIN

Cross Country has enhanced its schedules with additional services added via Birmingham to destinations in the south-west of England, thus returning to pre-pandemic service levels. There is now an hourly through service between Manchester and Bristol (Tables 116 and 119) and many trains from the north-east of England that previously terminated at Bristol, now extend to Plymouth (Tables 116 and 124). Through services between the north-east of England and Reading via Birmingham now operate every two hours (Tables 114 and 124).

Great Western Railway has extended many of its services between London and Bristol to Weston-super-Mare with through services now operating at least every two hours Mondays to Fridays and hourly for much of the day on Saturdays (Table 132). Its London to Swansea service extends six times a day in each direction (three on Sundays) to serve Carmarthen with an additional early morning train provided between Bristol Parkway and Carmarthen on Mondays to Fridays, returning late evening (Tables 133 and 136). Regional services on the

Bristol – Gloucester – Worcester route have been enhanced with half-hourly trains to Gloucester with one train an hour continuing through to Worcester. However, only a small number of trains now run through to Great Malvern (Table 138). Services between Bristol and Weymouth now operate every two hours during most of the day (Table 139).

From September 11 to October 22 the Cambrian Coast line between Machynlleth and Pwllheli will be affected by the latest phase of work to upgrade the Barmouth Bridge. A special version of Table 148 will be found on page 559 showing the amended service during this period when rail replacement bus services will operate between Machynlleth and Harlech.

The London Midland service between Bedford to Bletchley continues to be operated by bus until further notice (Table 142a).

East Midlands Railway has advised travellers using the Nottingham to Skegness route from July 9 to September 9 to book in advance to guarantee boarding at Nottingham and Skegness. Services are expected to be very busy during the summer (particularly on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays) and a queuing system will be implemented at busy times at Nottingham and Skegness stations. Travellers with advance reservations will be given priority access and those without may have to wait for a later train.

The TransPennine Express franchise was taken over by the UK Government's operator of last resort on May 28 owing to continuing poor performance. The new timetable sees little change to its schedules except for the withdrawal of a number of services on the Manchester to Scotland route (Table 154). The trans-Pennine route between Manchester and Leeds will see significant alterations on Saturdays and Sundays from August 5 to October 22 and we will show further details in our August and September editions (Table 188).

Scotrail has increased the frequency of its Saturday service on the Edinburgh – Falkirk – Glasgow route to every 15 minutes (Table 220). Most Ayr – Girvan trains now extend from/to Kilmarnock on weekdays (Table 215).

FRANCE

As part of our on-going effort to improve presentation, we have recast a number of tables in the French section which will hopefully make it easier for readers to use when planning journeys.

The two separate panels within Table 250 showing TGV services between Paris and northern France via Lille Europe have been combined meaning all services between Paris and Lille Europe are grouped together.

Tables 267 and 268 have been combined so we can clearly show the two daily through train pairs that will be running this summer between Paris Nord and Le Tréport.

Table 280 has been expanded to show TGV services in their entirety, including timings at stations beyond Rennes and Nantes. This removes the need to refer to other tables which are now focused purely on regional services. Table 300 has been similarly expanded with full details of through TGV journeys via Bordeaux shown together in a single table. As there are quite significant changes to these services during the high-summer period, special versions of Tables 280 and 300, valid from July 8 to August 27, can be found on pages 562 to 565.

In eastern France, Table 390 has been expanded to include timings of through TGV journeys beyond Nancy to Remiremont and St Dié.

Timings of Normandy TER services (Tables 270–277) are only valid from July 10 to August 11. Services before and after this period are subject to numerous alterations so please check locally for confirmed timings. Other tables showing TER services in northern and western France are generally valid from July 8 to September 3. Please refer to previous editions for timings until July 7.

After a gap of several years, through rail services between Aurillac and Toulouse have resumed (Table 317).

The line between Chagny and Nevers via Le Creusot will be temporarily closed from July 10 so that major route upgrade work can be undertaken. All services will be replaced by bus during the work and a special version of Table 373 will be found on page 559 with the proposed bus timings.

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SWITZERLAND

Journeys on the *Golden Pass Express* service between Montreux and Interlaken require a change of trains at Zweisimmen until June 10 owing to technical issues. However, through journeys are expected to be restored from June 11 with four services operating in each direction (Tables 563 and 566).

ITALY

As is usual in the lead up to a timetable change, we were only able to partially update the Italian section in this edition owing to the late availability of confirmed timings. Only *Trenitalia* operated long-distance trains have been updated this month (trains classified *EC, FA, FB, FR, IC* and *ICN*) and only for the period from June 11 to September 12. However, we do not expect major changes to regional services already shown in our tables. We hope to be able to fully update the Italian section in time for the July digital edition.

Overnight service *ICN763/764* Bolzano – Roma is extended in both directions to serve San Candido (Table 595). However, as we closed for press we were unable to confirm the full period of operation.

