

What's new this month

WELCOME

This is the last edition before the mid-December timetable change which affects most European countries. The main exception is in Finland where winter schedules commenced on October 25 and are valid until March 26 next year. Timings in other countries are generally valid until December 12, although it is always advisable to confirm validity in the individual country headings as other variations may occur.

This month our **Winter International Supplement**, which shows selected advance timings from December 13, has been expanded to 44 pages and now includes winter versions of all our international tables. The supplement will be found on pages 577 to 620 and a summary of the principal changes are listed at the end of this month's *Newslines*.

On pages 621 to 624 we have included our special four page feature providing details of various domestic European rail passes that are currently available. In addition, a summary of the latest InterRail and Eurail prices will be found on page 575.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Our regular *Route of the Month* feature heads to the Balkans where Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, editors of *hidden europe* magazine, join the once-daily train from Zagreb to Sarajevo. The description of this fascinating journey through Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina will be found on page 35 and the train's current timings are shown in Table 1350. This article is adapted from one of the routes featured in the book *Europe by Rail: The Definitive Guide for Independent Travellers*, an updated version of which will be published next year by European Rail Timetable Ltd. Find out more at www.europebyrail.eu.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Changing trains and the worry of missing a booked connection can often cause concern amongst travellers, particularly when it involves making your own way from one station to another en route. However, new high-speed rail links are now offering alternative travel options with easier connections and faster overall journey times. Our *Tip of the Month*, which will be found on page 36, outlines a few examples of how various long-distance journeys can be made using high-speed services with a single convenient connection.

INTERNATIONAL

The movement of large numbers of refugees across Europe continues to cause disruption to international rail services in certain areas. The situation is continually changing and so we advise that you check your journey plans locally.

GREAT BRITAIN

A new chord linking the Oxford to Bicester line with the main line to London Marylebone opened on October 26, providing an alternative route between Oxford and London. The service, operated by Chiltern Railways, will initially run from Oxford Parkway station which is situated to the north of Oxford city centre. A basic service of two trains per hour in each direction will be provided, with additional services at peak times. There have been some alterations to other services on the Marylebone route to accommodate the additional Oxford trains and Table 128 has been fully updated.

FRANCE

We have included our winter Savoie Ski Buses table this month, providing details of bus links from Geneva airport to the various ski resorts in the Savoie region. In this edition the table has been temporarily relocated to page 574, but will revert to its usual position at the end of the French section next month.

ITALY

New schedules valid from November 1 have been received for the *Italo* services of Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (NTV). Of note, the first service from Firenze to Salerno now starts back at Milano Porta Garibaldi at 0534 on Mondays. Similarly, the last Sunday Salerno to Firenze service is extended to Milano arriving into Porta Garibaldi at 0016 on Monday morning.

The Expo Milano 2015 global exhibition will close its doors on October 31 and as a result the station of Rho Fiera Expo Milano 2015 will be served by fewer services. Consequently, several of our tables have been updated and the summary on page 306 has been removed.

FINLAND

Our Finnish section has been fully updated with new winter schedules which, as mentioned earlier, are valid until March 26. The most significant change is the withdrawal of selected long-distance trains, particularly affecting services to and from Turku shown in Tables 791 and 795. It has been reported that some local lines may close at the next timetable change. Lines that are apparently under threat include Seinäjoki to Haapamäki and Joensuu to Nurmes.

Please note that services between Seinäjoki and northern Finland are subject to alteration until November 29 with extended journey times and substitute train numbers (Table 794). Readers intending to travel in this area during November are advised to check their travel plans beforehand as departure times may be up to 35 minutes earlier.

GERMANY

Fire damage at the Mülheim signal box near Essen has been affecting services between Duisburg and Dortmund during most of October with a reduced service operating via Essen. Some services have been diverted via alternative routes, whilst others are not running at all over the affected section. No date has been announced when services are expected to return to normal so travellers in the area are strongly advised to check their journey plans locally.

New *Harzer Schmalspurbahnen* winter schedules commence on November 2 and Table 867 has been updated accordingly. Please note that many services on the network are suspended until November 27 to allow track maintenance work to take place. During this period no trains run on the routes Drei Annen Hohne – Eisfelder Talmühle – Ilfeld and Quedlinburg – Eisfelder Talmühle (including the Harzgerode and Hasselfelde branches). *Brockenbahn* services between Wernigerode and Brocken and trains between Nordhausen and Ilfeld continue to run.

POLAND

Polish Railways has issued revised schedules valid from October 18 and all tables have been updated accordingly.

Readers intending to travel on the Warszawa to Łódź route are advised of significant retimings during the currency of this timetable period. Although we have attempted to show the changes, alterations to some trains are complex and it has proved impossible to show all variations. Consequently, readers are advised to check locally (Table 1090).

GREECE

New schedules have been received and updates have been made to our tables where necessary, although some suburban services in the Athens area remain subject to confirmation.

