

## What's new this month

Most timetables in this edition are valid until June 9, except where shown. We are also including this month the first of this year's **Summer International Supplements**, with advance versions of Tables 10 to 32 (also 47/49), 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

Further reductions have been made to services this summer. Most notable is the loss of all international car-carrying trains serving Berlin, Firenze, Trieste and Verona. However, a new train is due to connect the Netherlands and Slovenia this summer when Euro-Express-Train-charter introduces a weekly service from 's-Hertogenbosch to Koper, ideally situated for holidays in Istria or on the Adriatic coast, and also close to Trieste. Details are shown in Table 1.

### INTERNATIONAL

**Tables 13, 49** – The Barcelona - Girona - Figueres high-speed line opened on January 9, with new high-speed services within Spain as shown under the Spain heading. As yet there are no through high-speed trains linking Barcelona with France, and the change at Figueres Vilafant is still required. Paris to Barcelona journeys nevertheless benefit from the new line, as the Figueres - Barcelona trains (which connect with both pairs of Paris - Figueres TGV trains) now make the journey in just 55 minutes compared to 1 hour 45 minutes previously. As the AVE trains continue to Madrid, daytime journeys between Paris and Madrid are now possible with just one change at Figueres. No date has been announced for the start of through international services, although the beginning of April has been suggested. Additional through journeys are expected to be introduced from the summer, with new TGV trains linking Barcelona with Lyon, Genève, Marseille and Toulouse.

**Table 18** – The Thalys service between Paris and Brussels will benefit from a small number of additional departures from March 31.

**Tables 20, 32** – Due to engineering work both in France and in the Saarbrücken area, City Night Line are not running any night trains between France and Germany between January 25 and February 25. The services affected are Paris to München, Berlin and Hamburg.

**Table 46** – Further to last month's report concerning Elipsos Trenhotel 407 *Francisco de Goya* on Sunday nights, the arrival time in Paris on Mondays has slightly improved from 1220 to 1145.

### GREAT BRITAIN

Sunday timings in certain tables are now valid from February 17 to March 24. For Sunday services in the first two weeks of February please refer to the January edition or contact the Editorial office for information.

### IRELAND

Iarnród Éireann (Irish Railways) has a new timetable from January 20, with most services retimed. Routes from Dublin Heuston, which includes Dublin to Cork (Table 245), benefit from shorter journey times, with trains speeded up by 10 to 15 minutes. There is an extra evening train on the Dublin - Galway route in both directions, whilst an additional Westport to Dublin train (with a connection from Ballina) now gives five journeys on this route.

There are, however, a number of trains withdrawn prompted by low patronage. This includes the rural Limerick Junction to Waterford line (Table 239) where the loss of a further train pair leaves just two trains each way. Other lines where the service has been reduced by one pair of trains include those from Dublin to Waterford (Table 241) and Sligo (Table 236), whilst the early morning Limerick to Dublin train via Nenagh has also been withdrawn. Limerick to Galway (Table 242), the so called Western Railway Corridor, which was reopened only recently, also sees one less train each way.

### FRANCE

A new evening TGV train has been introduced from Marseille to Strasbourg on Mondays to Fridays, leaving at 1814 or 1823 and arriving at 2333 (Table 379).

The new low-cost TGV services from Marne la Vallée due to start on April 1 and which we expected to be branded TGV éco, will in fact be known as *Ouigo*. Timings are shown in Table 350a.

### ITALY

Final winter timings have now been received and our pages updated. There are alterations to some local services and additional exception dates have been added where applicable. There are also changes to

the accommodation conveyed on some night trains.

The *Espresso (E)* train category has been discontinued with the last remaining trains reclassified as *InterCityNote (ICN)*.

### SPAIN

As mentioned under the International heading, the Barcelona - Girona - Figueres high-speed line opened on January 9, reducing journey times by around 50 minutes. There are nine high-speed journeys each way as shown in Table 657. Eight of these are provided by extending existing Madrid - Barcelona AVE trains to and from Figueres Vilafant. Three fares are available between Barcelona and Figueres: *Turista*, *Preferente* and *Club* (in *Turista* class the *Avant* level of fares apply and trains carry both the AVE and AV classifications on this section of route). Note that the bus service between Figueres bus station and Figueres Vilafant railway station has been increased from four daily services to ten.

**Estrella 373/370 Costa Brava** Madrid - Barcelona - Portbou / Cerbère has been cut back and retimed to form an overnight service between Madrid and Barcelona running on six nights a week (daily except Saturdays). On Friday nights from Madrid it is extended to Cerbère arriving on Saturday morning, whilst on Sunday nights it starts back from Portbou (Tables 651, 652, 657).

From February 9, the daily *Alvia* afternoon departure from Madrid to Pontevedra and A Coruña is retimed on Saturdays to depart in the morning (Table 680). This will therefore match the pattern of service which already applies in the reverse direction.

On Mallorca, a new timetable has been issued for Palma to sa Pobla and Manacor. Three new *Incaexpress* journeys between Palma and Inca have been squeezed into Table 674.

### PORTUGAL

At the suggestion of a correspondent we have added the town of Caxarias to Table 690 as there are bus links from there to Fátima.

### GERMANY

The German section has been updated to show dates and timings through to June 8.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

The new Praha - Ostrava - Bohumin service operated by Leo Express initially encountered technical problems, and only four trains each way were introduced on the start date of December 9. However, this was quickly increased to five trains from January 2, and to the full eight from January 18.

### SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Tables 10 to 32 (Summer) and Table 47 and 49 (Summer) will be found on pages 570 to 589 at the back of this edition, and show provisional timings from June 10.

Eurostar services in the Summer Supplement (Table 10 Summer) are valid from June 2 to August 31.

A new TGV service is expected to be introduced between Lille and Amsterdam from June, but details are awaited. Other proposed services are the reintroduction of Nice - Milano IC trains, this time operated by *Thello*. It remains to be seen if these will be introduced this summer.

*Thello* also hopes to introduce Lyon - Torino EC services, possibly from December 2013. This will restore a through rail service on this route after a break of several years.

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand. We have altered the layout slightly, with holiday dates now shown in each country section. This has freed up some space to allow us to show some details of rail services in Myanmar (Burma). Next month will feature China which is heavily revised following the opening of even more high-speed lines.

### NEXT MONTH

The March 2013 edition will mark the 140th Anniversary of the timetable, and will include a special commemorative section looking back at the early history of Thomas Cook and the Continental Timetable. It will also feature extracts from a number of old editions.

As usual the March edition will also include our annual feature on **Cruise Trains and Rail Holidays**, as well as an expanded Summer International Supplement.