

What's new this month

WELCOME

This month's edition of the European Rail Timetable includes a number of significant updates, particularly in Ukraine and Russia. A noteworthy addition in the Russian section is the recently introduced passenger service to Nizhny Bestyakh, close to the Siberian city of Yakutsk. The interesting background to its introduction is outlined below.

Advance versions of all international tables, valid from December 15, will be found in our 40-page Winter International Supplement. Located towards the back of this edition, from page 601, it will be updated further in our November digital edition as more information becomes available.

On page 561 we have included extracts from the timetable news that appeared in last month's digital edition.

INTERNATIONAL

Engineering work in the Brussels area during November will affect Eurostar services (Table 10). On November 1–3 and 9–11 there will be no through services to the Netherlands and on November 2, 9 and 11 there will be no service at all operating to Brussels. On November 1, 3, 10 an amended Brussels service will be provided operating via Schaarbeek, approaching Platform 3 at Brussels Zuid/Midi from the North. This diversion will result in increased journey times of 45–70 minutes.

From October 24 **LE401/400 Leo Express** Praha – Bohumín – Kraków will increase its days of running from two to four days a week (Table 99).

GREAT BRITAIN

LNER has confirmed the introduction of four additional through services in each direction between London Kings Cross and Lincoln on Mondays to Fridays from October 21 (Tables 180 and 189). The trains will be operated as extensions of existing services between London and Newark North Gate. Operated by new *Azuma* trains, departures from London will be at 1006, 1206, 1406 and 1606 whilst southbound services will depart Lincoln at 1118, 1323, 1526 and 1714.

FRANCE

Certain Paris Nord – Amiens – Boulogne trains have been speeded up and extended to /from Calais Ville (Table 261), largely running non-stop between Boulogne and Calais.

The service between Toulouse and Tarbes is subject to considerable alteration from October 14 with partial bus substitution affecting many services on Mondays to Fridays. Table 325 has been updated with amended timings from this date. Please note that Muret and Bousens stations have been temporarily added to this table to help travellers in the area plan their journeys.

NETHERLANDS

Subject to successful final testing on September 28, Rotterdam's Metro Line B will finally commence operation on September 30 between Hoek van Holland Haven and Nesseland via Schiedam Centrum and central Rotterdam. Frequent services will operate throughout the day at 20–30 minute intervals and Table 497 has been updated with the new schedules. We understand that rail passes will continue to be valid for travel between Hoek van Holland and Schiedam Centrum (where the metro interchanges with the main line network). Meanwhile the fast rail replacement bus service 711 will continue to run for the time being, albeit at a reduced frequency.

ITALY

Following a suggestion from a reader, we have added the Ferrovie Appulo Lucane service from Bari to Matera to Table 636. To do this we have renumbered our table of Sud Est services to 635.

Frecciargento service 8517 Bolzano – Roma has been extended southwards to Sibari via Salerno and Paola (Tables 633 and 640). Train 8512 is the equivalent northbound service running Sibari – Roma – Bolzano.

We have received an updated timetable for *Italo* high-speed services and Table 600 has been fully updated.

SPAIN

Train **AVE 3990/3991** Barcelona – Málaga has been retimed in both directions (Tables 650 and 660).

GERMANY

Engineering work between Münster and Osnabrück from October 14 will result in significant alterations to services between the Rhein-Ruhr region and Hamburg (Table 800). Many services are diverted resulting in extended journeys times of up to 60 minutes (certain stops may also be omitted) whilst *EC* services may not run north of Dortmund or Münster. Due to the complex nature of these changes we are unable to show details in our tables so readers intending to use services via this route are advised to confirm timings beforehand.

HUNGARY

During September restaurant cars were restored to the following trains: **EC 140/147 Hortobágy**, **EC 148/145 Lehár**, **EC 344/345 Semmelweis** (previously named *Avala*), **IC 407/406 Corona**, **EC 143/144 Transilvania** and **346/347 Dacia**.

TURKEY

Turkish Railways has once again amended its high-speed schedules and Table 1570 has been fully updated with the latest timings. Schedules of connecting bus services to and from Bursa, Alanya and Antalya have also been revised.

The ferry timetable between Istanbul and Bandirma (Table 1571) has been updated with the latest timings. However, further amendments are expected from October 28 and details of these will be shown in the November edition.

A welcome addition in Table 1575 is the return of the *Transasya Express* between Ankara and the Iranian capital, Tehran. As before, part of the journey is by ferry across Lake Van.

