The new timetable for Carinthia

The 12.12.2010 is not only the date of the Europe-wide timetable change, but also the day the new S-Bahn era will be ushered in in Carinthia. Together with the federal state government of Carinthia, ÖBB-Personenverkehr AG will be implementing another quality initiative. Step by step, three S-Bahn lines will be launched in Carinthia until the end of 2011. Passengers can look forward to even shorter intervals and clearer timetables.

S1: Spittal an der Drau – Villach – Klagenfurt am Wörthersee – St. Veit an der Glan – Friesach
The first phase of the S-Bahn Carinthia will be realised on the Carinthian main traffic axis in December 2010. The S-Bahn trains will now be operated half-hourly from Villach via Klagenfurt am Wörthersee to St. Veit an der Glan. At the same time, gaps in the regular-interval timetable will be closed and denser intervals introduced during peak traffic hours with an S-Bahn train being operated almost every 20 minutes. From Villach to Spittal an der Drau and from St. Veit to Friesach, the S-Bahn trains will be operated hourly.

S 2: Rosenbach – Villach – Feldkirchen – St. Veit an der Glan
Here, the S-Bahn will start operation in December 2011 with the aim to link the tourism regions surrounding the Carinthian lake regions to the hiking and skiing region Gerlitzen as well as the thermal spa region Villach Warmbad. Also here, enhanced timetables will be offered during peak traffic hours. Outside peak periods, the S 2 will be operated hourly.

S 3: Feistritz im Rosental – Klagenfurt am Wörthersee – Bleiburg
The implementation of the S 3 in the section Feistritz im Rosental – Klagenfurt am Wörthersee is projected already for 01.07.2011 with the aim to boost the attractiveness of the Rosental line. The implementation of the first section of the S 3 will also require a traffic concept that includes the bus lines operated alongside the train. This concept is currently being developed under coordination by the Verkehrsverbund Kärnten GmbH. The section Klagenfurt am Wörthersee – Bleiburg cannot be realised before the construction works for the Koralmbahn Railway line have progressed accordingly.

Regular-interval timetable for Carinthia is shaping up
The S-Bahn Carinthia is the further development of the regular-interval timetable for Carinthia that was successfully implemented in December 2008 and allowed enhancing the offer by about 30 per cent. Also the customers appreciate the new quality on the railway - about 20 per cent more passengers have been using ÖBB's trains since 2008. All in all, 28 new state-of-the-art suburban service trains that form the basis for the S-Bahn were required to allow enhancing the offer. The trains with their pleasant and comfortable interior in connection with the modern railway stations and stops allow boarding and alighting with virtually no barriers.

Other timetable changes:
In addition, several selective adaptations and improvements are projected on Carinthia’s entire suburban train service offer:
- fast early morning service from St. Veit an der Glan via Klagenfurt and Villach to Spittal an der Drau
- new evening services (Villach – Spittal an der Drau, Klagenfurt am Wörthersee – Villach, Villach – Rosenbach)
- extension of a train pair from Rosenbach to Jesenice (Slo) in early morning traffic
- timetable adaptation in line with the volume of traffic between Villach and St. Veit an der Glan
- selected timetable adaptations on the entire suburban services network

Boarding with valid ticket only
With the timetable change on 12 December 2010, ÖBB-Personenverkehr AG will also complete the change to self-service transport. In 2005, 16 self-service routes (SB routes) were introduced throughout Austria and gradually expanded in the past years. Today, about two thirds of all trains and passengers in local and regional traffic travel on self-service routes.

For this reason, the new system will be valid throughout the country starting from the timetable change. In local and regional traffic – that is to say on REX and R trains as well as on the S-Bahn – it is mandatory to purchase a valid ticket before boarding. Boarding without ticket is only allowed in stations where there are no ticket vending machines or ticket offices. In such a case, passengers have to immediately go to the train crew or ticket vending machine on the train (at one of the train’s ends) to purchase a ticket.
This rule will ensure that consistent regulations apply throughout Austria for all trains of ÖBB-Personenverkehr AG and put an end to passengers' uncertainty. They no longer need to be aware whether they are travelling on a self-service route or not; they only need to check whether there is a ticket vending machine or ticket office at the station.

And this will definitely be easier to determine. You can get this information not only through the ÖBB CallCenter 05-1717 but also on the Internet. Go to www.oebb.at, click on Scotty, the door-to-door information system of ÖBB-Personenverkehr AG, and select the menu item “Station information”. In addition to the current arrival and departure information you can also get information about ticket offices, opening hours, ticket vending machines and their location. This will ensure that passengers can obtain all information already before their departure.