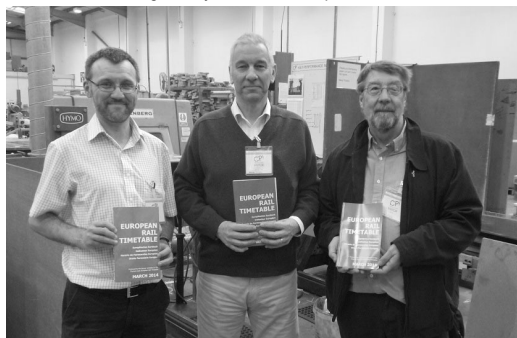


TEN YEARS

The Spring 2024 edition of the European Rail Timetable marks the tenth anniversary of publication under independent ownership. Regular readers will be aware that Thomas Cook closed its publishing business in August 2013 thus ceasing production of the timetable after 140 years. John Potter purchased the rights to continue publication and set up a new company, European Rail Timetable Limited. With a team of dedicated former Thomas Cook employees, the first edition of the rebranded timetable was published in March 2014. This time last year we were able to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the timetable since its inception in March 1873. We are now pleased to reach this latest milestone in the long history of this historic publication.



The first edition of the rebranded European Rail Timetable hot off the press at CPI Clowes, Beccles, in February 2014. From left to right: Chris Woodcock (Editor), John Potter (Director and Editor-in-Chief), Peter Bass (former Beyond Europe Editor).

Most of our tables have now been fully checked and updated since the December timetable change with timings for the majority of countries valid until at least June 8. The first appearance of this year's **Summer International Supplement** will be found on pages 604 to 607 with advance versions of a small selection of international tables valid from June 9. This section will be expanded and updated further in our April and May digital editions.

Our *Rail Extra* feature, which contains useful transport information on a country by country basis, has been updated further, although summer schedules for many tourist railways had not been confirmed in time for inclusion this month. We hope to have full details available in time for the Summer 2024 edition.

For readers who prefer the printed version of the timetable, we have included on page 603 selected news items that appeared in the January and February digital editions.

INTERNATIONAL

The extra summer *TGV* through service between Paris and Barcelona (**9711/9706**) will run on some additional Saturdays and Sundays during the spring and autumn (Table 13). Note that *TGV* services on this route are affected by engineering work in the Paris area on March 30 and 31. Verkehrsverbund Berlin-Brandenburg have announced that the Berlin to Wrocław *Kulturzug/Pociąg do Kultury* will start running again from April 19 (Table 58). We hope to be able to include confirmed timings in the April edition.

GREAT BRITAIN

Services operated by TransPennine Express will run to an amended timetable on Mondays to Fridays from April 22 to May 17 due to engineering work (Table 188). Further details will be published in the April and May digital editions.

FRANCE

The line between Besançon and Le Locle will be closed to all rail traffic from March 4 to October 31. During this period all services will be operated by bus and Table 376a has been updated with the amended schedules. Rail services will continue to operate between Le Locle and La Chaux de Fonds, timings for which will be found in Swiss Table 511.

SWITZERLAND

Swiss Railways will introduce seven more services operating via the Gotthard Base Tunnel from March 2. Three additional services will operate southbound on Saturdays and four northbound on Sundays. This has been made possible following the re-opening of a 23-kilometre section of the western bore north of the crossovers at Sedrun. The full reopening of the tunnel is currently expected to take place on September 2. A special version of Table 550 will be found on pages 578 and 579 with details of the latest amended schedules. Note that the timings for the extra southbound Saturday services were not available as we closed for press.

ITALY

All long distance trains (those shown with train numbers) are now valid until the summer timetable change on June 8.

Rail services between Terni and Foligno (Table 625) are replaced by bus from May 4 to June 8. We have not yet been able to obtain schedules for the replacement bus services so we advise readers to enquire locally, or check the Italian Railways' website, for confirmed timings.

News reports suggest that the section of the Ferrovia Circumetnea narrow gauge railway between Catania Borgo and Adrano will close from June 1 for conversion to a standard gauge metro which may take several years to complete (Table 644).