In European Turkey, Turkish Railways has confirmed that it no longer provides a shuttle bus between Halkalı and Istanbul Sirkeci stations. As indicated in the relevant tables, frequent suburban services now link Halkalı with central Istanbul.

UKRAINE

Train 55/56 Moskva – Khmelnytsky (Table 1700) has been withdrawn whilst train 73/74 Moskva – Khmelnytsky – Lviv now runs in its path, leaving Moskva at 1742 instead of 1559, and departing Lviv for Moskva at 1440 (1202 from October 27). The Moskva – Kovel portion (Table 1730) has been withdrawn. International trains affected by the clock change from October 27 have been updated, with both the summer and winter timings shown in this edition.

RUSSIA

Timings for Russia and Belarus are valid to December 7, as the timetable change will take place one week earlier than in western Europe.

There have been plans to link the remote Siberian city of Yakutsk into Russia's railway network for many decades. Since 2004 it has been possible to head north from the Trans-Siberian and BAM (Baikal-Amur Magistrale) lines as far as Tommot (Table 1991). A further 438 kilometres of line, built mostly over permafrost, was completed in 2011 to Nizhny Bestyakh, on the opposite side of the Lena River from Yakutsk. Until now it has only seen freight trains, but a long-awaited passenger service finally started on July 27. The new train runs from Tommot on alternate days as shown in Table 1991, taking 10 to 11 hours, whilst the daily Neryungri – Tommot train has been retimed to provide a connection.

Nizhny Bestyakh station is some 14 kilometres from Nizhny Bestyakh itself, and 30 kilometres from Yakutsk, which can be reached by ferry from Nizhny Bestyakh in summer. In winter, when the river is frozen, it is possible for vehicles to cross the ice, but there is no way to cross the river in spring or autumn due to moving ice. There are plans for a road and rail bridge across the river, which is more than two kilometres wide. There are also tentative plans to extend the railway towards the port of Magadan on the Sea of Okhotsk in the far east of Russia.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

What's new this month (continued from page 5)

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers four areas: China (from page 570), Japan (from page 584), South America (from page 596) and South Korea (from page 599).

In Japan, JR East hope to resume services between Iwaki and Sendai by March 2020 (Table 8215).

Peruvian Table 9940 has been adjusted to improve how we show services run by the country's two operators: Perurail and Inca Rail.

WINTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Table 50 (Winter): Services between Hamburg and København will cease running via Puttgarden and the Rødby Ferry. Three daily services will run instead via Padborg and Odense.

Table 60 (Winter): International service *EC 259/258* Leipzig – Dresden – Děčín – Praha is withdrawn, although it will continue to run between Děčín and Praha as a domestic Czech Railways service (numbered *Ex 579/578*). *RJ 77/76* Graz – Praha will be extended to run to and from Berlin with new train numbers *RJ 257/256*.

Table 82 (Winter): *EC 34* Milano – Genève will run one hour later.

Table 86 (Winter): We understand that overnight service *EN 40465/414* Zürich – Zagreb – Beograd may be cut back to run only between Zürich and Zagreb.

Table 99 (Winter): *EC 104* Wien – Gdynia will run two hours earlier as *EC 106* and the return working *EC 105* will be renumbered *EC 107*. *EC 131/130* Budapest – Warszawa will be extended to Terespol. *IC 205/204* Wien – Kraków will start back at Graz and will be extended to Przemyśl and renumbered *EC 105/104* (*EC 105* will run two hours later from Kraków to Wien). A new train *301/300 Galičja* Ostrava – Katowice – Kraków – Przemyśl will be introduced. There is a proposal for the *Leo Express* service Praha – Bohumin – Kraków to run twice daily, with one extending to and from Przemyśl.

CLOCK CHANGE

Daylight Saving Time will end during the early hours of October 27 with clocks moving back one hour in most European countries. The only exceptions are in Iceland, Russia, Belarus and Turkey.

THOMAS COOK

European Rail Timetable was saddened to learn of the recent demise of Thomas Cook and our thoughts are very much with our former work colleagues. Thomas Cook produced the timetable continuously from 1873 to 2013 (apart from a period during the Second World War) and, following its decision to withdraw from the publishing business in 2013, we were pleased to take over production of this unique publication. We hope it now affords, in a small way, a legacy for this historic and much-loved name in the travel industry.

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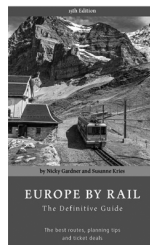
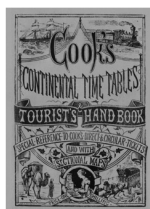


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