Among alterations to main line schedules, one Athens – Thessaloniki train pair is withdrawn, one Athens – Thessaloniki – Alexandroupoli IC train is extended to serve Dikea replacing one Alexandroupoli – Dikea local service (Tables 1400 and 1405).

There is a welcome return of trains - nine in each direction - to the Lárisa – Vólos route (Table 1425), but Pireás – Afidnai – Halkída services have been trimmed with most weekday only trains withdrawn (Table 1420).

TURKEY

A limited domestic service has been reintroduced in European Turkey with one return service between Kapıkule and Çerkezköy, together with a return journey between Çerkezköy and Uzunköprü. Table 1550 has been updated with the new timings.

RUSSIA

Train 38/37 Riga – St Peterburg *Baltiija* has been diverted and no longer calls at Daugavpils and Pskov. It is now conveyed on the Riga to Moskva train 2/1 between Riga and Novosokolniki and then on the Homel to St Peterburg train 83/83 from Novosokolniki (Tables 1820 and 1840). This change was originally due to take place at the start of the new timetable on December 13, but was brought forward to start on October 25. A pair of local trains between Riga and Zilupe have been slightly retimed to accommodate the change.

SHIPPING

During the 2016 season, Brittany Ferries' fast ferry will not feature on the Portsmouth to Le Havre route, although a greater number of sailings by conventional ferry will provide an almost daily service (Table 2165).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

What's new this month *(continued from page 3)*

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section features North America and includes two additional pages covering rail services in California that are not operated by Amtrak. All tables have been checked and updated with the latest available information.

In Canada the service from Montréal to Jonquière and Senneterre now runs 55 minutes later throughout on Fridays (Table 9005). In Table 9015 the mid-morning fast trains 40 and 45 between Toronto and Ottawa, which previously operated Fridays to Mondays, now run daily. There have also been some alterations to days of running of some services on the Toronto – London – Windsor route (Table 9020). The services between Hearst and Sault Ste Marie remain suspended until further notice (Table 9040).

In the United States of America buses replace trains on some services between New Haven and Springfield due to track work (Table 9215).

This month we are also including our two page feature covering principal services in South Korea.

WINTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

The following notes refer to the Winter International Supplement on pages 577 to 620, which has advance tables valid from December 13.

Table 9 (winter) - Eurostar has released timings for the 2015/2016 winter ski services between London and Bourg St Maurice. Please be aware that, as Christmas Day falls on a Friday this year, the first overnight departure will not be until January 1. These services are now open for booking.

Table 10 (winter) - Eurostar timings for services from London to Paris and Brussels are now available until March 26. Engineering work in the Channel Tunnel will affect services on January 16, 17, 30 and 31, but timings on these dates are still to be confirmed. Also, engineering work on the high speed line between Calais and Paris from February 1 to March 26 will affect services; during this period trains will depart Paris 10 minutes earlier and arrive Paris 10 minutes later than usual. Please note that no services will call at Ashford International on February 21 due to engineering work.

Table 11 (winter) - TGV 9860 from Toulon to Brussels will start from Nice at 0602. This replaces the existing 0905 departure from Nice which only runs as far as Lille.

Table 17 (winter) - Eurostar has issued advance timings for its London to Marseille and Marne la Vallée-Chessy services valid from the timetable change on December 13. The Marseille service will continue to run once a week, on Saturdays, until March 19. From March 25 the number of departures will increase to three times a week, running additionally on Mondays and Fridays. Services to Marne la Vallée will continue to run four days a week, increasing to six during holiday periods (except for a five week break from January 3).

Table 20 (winter) - The three Thalys services that currently run between Paris and Essen will be extended to and from Dortmund. An existing train pair between Paris and Köln will also be extended to run to and from Essen meaning the Ruhr city will benefit from four through services a day to and from Paris.

Tables 30 and 32 (winter) - These tables will only be valid until April 2, 2016, as there will be major changes following the opening of the TGV Est high speed line extension to Strasbourg on April 3. However, advance summaries of the proposed Paris to Frankfurt (Table 30) and Paris to Frankfurt (Table 32) timetables, which will be introduced following the opening of the extended high-speed line, are shown below. As well as faster journey times, there will be an additional service provided between Paris and both Frankfurt and Stuttgart with two Frankfurt services in each direction operating via Strasbourg. Please note that all timings are subject to confirmation.

Table 31 (winter) - The Lille to Genève service operated by Lyria will be discontinued from December 13.

Table 50 (winter) - ICE 38/35 København – Hamburg – Berlin will no longer run between Hamburg and Berlin.

Table 54 (winter) - Overnight services EN 447/446 Jan Kiepura and CNL 457/456 Kopernikus/Phoenix will no longer run between Oberhausen and Köln.

Table 60 (winter) - Significant changes will be implemented on the Hamburg – Berlin – Praha – Budapest axis with all daytime services from Germany only running as far as Praha hlavni (except for train EC 173/172 Hungaria which will continue to run as a through service to and from Budapest). Good connections will be maintained at Praha for journeys to and from Bratislava and Budapest. The number of direct services between Hamburg and Praha will increase to four in each direction. Please note that many of the train names have been shuffled around.

