

## What's new this month

### WELCOME

The process of reinstating rail services across Europe has continued during recent weeks following the widespread cancellations during the peak of the Coronavirus pandemic. In most countries, social distancing rules continue to apply and the wearing of face coverings on public transport is usually compulsory. Although many travel restrictions have now been eased, those intending to use public transport over the coming weeks are advised to familiarise themselves with the latest requirements for the countries they intend to visit. Travel restrictions between individual countries also vary and are subject to short notice changes, so it is particularly important to consult official government travel advice before planning any journeys.

Readers should note that there are likely to be some amendments or cancellations that currently apply which we do not show in some of our tables and that further short notice changes are still possible, especially if local or national lockdown conditions are imposed.

Our Winter International Supplement has been updated further with the latest available advance timings from the December timetable change. It now includes winter versions of all our international tables and will be found on pages 601 to 639. It will be updated further in the November digital edition as more information becomes available.

The Ian Allan Book & Model Shop near Waterloo station in London will close on October 31 which, following the previous closure of the shops in Cardiff, Birmingham and Manchester, will sadly signal the end of Ian Allan on the high street. The European Rail Timetable and the Rail Map Europe were both on sale in the shop. Other retailers continue to sell our timetable and details of these will be found in our list of retailers on page 29.

On page 560 we have included extracts from the timetable news that appeared in last month's digital edition.

### AIRPORT LINKS

The much delayed Berlin Brandenburg Airport will finally open on October 31. From this date, all trains in our German tables that currently serve Berlin Schönefeld station will be diverted to serve the new airport station (which will result in some minor timing adjustments). Updated timings will be included in the November digital edition. Table 5 has also been updated with a summary of transport options to central Berlin.

### INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar is monitoring its timetable on a week by week basis and is currently running two to four trains a day in each direction between London and Paris, with one or two operating between London and Brussels which includes a daily 1104 through service from London to Amsterdam (Table 10).

Eurostar resumed its service to Marnes la Vallée - Chessy (the station for Disneyland Paris) in August but it has now been suspended once again until at least January 2021.

Eurostar services are not currently calling at Ebbsfleet, Ashford or Calais Fréthun, but stops at the latter are planned from December 12. However, Ebbsfleet and Ashford stations are not expected to be served by Eurostar services until 2022.

The Zürich – Zagreb overnight service will be diverted in both directions from early October between Schwarzach and Zagreb (running via Graz instead of Villach). Train **EN 40465** (from Zürich) will be diverted from October 4 whilst the return service from Zagreb, **EN 414**, will be similarly affected from October 5. As a result, timings at Zagreb will be adjusted and the trains will not serve Ljubljana (Table 86).

### GREAT BRITAIN

The Heart of Wales line between Llanelli and Craven Arms (Table 146) is currently closed to rail traffic due to a combination of line damage caused by extreme weather conditions between Llandrindod Wells and Craven Arms, together with further track damage at the southern end of the route caused by a freight train derailment. Alternative road transport will be provided until further notice.

The Conwy Valley line between Llandudno and Blaenau Ffestiniog reopened on September 28 following a lengthy closure period caused by flooding earlier this year (Table 160). As the route has been particularly prone to flooding, a substantial investment has been made to better protect the railway from future extreme weather conditions.

The line between Montrose and Stonehaven remains closed following the tragic train derailment on August 12 meaning services between Aberdeen and Dundee will continue to be disrupted until further notice (Table 222). Rail services are currently running between Arbroath and

Edinburgh (with some extended from and to Montrose). A rail shuttle service is also operating between Aberdeen and Stonehaven. Rail replacement bus services are also being provided between Aberdeen and Dundee, although capacity is limited due to social distancing requirements.

Owing to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, a number of routes have had their service level reduced until further notice. The following tables now reflect the reduced service: **173, 174, 177, 178, 179, 181 and 212**.

### FRANCE

The eastern section of the TGV-Est high-speed line reopened on September 27 following the completion of work to repair the line which was damaged by a high-speed derailment on March 5. Initially, journey times will be extended by up to 15 minutes owing to an 80 km/h speed restriction on part of the route. Readers should therefore check their TGV reservation for confirmed timings.

### SPAIN

**AVE** service **3930** from Barcelona to Granada resumed on October 5 with a later departure of 0830 and is attached to the Barcelona to Sevilla service **3940** as far as Córdoba. The return train **3931** operates from October 6 and is retimed to depart Granada 7½ hours earlier, at 0815, and is attached to the Sevilla to Barcelona service **3943** at Córdoba (Table 678a).

