

INTERNATIONAL

As we reported last month, direct Eurostar services from Amsterdam to London resumed on February 10 when the Eurostar departure terminal at Amsterdam Centraal reopened. With an increased capacity of 400 passengers at Amsterdam and 160 at Rotterdam, three services are operating in each direction on Sundays to Fridays and two on Saturdays. A further period of disruption on the London to Amsterdam route will occur from March 29 to April 22 when there will be no through services operating in either direction. This is due to another temporary closure of the Eurostar departure terminal at Amsterdam Centraal to enable further platform renovations. When this latest phase of work is complete, Amsterdam will have a capacity of 600 passengers per train. During this latest closure period, passengers travelling between London and Amsterdam will have to change trains at Brussels. Separate versions of Table 10 are shown on pages 36, 47 and 48.

From February 10, journeys between the Baltic capitals of Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn became even easier as the change of trains at Riga was eliminated. It is also now possible to buy through tickets for these journeys from Lithuanian operator LTG Link (Table 49).

IRELAND

Bus Éireann Expressway route 30 between Donegal and Dublin has some amendments affecting intermediate calling points which has resulted in increased overall journey times. However, initial departure times from Donegal Abbey Hotel and Dublin Busáras remain unchanged (Table 234a).

FRANCE

Road repairs between Urdos and Canfranc have been completed meaning the normal bus service between Bedous and Canfranc is now able to operate (Table 324).

As mentioned in last month's *Newslines*, the section of line between St Michel-Valloire and Modane will reopen on March 31. Full details of the regional schedules from this date will be found in a separate version of Table 367 on page 211.

ITALY

Revised timings for services between Merano/Meran and Malles/Mals are included in this edition (Table 598). Due to engineering work, trains are replaced by buses between Laas and Malles/Mals until October 25.

The towns of Gorizia in Italy and Nova Gorica in Slovenia have been jointly designated as the European Capital of Culture for 2025. To help visitors travelling to both towns, Trenitalia has introduced two pairs of weekend only regional trains between Venezia Mestre and Nova Gorica, operated by class HTR 412 bi-mode trains belonging to the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (Table 601).

Services between Brescia and Edolo are partially replaced by bus (between Marone and Edolo) from March 1 to September 7 (Table 605).

SPAIN

The engineering work that has been taking place between Tarragona and Sant Vicenç de Calders since October has now been completed. However, work at Sant Vicenç de Calders station will continue until May 25 reducing the number of services that are able to call there. During this period, additional bus services will operate between Sant Vicenç de Calders and Torredembarra stations (Table 652).

The *Tren dels Llacs* between Lleida and La Pobla de Segur will operate again this year on Saturdays from April 26 to October 25 (Table 653).

PORTUGAL

Through rail services between Lisboa and Caldas da Rainha have been restored following a period of partial bus replacement (Table 693).

GERMANY

Timings in the German section are generally valid until April 16. There will be some major changes from April 17 when a section of the Mannheim to Stuttgart high-speed line is closed for a seven week period. Full details of timings for the period from April 17 to June 5 will be included in the April and May editions. Please continue to consult this edition for journeys until April 16.

Engineering work taking place in the Neubrandenburg area, affecting services in Tables 834 and 836 and originally planned for completion on February 28, has had to be extended for a further month meaning the amended schedules will remain in place until March 31.

A summary of other planned engineering work affecting services during the current timetable period is outlined below:

- Many services in the Berlin area are subject to alteration until April 15 with a reduced service running through the north-south tunnel via the Berlin Hbf low-level platforms. Services affected are diverted via other routes through the city with amended timings as a result.
- The line between Essen and Dortmund via Bochum is closed from March 1 to April 25 resulting in numerous service alterations in that area. Owing to the complex nature of the changes we are not able to show full details in our tables. However, the more significant alterations (for example, where services divert via a completely different route) have been indicated. Note that only S-Bahn services serve Bochum during this period.
- From March 2 to June 6 long-distance services are diverted between Köln and Koblenz and do not call at Bonn Hbf. Journey times are extended and certain services that normally run through via Köln Hbf instead start from or terminate at Köln Hbf with no connection between them. Note that these changes have been included in our tables.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Due to engineering work, trains will be replaced by buses between Planá u Mariánských Lázní and Mariánské Lázně or Cheb from March 3 to June 30 (Table 1120). Rail replacement bus services will also be running between Moravské Budějovice and Znojmo from February 23 to July 18 (Table 135).

SLOVENIA

We have now included the extensions of the twice daily regional services between Ljubljana and Villa Opicina across the border to and from Trieste. Note that these extensions were actually introduced at the December timetable change (Table 1305). This means there are three daily through journeys in each direction between Ljubljana and Trieste. The morning journey from Ljubljana and evening return from Trieste extend further to and from Udine (Table 601).

ALBANIA

The Durrës (Plazh) to Elbasan service is suspended until further notice. However, from March 18 to June 13 the Shkodër to Laç / Gjormë service will resume for visits to the Franciscan church of St Antony first constructed around the year 1300 (Table 1390). The church was destroyed in 1971 by the communist regime, but was rebuilt in the 1990s.

TURKEY

Services between Iran and Turkey will recommence from March 9 (Table 1575). The first service from Tehran will be on March 9, returning from Van the following day. Departure from Tehran is at 1235 on Sundays and Wednesdays (train 426/52501) and from Van at 2000 on Mondays and Thursdays (train 52502/427). It is to be operated by the Iran Passenger Transport Company and will consist of seven couchette cars, each with a capacity of 40 people in 4-berth compartments, and a restaurant car. In Turkey, tickets are available from the ticket offices of Turkish State Railways at Adana, Ankara, Eskişehir, Istanbul (Sirkeci), Istanbul (Halkalı), Izmir, Konya and Van. Readers are advised to check the latest official travel advice for journeys to Iran.