

What is the European Rail Timetable?

The Thomas Cook European Rail Timetable is a concise guide to rail and ferry schedules throughout Europe. Needless to say, it cannot be comprehensive (it would run into thousands of pages), but through our knowledge and experience, together with valuable feedback from our readers, we can select those services which we believe will satisfy the needs of most travellers.

When do the services change?

There is a major annual timetable change in mid-December affecting almost all European countries, with a second change in mid-June affecting most. There are, of course, exceptions. For example, the British summer timetable starts in late May, Sweden changes again in mid-August, and Russia and the other CIS countries have their main change at the end of May. Many holiday areas also have separate timetables for the high-summer period. In fact, changes can happen at any time of year, and railways issue amendments either on set dates or as and when necessary. Engineering work also causes frequent changes. Shipping schedules can change at any time.

Why do I need a subscription?

Apart from getting the latest available schedules, you will also be benefitting from advance information for the following season in relevant editions (see below) and also special features in alternate editions, covering the following topics: *January Sample Fares, March Cruise Trains and Rail Holidays, May Rail Passes, July Tourist Railways, September High-Speed Trains, and November Night Trains.* You may wish to keep a year's worth of timetables on your bookshelf so that you can refer to these features.

Note that the Rail Passes feature also appears in the *Independent Travellers Edition*, which is available from bookshops in Summer and Winter editions (based on the June and December monthly editions but with additional country by country information in a special section at the front).

What about forthcoming schedule changes?

A major benefit of a full subscription is obtaining the latest available details of forthcoming changes to International services. Advance summer timings start in our February edition with an 18-page Summer Supplement, which is expanded to 34 pages in March and the full 50 pages in April and May. Similarly, Winter Supplements appear in our September, October and November editions, leading up to the new schedules from mid-December.

How are the trains selected for inclusion?

People travel for many reasons, whether for leisure, business, sightseeing, visiting friends or relations, or just for the fun of it, and there are no hard and fast rules for selecting the services that we show. Naturally, major towns and inter-city services are shown as a matter of course, but the level of smaller places and local trains shown will depend on the country and even the area. It's surprising just how many minor lines we manage to squeeze in! Generally we will show a greater number of local trains in areas which are popular tourist destinations or where other services are sparse.

It is not possible to show suburban trains within cities or conurbations, or most outer-suburban routes to places close to large cities. However, where there are places of particular interest or importance in this category we do try to show brief details of frequency and journey time.

When should I use the International section?

The rail tables are divided into two sections - International (Tables 10 to 99) and Country by Country (Tables 100 to 1999). For some international services between adjacent countries (for example Stockholm - Oslo or Hamburg - Århus) it is necessary to use the relevant Country tables - the index or maps will guide you. Local trains which cross international frontiers will usually only be found in the Country sections.

Some international trains also carry passengers internally within each country and will therefore be found in the Country tables as well as the International section. Some services are primarily for international travel and will therefore only be found in the International section - this includes *Eurostar* trains (London - Paris/Brussels) and *Thalys* services between Paris and Brussels, as well as certain long-distance night trains.

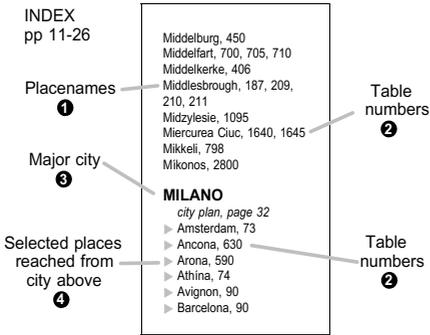
What about places outside Europe?

No problem. Our sister publication, the **Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable**, is packed with rail, bus and ferry schedules for everywhere you can think of outside Europe, and plenty of other places you have probably never heard of! It is published six times per year and further details can be found at the back of this timetable, or on our website.

You can buy all our timetables, rail maps and guidebooks from our online bookstore at www.thomascookpublishing.com. There is a 10% discount for timetable orders.

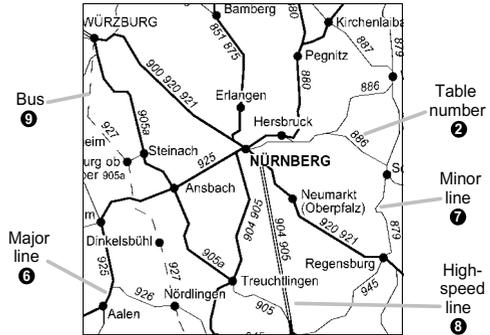
HOW TO USE THE TIMETABLE

Using the index



Look up the two places between which you are travelling. It can often be helpful to start your search from the smaller of the two locations.

Using the maps



The maps can be the quickest way of finding the required table number, if you already know the geographical location of the places required.

COMMENT TROUVER VOTRE TRAIN

- Localité.
- Números des tableaux.
- Grande ville.
- Localités sélectionnées à gagner de la grande ville en haut.
- Cherchez les deux bouts du parcours désiré sur la liste des villes. Commencer par la ville de moindre importance peut faciliter la recherche.
- Ligne principale.
- Ligne secondaire.
- Ligne à grande vitesse.
- Liaison en autocar.
- La consultation des cartes – si vous savez déjà la location géographique de vos points de départ et d'arrivée – est le moyen le plus rapide de repérer les numéros des tableaux relatifs à votre parcours.

COME TROVARE IL VOSTRO TRENO

- Località.
- Numeri dei quadri-orario.
- Grandi città.
- Principali destinazione raggiungibili dalla località in neretto sopra.
- Cercate le località tra le quali dovreste viaggiare, spesso può essere di aiuto iniziare la ricerca dalla località più piccola.
- Principale linea ferroviaria.
- Linea ferroviaria secondaria.
- Linea ad alta velocità.
- Autobus.
- Le mappe sono il metodo più rapido per trovare i numeri dei quadri-orario di cui avete bisogno, quando già siete a conoscenza della collocazione geografica delle località di partenza e arrivo del vostro viaggio.

WIE FINDE ICH MEINEN ZUG?

- Ortsname.
- Tabellennummer.
- Großstadt.
- Knotenpunkte erreichbar von der Großstadt oben.
- Suchen Sie Ihre Start- und Endbahnhof im Ortsverzeichnis. Dazu empfehlen wir, Ihre Suche aus der Richtung des kleineren Ortes aufzunehmen.
- Hauptstrecke.
- Nebenstrecke.
- Hochgeschwindigkeitsstrecke.
- Busverbindung.
- Kennen Sie die geographische Lage der Ausgangs- und Bestimmungsorte Ihrer Reise, dann empfehlen wir einen Blick in die im Kursbuch enthaltene Übersichtskarte.

COMO BUSCAR SU TREN

- Localidad.
- Números de los cuadros horarios.
- Gran ciudad.
- Principales destinos accesibles a través de esta localidad.
- Busque los dos lugares a través de los cuales viaja. Normalmente facilita la búsqueda empezar por la localidad más pequeña.
- Línea principal.
- Línea secundaria.
- Línea de alta velocidad.
- Línea de autobuses.
- Los mapas pueden ser la forma más rápida de encontrar los cuadros que debe consultar, si ya conoce el punto de inicio y conclusión de su viaje.