French low-cost operator *Ouigo* has announced it will commence running services between Madrid and Barcelona from March 15, 2021 with an introductory fare of just €1. All 10,000 of these ultra-cheap fares sold out within 30 minutes of going on sale on September 24!

*Avio*, the new Spanish low-cost operator which was due to commence its own services between Madrid and Barcelona earlier this year, is not now expected to start until some point next year. A third low-cost operator, *ILSA-Trenitalia*, is also expected to start running services in Spain from March 2022.

### PORTUGAL

*Celta* trains **421/420** between Porto and Vigo resumed on August 16. We understand that all other international trains crossing the border between Valença and Tui are currently suspended.

Several *Alfa-Pendular* and *Intercity* trains have also been confirmed as suspended and these are indicated with shaded columns. Please note that certain trains are suspended for just part of the journey and so may appear as suspended in one table but not in another.

### SWEDEN

Long-distance international services between Sweden and both Norway and Denmark remain suspended until at least November 8. Whilst certain restrictions remain in place on regional trains between Malmö and København, journey times are now back to normal (Tables **735, 737, 745 and 746**).

### GERMANY

Timings in our German section are currently valid until October 31 when engineering work on the Mannheim to Stuttgart high-speed line is due to be completed. All of our German pages will be updated in the November digital edition when services will once again be able to utilise this important section of high-speed line. To mark the occasion we have decided to publish another of our occasional Historic Timetable features, this time with the full southbound table between Köln and München taken from the October 1984 edition, which was just under seven years before the high-speed line fully opened (in May 1991). The feature will be found on pages 566 to 569.

A section of the route between Berlin and Bitterfeld will be temporarily closed from October 5 to December 12 for planned engineering work which will result in some significant alterations to both regional and long-distance services, with most of the latter diverted via Dessau (with journey times extended by up to 60 minutes). All of the relevant German tables have now been updated with revised timings (please refer to earlier editions for timings until October 4).

### SLOVAKIA

Owing to modernisation work, services on the narrow gauge rack railway between Štrbské Pleso and Štrba (Table 1182) are operated by bus until May 31, 2021.

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## Newslines (continued from page 5)

### HUNGARY

There are currently no couchettes, sleeping cars or restaurant cars conveyed on international trains from or to Hungary.

Services in Table 1220 have been recast to provide a regular hourly IC service between Budapest Déli and Balatonszentgyörgy with alternate trains continuing to either Keszthely or Nagykanizsa.

Buses replace trains between Székesfehérvár and Balatonfüred until summer 2021 whilst work to electrify the route is undertaken (Table 1225). A limited number of bus services are also running between Lepsény and Balatonfüred which provide useful connections with trains in Table 1220 at Lepsény.

A reduced service is currently operating between Budapest and Wien with suspended services indicated by shaded columns (Table 1250). Train *RJX 64* Budapest – München has been temporarily amended to run as two connecting services: *EC 64* Budapest – Wien and *RJX 64* Wien – München.

*EC 140/147 Hortobágy* is only running between Budapest and Wien at the present time (Tables 1250 and 1270).

Most trains on the route to Biharkeresztes and across the Romanian border to Oradea are currently suspended due to engineering work, with only *IC 407/406 Corona* currently running (Table 1275).

### ALBANIA

Rail services in Albania have once again been suspended owing to fuel shortages (Table 1390).

### UKRAINE and MOLDOVA

Ukraine has been divided into four coloured zones – green, yellow, orange and red – depending on the number and growth rate of new Covid-19 cases, together with hospital capacity and testing rates. Public transport is suspended in red zones. The location of these zones can be modified on a daily basis and local lockdowns may be introduced at short notice.

International trains to both Hungary and Russia remain suspended, while the status of trains to Belarus and Moldova are yet to be established. Owing to the suspension of services to Russia, we have not yet received updated schedules for those trains which are affected by the clock change later this month.

International trains from Moldova to Russia remain suspended. Some domestic services in Moldova may be running but, at this stage, we are unable to confirm this.

### BALTIC STATES

International trains to Russia, including GoRail services, remain suspended. As with services between Ukraine and Russia, we have not yet received updated schedules for those trains which are affected by the October clock change. Services between Vilnius and Daugavpils remain suspended (Table 1815).

### RUSSIA

Domestic long-distance services are running but many lightly used trains have been cancelled to provide additional rolling stock for more heavily patronised trains. Services to Sukhumi have resumed (Table 1960). Trains to Kaliningrad are also running, but are transiting other countries without making passenger stops. All other international trains remain suspended.