Table 95 (winter) - Just before we went to press with this edition, Russian Railways announced that they were reintroducing a Moskva to Budapest, Sofia and Cheb service. Timings and days of running are subject to confirmation but we hope to have further details in the December edition.

Table 99 (winter) - A number of changes will be implemented on the Warszawa to Praha and Wien routes. The Warszawa to Praha route will benefit from a second EuroCity service, although the current EC 110/111 will be retimed considerably as a result. A new Warszawa to Ostrava EuroCity service will also be introduced. Wien services will be starting from / terminating at Wien Hbf and so will no longer serve Wien Westbahnhof.

A new service, EC131/130 Varsovia, is to be introduced between Warszawa and Budapest (via Katowice and Břeclav). This will connect at Břeclav with the Praha to Wien service RJ77/74 (see also Table 60).

30 (Winter, valid from April 3)										PARIS - FRANKFURT										Service summary April 3 - June 11, 2016									
train type		TGV	TGV	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	TGV	TGV	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	TGV	TGV	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	TGV	TGV	ICE			
train number		9561	9551	9553	9563	9555	9557	9559	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579			
notes		Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ				
notes		①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥	①-⑥				
Paris Est.....d.	0720	0906	...	1301	1520	1710	1906	1906	...	Frankfurt (Main) Hbf.....d.	0559	0655	0654	0857	0857	1059	1059	1259	1259	1658	1859	...	...	...	...
Strasbourg.....d.	0913	...	...	1713	...	...	...	...	...	Mannheim.....d.	0640	0740	0739	0941	0941	1143	1143	1341	1341	1741	1940	...	...	...	...
Forbach.....d.	Ⓜ	1047	...	...	...	2049	2049	...	...	Karlsruhe.....d.	Ⓜ	0808	...	1007	1007	...	...	...	...	1808	...	...	...	...	...
Saarbrücken.....a.	Ⓜ	1055	...	1457	...	1857	2057	2057	...	Kaiserlautern.....d.	0722	...	0823	1023	1229	1229	1423	1423	...	2023	...	...	...	...	...
Kaiserlautern.....a.	Ⓜ	1133	...	1535	...	1935	2135	2135	...	Saarbrücken.....d.	0801	...	0903	1102	1308	1308	1502	1502	...	2102	...	...	...	...	...
Karlsruhe.....a.	0952	...	...	1752	...	...	...	...	...	Forbach.....a.	0809	...	0911	1047	1316	1510	1510	...	2110	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mannheim.....a.	1018	1215	...	1617	1818	2017	2217	2217	...	Strasbourg.....a.	Ⓜ	0847	...	1047	...	...	...	...	1847	...	...	...	...	...	...
Frankfurt (Main) Hbf...d.	1058	1258	...	1658	1858	2058	2258	2258	...	Paris Est.....a.	0951	1038	1053	1238	1251	1454	1458	1650	1658	2041	2259	...	...	...	...

g - Also May 16. j - Not May 15. Ⓜ - is at Kehl. ★ - Alleo ICE/TGV service. A DB/SNCF joint enterprise.
h - Also May 15. p - Not May 16.

32 (Winter, valid from April 3)										PARIS - STUTTGART - MÜNCHEN										Service summary April 3 - June 11, 2016									
train type		ICE	ICE	TGV	TGV	TGV	TGV	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	TGV	TGV	ICE	ICE	TGV	ICE	ICE	ICE	ICE	TGV	TGV	ICE			
train number		9571	9573	9575	9575	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579	9579			
notes		Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ				
notes		Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ				
Paris Est.....d.	...	0639	...	1054	...	1355	1555	1755	1755	München Hbf.....d.	...	k	0625	0629			
Strasbourg.....d.	...	0831	...	1246	...	1546	1746	1946	1946	Augsburg Hbf.....d.	0657	0706			
Kehl.....d.	Ulm Hbf.....d.	0743	0751			
Karlsruhe Hbf.....a.	...	0909	...	1325	...	1625	1825	2025	2025	Stuttgart Hbf.....a.	...	...	0655	0855	1055	1055	1455	1455	...	1855	...	...	...	...	...
Ulm Hbf.....a.	...	0948	...	1404	...	1704	1904	2104	2104	Karlsruhe Hbf.....d.	...	...	0733	0933	0933	1133	1533	1533	...	1933	...	...	...	...	...
Augsburg Hbf.....a.	...	...	...	...	...	2100	2100	2207	2207	Kehl.....d.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
München Hbf.....a.	...	...	...	...	...	2136	2136	2329	2329	Strasbourg.....a.	...	...	0813	1012	1012	1213	1612	1612	...	2013	...	...	...	...	...
Paris Est.....a.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Paris Est.....a.	...	...	1005	1205	1205	1405	1804	1804	...	2205	...	...	...	...	...

g - Not May 15. h - Also May 15. k - Not May 16. ★ - Alleo ICE/TGV service. A DB/SNCF joint enterprise.