As part of our efforts to reduce duplication, international *EC* services between Switzerland and Milano via Brig have been removed from Table 590 but full details of these can still be found in Table 82.

SPAIN

As reported last month, engineering work has commenced from June 1 on the high-speed line between Madrid and Sevilla. Single line working and lower speeds will result in increased journey times (including earlier departure times and later arrivals) and fewer services will operate (Table 660).

iryo introduced two new return services between Madrid and Alicante from June 1. Owing to a lack of space in Table 668, a temporary panel has been created on page 322 to show these new services.

NORWAY

Engineering work in the Drammen area will affect many services from June 27 to August 6. Trains between Oslo and Bergen will be diverted during this period, not serving Drammen and with minor timing variations at Oslo (Table 780). Services on the Oslo – Kristiansand (Table 775) and Oslo – Skien (Table 783) routes will be partially replaced by bus in amended timings.

GERMANY

Timings in the German section are currently valid until September 11 and include amended schedules during the temporary closure of the main line between Würzburg and Nürnberg. Combined with the temporary closure of the high-speed section from Kassel to Fulda (until December 9), journey times on the main north-south axis between Hamburg and München are considerably extended. In fact, the fastest journeys between Germany's second and third largest cities are currently those operating via Berlin. Local services between Würzburg and Nürnberg are also affected with partial bus replacement in operation (Table 921).

Further problems have been encountered during work to repair the Schlei Bridge between Eckernförde and Süderbrarup (Table 824) and pedestrian access across the bridge has now been halted. A temporary structure is under construction to once again allow passengers to cross on foot but, until the new crossing is available, a temporary timetable is in operation with a fast bus connection running between Eckernförde and Flensburg. Table 824 has been updated with the latest timings which will remain valid until further notice. The main bridge is expected to reopen at some point in 2025.

Services between Stuttgart and Singen (Table 940), together with those between Stuttgart and Freudenstadt (Table 942), will be affected by engineering work from June 3 to October 26 with rail replacement bus services operating between certain stations. The work will be carried out in phases and we are currently showing schedules from June 3 to 30 on page 446 and from July 1 to 28 on page 561. Further updates will be published in future editions. Note that certain journeys are also possible using alternative routes, such as via Karlsruhe (see the German map on page 365).

We have made a few changes to tables in the German section to improve presentation in certain areas. The list of departure times of local Bremen to Hamburg services operated by *metronom*, previously shown in Table 801, have been moved to a footnote within Table 800 (on page 366). This has enabled the first panel of Table 802 to be expanded to show full timings of regional services between Köln and Minden (the Bielefeld – Minden section of which were previously shown in Table 811). The extra space in Table 811 has been utilised to improve presentation of the other services in the table, including the Paderborn – Ottbergen – Göttingen service which is now shown in a much clearer tabular format.

Table 905 has been adapted to better show the through regional services between München and Würzburg via Augsburg operated by Go-Ahead Bayern. The Augsburg to Nürnberg regional services (operated by Deutsche Bahn) are now shown in a separate panel. The shuttle service between Steinach and Rothenburg ob der Tauber is now the only service shown in Table 905a.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Ongoing engineering works continue to affect services in Tables 1150, 1151 and 1152. Timings of many trains are revised from July 1, so we have included special versions of these tables which will be found on pages 570 and 571.

The Regiojet service between Brno and Flughafen Wien Schwechat is withdrawn from June 10 (Table 1150). We understand that another private operator, Gepard Express, will introduce a direct night-time service between Brno and Wien Schwechat from June 11.

TURKEY

Turkey's high-speed network expanded further in May 2023 with the opening of a brand new line between Ankara and Sivas. With much higher speeds and a more direct route, journey time between the two cities has been dramatically cut from over ten hours to just 2½ hours. There are currently two daily services operating in each direction and Table 1570 has been expanded to include the new schedules.

FERRIES

We have added details of a new catamaran service, operated by FRS Baltic, linking Sassnitz (in Germany) with Trelleborg (in Sweden). Sailings operate daily until September 4, then on Thursdays to Mondays from September 7 to October 29. With a sailing time of just 2½ hours and good rail links available near both ports, this service provides a viable alternative option for travel between Germany and Sweden. Full details will be found in Table 2385.

BEYOND EUROPE UPDATE

AUSTRALIA

Queensland Railways' services shown in Table 6330 and 6335 are retimed from July 17 and so we have updated these tables to reflect the revised schedules.

CHINA

As China relaxes its entry requirements following the Covid-19 pandemic, we have at last been able to find a stable source of information for Chinese train times and so have fully updated all of our Chinese tables. Prospective travellers should bear in mind that the trains shown may not necessarily run daily.

International services between China and Laos started on Thursday April 13 and details can be found in an expanded Table 7120. Table 6095, which previously showed services within Laos, has now been abolished.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

An additional round trip *Piedmont* service between Raleigh and Charlotte will be introduced from July 10, timings for which will be found in a separate version of Table 9245 on page 620. The timings of all other trains in Table 9245 remain unchanged.