### 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).

As usual at this time of year, there are very few changes to our Japanese tables. However, there is a further reduction in high-speed services serving both Kansai and Narita airports (Table 8400).

In South Korea, high-speed services are running as normal, although there is a warning on the official Korean tourist web site stating that, owing to Covid-19, trains may not stop at certain stations. Trains in Tables 9977 and 9978 no longer serve Gangneung.

Covid-19 is still affecting rail services in the South American region. In Argentina (Table 9960), the reinstatement of long distance services has been postponed until October 11 at the earliest.

In Chile (Table 9965) the Santiago – Chillan route has apparently recommenced with a once a day service calling at fewer stations than normal, although we have heard that when you try to book tickets the

system states that it is not running! We have had the same conflicting reports about the *Turistren* service in Colombia (Table 9930).

Long distance services have resumed in Brazil (Table 9950). The *El Chepe Express* in Mexico is also now running again, albeit only twice a week initially, but it is planned to increase the frequency to three times a week from December (Table 9900). The *El Chepe Regional* is currently only available for the local population. Inca Rail and Perurail have restarted a very limited service in Peru with more trains expected to be reinstated from November.

Last month we included a special page with an update on VIA Rail's Corridor services (Québec – Montréal – Ottawa – Toronto – Windsor). We have updated this page further for this edition and it will be found on page 559. In a further update from Canada, VIA Rail has announced that the planned resumption of the long distance services *The Canadian* (Toronto – Vancouver) and *L'Océan* (Montréal – Halifax) has been postponed. These trains were expected to start running again from November 1 but recent rises in Covid-19 cases means the suspension of these services will now continue until further notice.

### WINTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Eurostar is expected to start running through services from Amsterdam to London at weekends from the start of the new timetable on December 13 (Table 18 Winter).

The following four ICE services on the Brussels – Köln – Frankfurt route will run daily (instead of six days a week): Trains 12 and 18 from Frankfurt and trains 11 and 317 from Brussels (Tables 20, 21 Winter).

Train 421/420 Düsseldorf – München/Innsbruck and Wien will be extended to and from Amsterdam and run daily (increasing from the current five days a week from and to Düsseldorf). A Brussels – Wien portion (numbered 50425/50490) will run three days a week, being attached to/detached from the main train during an unadvertised stop at Köln West station. The Brussels – München – Innsbruck portion will be withdrawn (Table 53 Winter).

Hungarian Railways intend to introduce three additional services between Budapest and Wien thereby creating an hourly service between the two cities throughout the day (Table 65 Winter).

The EuroCity service between Zürich and Milano will increase to ten trains a day with journey times reduced by about 20 minutes following the opening of the Ceneri Base Tunnel. From Zürich services will depart hourly in the morning from 0633 to 1133 and then every two hours until 1933. In the opposite direction services will depart Milano every two hours from 0710 to 1310, then hourly from 1510 to 2010. Three of these services will extend to provide through services to and from Venezia, Bologna and Genova (Table 82 Winter).

Electrification of the line between München and Lindau via Memmingen has been completed meaning the number of daily services between München and Zürich will double from three to six. Operated by Swiss RABe 503 tilting trains, the journey time will reduce to four hours, partly due to higher speeds on the route, but mainly due to services no longer calling and having to reverse at Lindau Hbf. Services will instead call at a brand new through station called Lindau Reutin. However, these services will no longer extend to and from Basel (Table 75).

Train 301/300 Berlin Night Express Berlin – Malmö was cancelled for the Summer 2020 season but it has been reported that it will return next summer as a Stockholm – Malmö – København – Hamburg – Berlin overnight service, running daily from June to August and at weekends in April, May and September. The train will call at Høje Taastrup instead of København H, presumably to avoid the train having to change direction (Table 50 Winter).

Train 151/150 Emona Wien – Ljubljana will be extended to and from Trieste (Table 91 Winter).

The *Alpen-Sylt Nachtexpress*, currently running between Westerland and Salzburg twice a week until November 2, is scheduled to run for seven days over the Christmas and New Year period when it will be extended to serve the spa town and resort of Bad Gastein. Table 84 will be adjusted to accommodate the extra stations served.

### CLOCK CHANGE

Daylight Saving Time will end during the early hours of October 25 with clocks moving back one hour in most European countries. The only exceptions are in Iceland, Russia, Belarus and Turkey.