

NEWSLINES

EUROPEAN RAIL TIMETABLE - 150 YEARS

In March 1873, the very first edition of Cook's Continental Time Tables & Tourist's Hand Book was published and so this, the Spring 2023 edition, marks the 150th anniversary of this historic publication. On pages 666 to 669 we have reproduced the special feature that appeared in the March 2013 edition (marking the 140th anniversary) which outlines the history of the timetable, including key events during the 140 years of Thomas Cook ownership. We have, of course, added an additional section covering events of the subsequent ten years under the stewardship of the current timetable team. We are very pleased that we were able to continue production of this unique publication and, despite recent challenges, we hope to continue producing the timetable for years to come.

Most of our tables have now been fully checked and updated following the winter timetable change. The first version of our **Summer International Supplement** will be found on pages 670 to 674 with advance versions of a small selection of international tables valid from June 11. This seasonal Spring edition also includes the latest versions of all Beyond Europe tables together with an updated *Rail Extra* feature which contains useful transport information on a country by country basis. Please note that 2023 schedules for many tourist railways contained in the *Rail Extra* feature were still not confirmed as we closed for press, so 2022 timings are still shown where this is the case. We hope to have all timings updated in time for the Summer edition.

So that readers who only purchase the printed version of the timetable can keep fully up to date with the latest developments, we have included on pages 36 and 37 extracts of *NewsLines* that appeared in the January and February digital editions.

We are aware of a number of quality issues that affected our printed Winter 2022/2023 edition for which we must apologise. Most notably, the content on certain pages was not aligned correctly meaning it was difficult to read content that was printed too close to the binding. A small number of timetables also contained some uncut pages. These issues were immediately raised with our printers whose subsequent investigations identified a problem with the use of a newly installed printing press. We have been assured that these issues will not occur in future editions.

We would like to thank readers who responded to our request for feedback on the new thinner paper we are now using. Comments were generally positive but we acknowledge there are some disadvantages of the new paper. The feedback has proved useful during our ongoing discussions with regards to future paper supply.

INTERNATIONAL

The overnight service between Zürich and Praha via Linz will be suspended from May 2 to May 29 due to engineering work (Table 52).

FRANCE

We have decided to publish timings in Tables 301, 307, 310, 319 and 325 valid from either late March or early April to make it easier for readers to plan future journeys on these routes. Please consult previous editions for timings valid before the published timetable comes into force. Note that services between Angoulême and Saintes (Table 301) are operated by bus from March 25 to June 25. We have pieced together information from several sources to show what we believe is the correct timetable. However, we strongly advise readers to check timings locally if intending to travel on this route.

SPAIN

The fourth *Media Distancia* service between Granada and Almería, which was suspended during the pandemic, was reinstated from February 20, meaning the overall service is back to the pre-pandemic level (Table 673).

The line between Medinaceli and Soria, which has been closed since November 2022 for track replacement work, has now reopened meaning direct services between Madrid and Soria have been restored. (Table 651).

The daily *AVE* service (trains 3982/3981) between València Joaquín Sorolla and Sevilla Santa Justa will call additionally at Ciudad Real from March 5 (Tables 660 and 668).

Alvia services between Cádiz and Madrid will be recast from March 5 (Table 673).

Information received shortly before we closed for press indicates that the bus service run by Spanish Railways between Aranjuez and Utiel via Cuenca will be withdrawn from March 4 (Table 669). We understand an alternative bus service is being arranged between Aranjuez and Cuenca which we hope to be able to show in the April edition.

NORWAY

The latest official information regarding the new 22-kilometre double-track *Folloabanen* line between Oslo and Ski is that it will remain closed until further notice. Therefore, services in Table 770 will continue to operate with amended Oslo timings until the problem with the new infrastructure has been resolved.

GERMANY

Readers should note that timings in the German section of this edition are only valid until March 31. Major alterations affecting many long distance services will occur from April 1 when the key section of high-speed line between Kassel and Fulda is temporarily closed until December 9 to enable route upgrade work to take place. The most significant changes will be found in Tables 850, 900 and 902 and so, to help readers plan future journeys on these routes, we have included advance versions of these particular tables (which will be found on pages 566 to 570). Services on most other routes will generally continue as normal until at least May 26, although changes to local services may occur on the various diversionary routes that will be used during the closure period. Readers should note that alterations on and around public holidays during April and May are not generally shown in this edition. The whole German section will be fully updated for the period from April 1 to May 26 in the April and May digital editions.