SPAIN

The *Tren dels Llacs* will run again on summer Saturdays from April 6 (Table 653).

GERMANY

Abellio Rail Mitteldeutschland is implementing a modified timetable from April 8 on its routes from Leipzig/Halle to Eisenach/Saalfeld (Table 849). The amended schedules are shown in the main table on page 404, with the current timings (valid until April 7) moved to a separate version of the table on page 602.

We understand that German Railways will implement a policy of compulsory reservation for most international journeys from/to Germany on long-distance *ICE*, *RJX*, *RJ*, *EC* and *IC* services during the summer period from June 1 to September 1 (inclusive). The only exceptions will be journeys to Salzburg and Kufstein (in Austria) and services to Switzerland via Basel or Singen. Note that domestic journeys on these trains will not require reservation, only trips that cross the border. This will particularly affect holders of Interrail and Eurail passes who may be required to make additional reservations. However, most routes do have alternative local cross-border services (which do not require reservation) so it will still be possible to make spontaneous international journeys without paying a reservation fee – it will just require some extra advance planning.

Readers should note that the German section as a whole is valid until June 8, although most tables will continue to be valid until July 15. There may be a small number of changes for the period from June 9 to July 15 so readers are advised to check any journey plans during this interim period. Note that the 2024 European Football Championship will be taking place from June 14 to July 14. Services are expected to be busier than usual during the tournament and some additional trains will be operating to provide extra capacity.

From July 16 to December 14 the important route between Frankfurt and Mannheim will be temporarily closed so that major infrastructure upgrade work can take place. This will result in some significant changes to many long-distance services with extended journey times and different train routings. Full details of these changes will be published in the Summer 2024 edition. Readers travelling up to July 15 are therefore advised to use the Spring, April or May editions to plan their journeys in Germany.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 608

AUSTRIA

The regional cross-border route between Wien and Bratislava via Marchegg will be affected by engineering work from March 4 to December 14. During this period rail services are suspended between Marchegg and Bratislava with only a limited rail replacement bus service provided between these points (four or five buses per day each way). Table 996 has been updated with the amended schedules. Readers travelling between the two capital cities are advised to use the alternative route between Bratislava Petržalka and Wien via Kittsee (Table 997).

POLAND

Polish Railways publishes its annual timetable in five periods, the first of which was valid until March 9, 2024. Confirmed timings for the following period were published on February 18, unfortunately too late for inclusion in this edition (except for international services which have been checked). Readers are therefore advised to confirm timings of any domestic journeys from March 10 before travelling.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Trains in Table 1152 are replaced by buses between Křižanov and Brno until September 30.

KAZAKHSTAN and UZBEKISTAN

Following a suggestion from a correspondent, we have moved these two countries out of the Russian section and expanded our coverage of them. The new tables can be found immediately after the section covering the Baltic States, with Kazakhstan allocated Table 1880 and Uzbekistan Table 1890. In order to accommodate these changes, we have taken the decision to remove all timing data from our tables covering Russia and Belarus.

BEYOND EUROPE

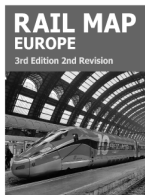
Readers can download the Spring edition of Beyond Europe free of charge using the code found on page 3 of this book. The Spring edition will include updates for Thailand, the United States and South America. We are hoping to have the Spring Beyond Europe available on or shortly after Monday March 4.

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

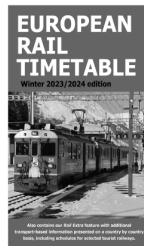
Table 18 (Summer): Major renovation work will be taking place at Amsterdam Centraal station from June 15 and the dedicated Eurostar departure area will be temporarily closed as a result. During this period the London to Amsterdam service will reduce from four to three services on weekdays with the temporary withdrawal of train 9114, the 0816 from London St Pancras. Timings from Amsterdam to London are still being finalised to provide optimum connection times at Brussels where border formalities will take place.

Table 89 (Summer): Train 247/246 *Citadella* Budapest – Ljubljana will once again convey a through portion to Koper between June 16 and August 24. We are still awaiting confirmation of other summer through services from Budapest to Koper, Split and Rijeka.

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