

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 most travel restrictions are now being 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 most of our domestic tables indicate the full service that was originally planned. However, there are likely to be some amendments or cancellations that currently apply which we do not show in our tables. Most international services have now been restored, although some continue to operate at a reduced frequency. In our International and Beyond Europe sections we have attempted to indicate which services were actually running as we went to press. However, readers planning journeys for the foreseeable future should bear in mind that short notice changes are still possible, especially if further local or national lockdown conditions are imposed.

The first version of this year's Winter International Supplement will be found on pages 585 to 592 showing advance versions of selected international tables valid from the December timetable change. It will be updated and expanded further in both the October and November editions as more information becomes available.

INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar is assessing its timetable on a week by week basis and is currently running four or five trains a day in each direction between London and Paris, with two or three operating between London and Brussels. The 1104 through service from London to Amsterdam is also running (Table 10). Eurostar has announced that the Amsterdam to London direct service will start running on October 26 with two departures a day on Mondays to Fridays. Weekend through services from Amsterdam are expected to commence from the start of the new timetable on December 13 (Table 18).

Eurostar resumed its service to Mame la Vallée - Chessy (the station for Disneyland Paris) in August but it has now been suspended once again. However, it is scheduled to restart from October 2 when it will run on four days a week (Table 17).

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 reverse at København (see Table 50 in our Winter International Supplement).

RegioJet extended two of its daily Praha – Wien trains to Budapest (via Hegyeshalom) from July 31. Departures from Praha are at 0520 and 1320 while return services from Budapest Déli are at 0745 and 1545 (Tables 60, 65, 1150 and 1250). RegioJet has also extended the operating period of its successful service between Praha and the Croatian port of Rijeka. Initially running three days a week from June 30, demand was such that it was soon increased to running daily until August 30. Its operation has now been extended further, running three days a week until September 28 (Tables 83 and 1150).

We understand that the international services operated by Russian Railways between Moskva and Paris, Nice, Berlin and Praha, may not return until the mid-December timetable change (Tables 24, 25, 56 and 95 respectively).

GREAT BRITAIN

Updated autumn schedules on the London to Devon and Cornwall route commence on September 13, so we have produced two versions of Tables 110 to 113 this month with the summer timings (valid until September 12) located on pages 566 to 569.

FRANCE

All of our tables covering western France have been fully updated with the autumn schedules and are now valid through to the December timetable change.

The period of bus substitution scheduled for this autumn between St Gervais and Chamonix has been lengthened to run from September 1 to November 20. Table 365a has been updated with the amended timings.

SPAIN

The *Tren dels Llacs* service has resumed, running on Saturdays from August 29 to October 31 (Table 653).

Engineering work between Ribes de Freser and Latour de Carol means that buses replace trains between these points until February 7, 2021 (Table 656).

Engineering work between Calpe and Dénia has been partially completed with trains now running between Benidorm and Teulada. Work is continuing between Teulada and Dénia and so rail replacement buses are still operating between these points (Table 667).

Alvia services 4179, 4088 and 4208 between Madrid and Ponferrada have been withdrawn (Table 679a) while services 4171 and 4160 between Madrid and Gijón have been replaced by IC trains 4671 and 4670 respectively (Tables 681 and 685).

We are still awaiting news regarding the resumption of the following overnight services: *Surex/Sud Expresso* Hendaye – Lisboa; *Lusitania* Madrid – Lisboa; *Atlántico/Rias Gallegas* Madrid – Ferrol/Pontevedra; *Galicia* Barcelona – Vigo/A Coruña.

SWEDEN

Long-distance international services between Sweden and both Norway and Denmark remain suspended until at least September 27. Restrictions also remain in place on regional Øtåg services between Malmö and København (Tables 737, 745 and 746).

NORWAY

Services between Halden and Göteborg remain suspended and are not now expected to restart until November (Table 770).

The overnight service between Oslo and Stavanger (operated by GoAhead Nordic) recommenced on August 3 (Table 775).

FINLAND

Our Finnish section has been fully updated with the latest schedules valid from August 10 to October 24. International rail services to Russia and the international bus link between Kemi and Haparanda-Tornio (just across the Swedish border) remain suspended until further notice. Cross-border bus services to and from Norway are also subject to alteration and suspension.

Engineering work between Tampere and Seinäjoki will affect evening services on most dates during this timetable period with buses replacing trains between these points resulting in considerably extended journey times. Services from mid-afternoon on September 12, 26 and October 10, 24 will similarly be affected (Table 794).

Owing to ongoing engineering work, services between Helsinki and Turku are subject to delays of up to 20 minutes until further notice (Table 791).

GERMANY

Open-access operator Flixbus is currently running services on its Köln – Hamburg and Aachen – Köln – Berlin routes, the latest timings for which will be found in our special Flixbus table on page 366. We have been informed that the Stuttgart to Berlin route will remain suspended until at least the December timetable change.

A section of the route between Berlin and Bitterfeld will be temporarily closed from October 5 for planned engineering work. This will cause some significant alterations to both regional and long-distance services with most of the latter diverted via Dessau. All of the relevant German tables will be updated in the October and November editions. A special version of Table 850, incorporating these changes, will also be found on pages 560 and 561 of this edition.

The final phase of work to electrify the line between Ulm and Friedrichshafen will take place from September 14 to December 19. During this period services are operated by bus between Ravensburg and Friedrichshafen resulting in extended journey times. A special version of Table 933 will be found on page 562 with the revised timings.

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NEWSLINES (continued from page 5)

CZECH REPUBLIC

Pendolino service **504/505** Ostrava – Praha – Cheb extends to and from Karlovy Vary from September 1 (Table **1110**).

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe covers China and will be found on pages 570 to 583. Services from the mainland to Kowloon (Hong Kong) are still suspended.

We have recently received some significant updates for services in North America, particularly regarding VIA Rail's Corridor services (Québec – Montréal – Ottawa – Toronto – Windsor). We have included on page 584 special versions of the relevant tables as they currently stand, although further updates are expected to be implemented towards the end of September. Also listed on page 584 is a summary of changes to Amtrak's long-distance network from October 1 when its long-distance services will be reduced in frequency to three days a week instead of running daily. We have indicated the new days of running for each service and the date from which this applies.

WINTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

As mentioned earlier, 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).

Train **421/420** Düsseldorf – München / Innsbruck and Wien will extend to run from and to Amsterdam on a daily basis (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).

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