

Resenärsforum
2016-10-09

Internationella tidtabellsförändringar 11 dec 2016 huvudsakligen ändringar till följd av färre sovvagnståg, men även vissa nya förbindelser.
(källa Simon Maarfield, i Train Coalition)

Here's my summary of the biggest changes to international rail services in the new timetable starting on 11 December 2016:

Good news:

- Austria - Czech Republic: there are big improvements to the Linz - Prague route, with 4 instead of 2.5 train pairs and most services accelerated by 45 minutes.
- Austria - Germany: the Munich - Hamburg night train pair will be taken over by Austrian Railways and extended to start/end in Innsbruck.
- Austria - Slovakia: a new direct overnight service will run between Vienna and Kosice via Poprad Tatry.
- Belgium - Germany: Up to 3 additional ICE train pairs will operate between Brussels and Frankfurt, filling some of the long gaps between trains in the Brussels - Cologne timetable.
- Bosnia - Croatia: it is expected that modern Talgo rolling stock will be used on the daily daytime service between Sarajevo and Zagreb, which should be extended south of Sarajevo to/from Mostar and the Croatian coastal town of Ploče in summer 2017
- Croatia - Germany: a direct overnight service between Rijeka and Munich resumes after a 4-year gap. This and the Zagreb - Munich service are even bookable online via the [ÖBB website](#), a much-needed improvement.
- Croatia - Hungary: through carriages between Rijeka and Budapest are expected to be added to one of the two daily Zagreb - Budapest train pairs.
- Czech Republic - Poland: For the first time in many years, a direct EuroCity train pair between Prague and Kraków will run between Easter and the end of September 2017.
- Czech Republic - Switzerland: Tábor and České Budějovice regain their direct overnight connection to/from Switzerland.
- France - Germany: a summer weekend service will be provided between Wörth am Rhein and Strasbourg, a route that lost its direct passenger trains back in 1980.
- Germany - Italy: Euro-Express/Treinreiswinkel will operate weekly car-carrying overnight trains between Düsseldorf and Livorno (from July 2017) and Verona (from May 2017).
- Germany - Netherlands: hourly regional services between Düsseldorf and Emmerich are expected to be extended to/from Zevenaar and Arnhem from 6 April 2017.
- Italy - Switzerland: A new regional route between Domodossola and Brig (extending to/from Bern) will be operated by BLS, starting with 4 train pairs per day, stepping up to 2-hourly from June 2017. These trains supplement the existing EuroCity services.
- Norway - Sweden: it is expected that the service on the Oslo - Stockholm route will be increased from up to three to five daily train pairs, following the 39% increase in passengers recorded between August 2015 and May 2016.

Nice try, but...

1. Austria - Germany: Thanks to being offered poor paths by infrastructure managers, Euro-Express/Treinreiswinkel will not operate their planned Villach - Düsseldorf car-carrying overnight services in 2017.
2. Germany - Slovenia: Thanks to being offered poor paths by infrastructure managers, Euro-Express/Treinreiswinkel will not operate their planned Düsseldorf - Koper car-carrying overnight services in 2017.
3. Lithuania - Poland: will the new Mockava - Białystok - Warsaw - Kraków TLK service, planned for December 2015, finally start operating...?
4. Norway - Sweden: it now seems that the planned Oslo - Stockholm night train service will not start in 2016/17. A shortage of serviceable rolling stock has been cited.

Bad news:

1. Belgium - Austria: Weekly Treski ski trains between Brussels and the Austrian Alps will be cut back to start/end in The Hague, leaving Belgium with no night trains at all.
2. Croatia - Hungary: probably a delayed reaction to the European refugee crisis, the Beli Manastir - Magyarboly route loses its 2 local train pairs, effectively closing this border crossing to passengers.
3. Croatia - Serbia: the overnight train between Zagreb and Belgrade will no longer run.
4. Czech Republic - Germany: the overnight train between Prague and Cologne no longer runs. This also means the last direct daytime connection from Prague to Berlin will be two hours earlier (at about 16:30), a move that can only result in passengers switching to buses...
5. Czech Republic - Switzerland: Following the diversion of the Prague - Zurich night train to avoid Germany, the Czech Republic loses its only direct connection with Basel.
6. France - Germany - Poland - Belarus - Russia: the Paris - Berlin - Moscow service is cut from 3 services to just 1 train per week, partially substituted by a new Berlin - Moscow service operating twice per week.
7. Germany - Netherlands: the DB overnight service between Munich and Amsterdam will cease, partially replaced by a new Innsbruck - Munich - Dusseldorf service operated by ÖBB.
8. Germany - Poland:
The overnight train *Jan Kiepura* between Cologne and Warsaw will be cut.
The direct train pair Berlin - Kostrzyn - Krzyw (with attractive night train connections to/from southern Poland) will cease.
9. Germany - Switzerland: Following the diversion of the Prague - Zurich night train away from Germany, Dresden loses its only direct connection with Basel and Zurich.
10. Greece - Macedonia - Serbia: it is expected that the Thessaloniki - Skopje train pair will be suspended, possibly also the whole route to/from Belgrade. It has also been reported that the day train pair between Skopje and Belgrade will be discontinued.
11. Netherlands - Switzerland: the overnight service between Amsterdam and Zurich will cease. This means the Netherlands follows in the unenviable footsteps of Belgium, leaving the country with no night trains apart from a handful of winter ski trains.

12. Serbia - Bulgaria - Turkey: the night train between Belgrade and Sofia will be scrapped. Thanks to the deceleration of the Belgrade - Sofia daytime service, connections between Serbia and Turkey via Sofia will be broken.
13. Serbia - Croatia - Slovenia: the overnight train between Belgrade and Ljubljana via Zagreb will no longer run.

Although my focus is on international routes, many of the French night train routes are useful when making international journeys and I have therefore prepared this summary, as I understand it:

France (- Luxembourg / Spain): SNCF will withdraw almost all overnight 'Intercités de Nuit' services in the near future, most having already been cut back to run at weekends only. The following routes will disappear:

1. Paris Austerlitz – Luchon – Cerbère. **Expected to run for last time on 30 September 2016.**
2. Paris Austerlitz – Toulouse / Rodez – Carmaux – Albi. **Expected to run for last time on 30 September 2016.**
3. Paris Austerlitz – Tarbes / Hendaye - Irún (with legendary 'near miss' non-connections to/from Vigo/A Coruna). **To be withdrawn in July 2017.**
4. Paris Austerlitz – Savoie. **Expected to run for last time on 30 September 2016.**
5. Paris Austerlitz – Nice. RZD has apparently expressed an interest in taking over this route. Possibly connected with this, RZD sleeping cars have been trialled on this service since August 2016. **Expected to run until October 2017.**
6. Luxembourg – Nice. **Ran for last time on 30 June 2016.**
7. Luxembourg – Portbou. **Ran for last time on 30 June 2016. These cuts leave Luxembourg without any long-distance trains except a few daily TGVs.**
8. Strasbourg – Nice. **Expected to run for last time on 30 September 2016.**
9. Strasbourg – Portbou. **Ran for last time on 30 June 2016.**

This leaves just two routes in place, namely Paris - Briançon and Paris - Rodez - Latour-de-Carol. The [French government has invited expressions of interest from private operators](#) to reinstate the withdrawn Services. ●