HUNGARY

As is usual during the spring and summer, an enhanced timetable operates to the Lake Balaton area. Special versions of Tables 1220 and 1225, valid from May 15 to June 16, are included in this edition and will be found on pages 559 and 560. Further updated versions of these tables will be published in future editions covering the high-summer period from June 17.

TURKEY

Turkish railways has reported that the *Güney Ekspresi* from Ankara to Kortalan, the *Vangözü Ekspresi* from Ankara to Tatvan and the *4 Eylül Mavi Tren* from Ankara to Malatya are once again running throughout following the devastating earthquake which struck the region recently (Table 1575).

LITHUANIA

Work to electrify the railway between Kasiadorys and Radviliskis will cause significant alterations to the service shown in Table 1805 until an as yet unspecified date in May. We have included what we believe to be the correct timetable, however, it should be regarded as subject to confirmation and we strongly advise readers check timings locally using the website www.ltlink.lt.

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Table 88 (Summer): Austrian Railways' *nightjet* service between Wien and Roma (trains 40233/40294) will convey additional through cars between Wien and Ancona during the summer.

BEYOND EUROPE

INDIA

All tables checked and updated to reflect the October 2022 timetable change.

THAILAND

Thursday January 19 saw the opening to long-distance passenger trains of the new Bangkok Krung Thep Aphiwat Central Terminal station, formerly known as Bang Sue Grand. All long-distance trains, except those on the Eastern line and with train numbers in the 200 and 300 series, use the new station. The station is also currently served by the SRT Dark Red, Light Red and Airport Link commuter rail routes as well as a large number of bus routes. In the future it will also be served by the Don Mueang – Suvarnabhumi – U-Tapao high-speed railway and planned high-speed routes to Nong Khai, Padang Besar and Chiang Mai. All tables have been updated with the latest timings.

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BEYOND EUROPE (continued)

CHINA

High-speed rail services between Guangzhou and Hong Kong resumed on January 15. We have updated the Guangzhou – Shenzhen – West Kowloon panel of Table 7105 with the latest information. All other services in China should still be considered as subject to confirmation as it remains difficult to obtain accurate information.

TAIWAN

We have received news that through services on the TRA Eastern mainline were reinstated on December 28, so we have combined former Tables 7755 and 7760 to show this. The services had been split due to infrastructure damage caused by an earthquake in September 2022.

JAPAN

There will be a general timetable change in Japan from March 18. We have been able to update some tables with advance information, however, you should check locally for possible changes if travelling from this date. Services in Tables 8000 and 8005 have been considerably recast with the timings between Kagoshima and Osaka particularly affected. Services on the Joetsu Shinkansen will be accelerated as the maximum line speed is to be increased from 240 to 275km/h (Table 8008). Unfortunately we have not yet received the revised schedules.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

We have checked and updated all Amtrak services as necessary. Many routes have seen service frequencies restored to levels similar to those pre-pandemic. Table 9210 has two additional train pairs operating between New York and Albany, one running daily and the other daily except Saturdays. One of these train pairs is named *Adirondack*, reviving the name of the former New York to Montréal train which was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Table 9240 sees the restoration of the *Silver Meteor* between New York and Miami, meaning this route has two daily train pairs once again. In order to better show services along this route, we have expanded Table 9240 and moved the Brightline service between Miami and West Palm beach (formerly Table 9243) to a new table, numbered 9380. Note that the Brightline service should be extended to serve Orlando later this year. An additional train pair has been introduced between Seattle and Vancouver (Table 9315).

Works to restore and stabilise the railway between San Clemente and Oceanside in California continues (Table 9322). Weekend through services between Los Angeles and San Diego resumed on February 4 with outstanding works now due to be completed by the end of March. We have included the current engineering work timetable in this edition which still shows services being operated by bus between Irvine and Oceanside.



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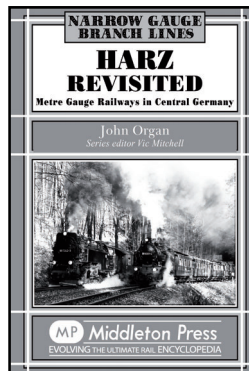
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