

What's new this month

WELCOME

There have been further updates to our tables since last month's edition was published, including some major alterations in Hungary during a two week period in May when Budapest Keleti station will be temporarily closed. Readers should note that timings in this edition are only valid until mid-June in certain countries so please check the relevant country headings for the current timetable validity for each country. The main exception is in Great Britain where timings are only valid until May 17.

Our 2019 Summer International Supplement, which includes advance versions of all international tables valid from June 10, has been updated further and will be found towards the back of this edition from page 585.

Next month's expanded Summer edition will include, where possible, timings through to the main mid-December timetable change. The bi-annual Rail Extra feature will be fully updated with useful transport based information on a country by country basis (including details of many popular tourist railways). It will also contain a seven page section with details of various European rail passes together with the latest versions of all eight Beyond Europe sections. The printed version of the Summer edition will be available for dispatch from Wednesday June 5.

The second edition of our popular Rail Map of Europe is now in stock and available for purchase. All passenger rail routes across Europe are shown (other than suburban networks of major cities) including lines scheduled to open by mid-2019 and so is the ideal companion to the European Rail Timetable for planning journeys across Europe. It is not only available in the traditional folded format, but also as a flat map for wall display.

AIRPORT LINKS

Roma Ciampino airport has a new bus service, *Ciampino Airlink*, operating direct to Ciampino railway station which has a frequent rail service to Roma Termini. The overall bus/rail journey takes 30–35 minutes.

INTERNATIONAL

Thalys will introduce a new non-stop service between Brussels and Bordeaux on summer Saturdays with a journey time of just over four hours (see Table 11 of our Summer International Supplement).

Train **301/300 Berlin Night Express** Berlin – Malmö will run on three days a week during the summer (Table 50).

Train **1335/1334 Hellas** will run between Beograd and Thessaloniki from June 14 to September 16 but passengers will be conveyed by bus between Gevgelija and Thessaloniki (Table 61).

The twice weekly Leo Express train **401/400 Praha – Kraków** will run daily from June 29 (Table 99).

SWITZERLAND

The service between Lausanne and Payerne is disrupted from May 23 to September 15 when bus replacement will be in operation on the section between Palézieux and Moudon. An additional timetable panel has been added to Table 504 showing the amended timings.

SPAIN

Direct high-speed AVE services between Madrid and Granada are due to start next month, possibly on June 3 (Table 660). The two cities have been without a direct service via Antequera since April 7, 2015. Remarkably, at the time the service was suspended we reported that the line was expected to reopen in August 2015! Clearly that was a tad optimistic! Once the high-speed service starts it is unclear if the direct *Talgo* service via Linares-Baeza will continue running (Table 661).

Buses will replace train services between Talavera de la Reina and Madrid from May 6 to June 3 due to engineering work. We have included a special version of Table 677 on page 562 with the amended timings during this period.

GERMANY

The latest phase of work to fully electrify the line between München and Lindau via Memmingen started in mid-April resulting in the temporary closure of the section between Aichstetten (21 kilometres west of Memmingen) and Hergatz until September 15. The section between Kisllegg and Hergatz will also remain closed from September 16 to October 6. A special version of Table 937 will be found on page 568 with details of the replacement bus services operating during the closure.

Independent operator Flixtrain is expected to start operating services between Köln and Berlin from May 23. However, owing to engineering work taking place at various locations along the route, the schedules will initially be rather complex. Despite this, we are planning to show outline timings in a revamped version of our Flixtrain table on page 369 in next month's Summer edition.

HUNGARY

Budapest Keleti station will be closed for two weeks from May 13 to 26 for work to be carried out. This will entail major changes, with trains diverted to different termini, or to stations in the suburbs. We have been able to show full details by means of special tables on pages 559 and 560, and by footnotes in other tables.

During this period Wien – Budapest services will divert to Déli station (see Table 1250 on page 559) apart from trains which continue beyond Budapest, which will serve Kelenföld and Ferencváros stations. *IC* trains to Pécs will start and finish at Kelenföld. The Berlin – Budapest *Metropol* will serve Budapest Nyugati, as will trains to Békéscsaba and beyond (Table 1280 on page 560). The two Budapest – Braşov trains via Oradea will start and finish at Köbánya Kispest, which will also be the station for trains to Kelebia (page 560).

TURKEY

Further timing alterations affecting Turkish high-speed services are scheduled from May 2 and Table 1570 has been updated accordingly. This latest timetable change sees journey times from and to Istanbul extended by approximately 30 minutes. Regular readers of this column will be aware that timings on this route have changed frequently in recent months so it is advisable to check timings locally before travelling.

The Marmaray project is now complete meaning frequent suburban services now operate between Halkalı and Gebze via central Istanbul.

Journeys to and from Sivas on trains between Ankara and eastern Turkey are subject to alteration until November 2019 due to construction work on the future high-speed line between Ankara and Sivas (Table 1575). The affected trains are diverted via a freight route avoiding Sivas altogether with bus services provided to connect with these trains at alternative stations.

LITHUANIA

The construction phase of the Rail Baltica scheme has now begun. This new standard gauge high-speed line will eventually link all three Baltic States with Poland and beyond, the line from Kaunas across the Polish border having already opened in 2015. The immediate effect of the preparatory work is that from May 22 train services from Vilnius to Kaunas (Table 1811) will no longer be able to access Kaunas station but will terminate in the suburbs at Palemonas, where bus connections will be available to and from central Kaunas. Revised timings were not available as we went to press.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers North America and will be found on pages 570 to 583. All tables have been checked and updated based on latest information available.

VIA Rail of Canada has advised that the only major change is the scheduling of *The Canadian* from May 1 (which we previously reported in our Winter edition). This includes an additional weekly service in each direction between Edmonton and Vancouver (Table 9050).

Amtrak has made some alterations, mainly to its Northeast Corridor services in Table 9215 and Pacific Surfliner services in Table 9320. As well as some timing changes on the Northeast Corridor route, extra weekend ACELA services have been added together with additional trains to and from Norfolk. Readers should note that ongoing infrastructure works along the Northeast Corridor will have an effect on timings as noted in Table 9215.

There is some uncertainty regarding the future of the *Hoosier State* service between Indianapolis and Chicago so we have added a suitable warning in Table 9250.