

What's new this month

Most of the changes this month concern updates to the current winter timetables, most of which are valid until June 9. At the back of this edition on pages 572 to 590 you will also find the first of this year's **Summer International Supplements**, with advance versions of Tables **10** to **32** valid from June 10.

Next month the Supplement will be expanded to contain Tables **10** to **68**, whilst the April and May editions will contain Summer versions of all our International tables.

CAR-CARRYING TRAINS

Trenitalia has withdrawn all of its domestic car-carrying trains. International trains run by other operators will continue.

The following services will not resume this summer: Berlin to Avignon and Villach; Frankfurt Neu Isenburg to Trieste and Villach; Hildesheim to Alessandria, Narbonne and Villach. This leaves the Avignon terminal without any services.

AIRPORT LINKS

Aberdeen airport now has a dedicated bus, number 727, to the new Union Square bus station, situated adjacent to the railway station.

The new Berlin Brandenburg Airport (code **BER**) will open on June 3. Four trains an hour will run from the airport to Berlin Hauptbahnhof for 20 hours a day (Table 5).

INTERNATIONAL

With the withdrawal of the Portuguese Railways service between Entroncamento and Badajoz (see under the Portugal heading), a daytime rail journey between Madrid and Lisboa is no longer possible. In order to assist readers we have added to Table **45** two daily bus services which operate between the two capital cities.

Following the receipt of further information, there are minor changes to Eurostar timings from February 6 and Thalys schedules from April 2.

Rail - sea - rail Table **15a** showing services via the Harwich - Hoek van Holland ferry has been restructured in an attempt to show the available connections more clearly.

GREAT BRITAIN

Many tables have revised weekend services valid from February 18/19 and readers are asked to refer to the January edition for timings until February 12. The next round of weekend changes will be valid from March 31 and will thus appear in the April edition.

2012 timetables for railways on the Isle of Man are included in this edition (Table **229**).

FRANCE

With French Railways having introduced its biggest ever timetable change on December 11, there are inevitably many late changes, and new information was still being received as we went to press. The huge amount of engineering work in order to modernise the network is affecting many lines, and it is not always possible to show the changes in individual tables. In particular, several overnight trains are running on a reduced number of dates due to track work.

SNCF's long-distance network of classic trains, as opposed to high-speed trains, is now being marketed under the SNCF INTERCITES name. The *Téoz* and *Lunéa* train categories may be phased out, but until this becomes clear we will continue to show them in the tables.

The cutting back of the Paris - Mulhouse trains to Belfort (Table **380**), as a result of the new Rhin-Rhône line opening in December, meant that the local trains from Belfort to Mulhouse were no longer shown in our tables. This has been rectified this month with the addition of new Table **370b** which shows the full local service.

ITALY

Final winter timings have now been received and our pages updated. There are changes to local services on several routes.

Trenitalia has reduced and simplified its night train services, with Bologna (for the Adriatic coast) and Roma (for Sicily) becoming major centres for the operation. Changes have also been made to the type of accommodation conveyed on some services so further alterations are possible; we hope to show definitive details next month.

PORTUGAL

From January 1, the Entroncamento - Elvas - Badajoz service (Table **691**) was withdrawn at short notice, the Elvas to Badajoz extension having been reintroduced only two years previously. Also withdrawn are

the two train pairs between Beja and Funcheira (Table **697**).

As anticipated in these pages some months ago, the two narrow gauge branches in the Douro Valley, which lost their rail service in 2009, have now officially closed. This means that the CP operated replacement bus services Livração - Amarante and Régua - Vila Real have now ceased (Table **694**). The line from Figueira da Foz to Coimbra via Pampilhosa (Table **693a**) has met a similar fate.

DENMARK

Repairs to the Storstrøm bridge, linking Sjælland and Falster, are due to be completed by January 22 and normal service resumed (Table **720**).

POLAND

Table **1079** now includes trains from Katowice to the border town of Cieszyn, situated across the river from the Czech town of Český Těšín.

SLOVAKIA

The Poprad Tatry to Zakopane international bus service (Table **1183**) has a new timetable. In July and August it will be supplemented by two journeys running between Liptovský Mikuláš and Zakopane, and these have been added to the table.

HUNGARY

There are several minor amendments this month. A more notable change is that Szombathely to Pécs train pair **8904** and **8907** now run daily instead of Fridays and Sundays (Table **1235**).

TURKEY

Due to work associated with the Bosphorus rail tunnel, trains will be suspended between Istanbul Haydarpaşa and Izmit from February 1. It is unclear if replacement buses will run, and detailed timings were not available as we went to press. We hope to have them for the March edition.

RUSSIA, BELARUS AND UKRAINE

Regular readers will know that Russia and Belarus no longer adopt daylight saving time in summer but have moved to permanent 'summer' time. This means that until March 25 (when most countries put their clocks forward), Russia and Belarus will be a further hour ahead of its western neighbours (including the Ukraine) than hitherto. As information on the revised train times is limited we have left many times as they are, in particular those between Russia and the Ukraine, so changes of up to an hour are likely on any cross-border services.

Table **1974** has been updated with new schedules for Georgia valid from January 16.

SHIPPING

Following cessation of services in November, SeaFrance has now gone into liquidation, leaving P & O Ferries as sole operator on the Dover to Calais route (Table **2110**).

Grimaldi Lines' Livorno - Tanjah service now sails via Barcelona instead of València; our table number has been altered to **2580** from **2592**. New for this year from the same operator is a Salerno - València service which sails via Cagliari (Tables **2662/75**).

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's section covers South East Asia and Australasia (Tables **6000** upwards).

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Tables **10** to **32** (Summer) will be found on pages 572 to 590 and are valid from June 10. Eurostar timetables are valid until August 27, but we are awaiting details of amended timings during the Olympic Games from July 27 until August 12.

One notable item is that *IC 143/146* Amsterdam - Berlin will be extended to the new Berlin Brandenburg airport (Table **22** Summer).

NEXT MONTH

As well as the expanded Summer International Supplement and the latest changes to rail and ferry timings, the March edition will contain our annual feature on **Cruise Trains and Rail Holidays**.

This will give details of special luxury trains, such as the *Venice Simplon-Orient-Express*, and will also list companies providing holidays by rail, whether by special train or ordinary scheduled trains. There will also be a section on special day excursions by train, both in the UK and continental Europe.