

## What's new this month

### WELCOME

Welcome to this month's edition of the *European Rail Timetable* which includes various updates to rail schedules around Europe. Many of our French pages, particularly those covering the west of the country, have been updated with autumn timings. Our Swedish section has also been fully updated with timings now valid until the mid-December timetable change.

We have also included advance versions of several international tables valid from the December timetable change and these will be found in our **Winter International Supplement** on pages 577 to 592. The supplement will be updated and expanded in our October and November editions as more information becomes available. A summary of the key changes will be found at the end of our news section on page 36.

### ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, editors of *hidden europe* magazine, visit Slovenia and enjoy a journey on a local train from Jesenice to Nova Gorica. This line forms part of the former imperial Transalpina route which was originally constructed as a major artery linking Austria with the port of Trieste. Although now relegated to secondary status, there are still up to seven trains a day in each direction, supplemented by car carrying trains over the highest mountain section. The description of this particularly scenic journey will be found on page 34 and the current schedules are shown in Table **1302**.

### TIP OF THE MONTH

For our *Tip of the Month*, which will be found on page 35, Nicky and Susanne explain a great value option for journeys from eastern England to the Netherlands using the Stena Line ferry between Harwich and Hoek van Holland. The *Dutch Flyer* ticket allows inclusive rail and sea travel from any station in the east of England served by Abellio Greater Anglia trains (including London Liverpool Street) to any station in the Netherlands, meaning it can be used for some quite lengthy journeys.

### INTERNATIONAL

The running days of the Marseille – Nice – Milano *Thello* service will be altered from October 1 (Tables **90** and **360**). *EC 146/145* will start back from Marseille on Mondays only (instead of Mondays to Fridays) and *EC 160/159* will extend to Marseille on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only (instead of daily). From November 1 to December 10 buses will operate certain *Thello* services due to engineering work taking place in Italy and we hope to include details of the amended service in our October edition.

The Budapest – Zagreb *Agram* (Table **89**) will run via Dombóvár instead of Fonyód in both directions from September 12 and will therefore serve Budapest Keleti instead of Déli. Departure from Budapest Keleti will be 15 minutes earlier, at 0545, whilst Zagreb timings are unchanged. The diversion is believed to be temporary, but will last at least until the December timetable change.

Further to last month's report regarding Polish trains *TLK 31011/13010* Kraków – Warszawa – Białystok – Suwałki extending to and from Mockava (in Lithuania) from September 4, it has now been decided that the service will continue to terminate at Suwałki. However it will convey on certain dates, as shown in Tables **93** and **1042**, a through car from Kraków to Hrodna (in Belarus) via the border at Kuźnica Białostocka.

### GREAT BRITAIN

Due to an ongoing dispute, Southern Railway has revised its Monday to Friday timetable with several services amended or withdrawn until further notice. The Seaford to Brighton service (Table **102**) is currently operating partially by bus, with services running every 15 minutes between Seaford and Lewes, and rail connections provided between Lewes and Brighton. Most direct services between Brighton and Southampton (Table **102**) have been suspended – journeys between these points now require a change of trains at Chichester. The London Victoria to Gatwick Airport and Brighton service has also been revised and Table **105** has been updated accordingly. Please note that the *Gatwick Express* service (Tables **5** and **100**) between London Victoria and Gatwick Airport has a number of gaps in the service that normally runs every 15 minutes, so please check before travelling. Southern services between East Croydon and Milton Keynes shown in Table **141** have also been suspended until further notice. However, frequent London Overground services will continue to run as normal between Clapham Junction, Shepherd's Bush and Willesden Junction (where it is possible to connect with local services to Watford Junction).

The line between Folkestone and Dover, which has been closed since December following major storm damage, is now expected to reopen on September 5. Table **101** has been updated to reflect the full service from this date, although passengers intending to use the service on September 5 are advised to check before travelling.

The Severn Tunnel will be completely closed from September 12 to October 23 to allow work to take place in connection with the electrification of the Great Western main lines. This will cause considerable disruption to services shown in Tables **133**, **135** and **136** and we have updated these tables to include alterations during this period (although there may be further changes at weekends). We have also added a special version of Table **136** showing a temporary bus/rail service that will be provided between Newport and Bristol. To accommodate this we have renumbered the Bristol to Taunton table **120a** (previously **137**) and moved it to page 105.

All trains between Kettering and Corby are replaced by bus from September 11 to October 23 to allow bridge and tunnel maintenance work to take place (Table **170**).

### FRANCE

Earlier this year local services in the Lorraine region were completely recast with the first phase of a project known as *Cadencement du réseau TER-Métrolor*, the main benefits of which were increased capacity on key routes and the introduction of new rolling stock. The second phase of the project was due to be implemented on August 29 with further service enhancements and all tables affected have been updated with the latest timings.

There are renewed doubts about the future of certain overnight trains in France with reports that some services will cease running at the end of September. The Paris to St Gervais/Bourg St Maurice and Strasbourg to Nice trains are almost certain to be withdrawn. The Paris to Cerbère and Paris to Albi services have also been mentioned as being under threat although, as we went to press with this edition, both were still available to book for travel during October. We will, of course, continue to monitor the situation closely.

### SPAIN

Further to last month's report that the Benidorm – Calpe – Dénia service (Table **667**) had reduced in frequency to every 75 minutes, there was a further change with buses replacing trains between Calpe and Dénia, in the same timings, due to the condition of the track. Subsequently, from August 20 the service returned to an hourly interval, but with buses continuing to replace trains between Calpe and Dénia until at least December 2016.

Engineering work between Madrid and Ávila is affecting services until December 30 (Tables **679**, **680**, **681** and **689**).

The main tunnel between Palma and Sóller requires attention and will therefore close on November 7 for, we understand, a period of three months (Table **674**).

### DENMARK

On August 26, weekday services between Aarhus and Grenaa were withdrawn (weekend services have been discontinued for some months) to continue the branch line's conversion as part of the Aarhus Light Rail scheme. The 'Aarhus Letbane' will eventually connect Grenaa to Odder via the country's second city. Consequently, Table **728** has been restructured to show the two Jutland branch lines operated by Nordjyske Jernbaner. Hjørring to Hirtshals was previously shown in Table **702**, but the line from Frederikshavn to Skagen is a new addition to our pages; Skagen is the most northerly station in Denmark. The route from Odense to Svendborg, essentially now a commuter line, has been deleted.

### SWEDEN

Tables have been updated following receipt of new schedules. Of note, updated timings that reflect extended travel times for eastbound journeys between København and Malmö, owing to enhanced border controls, have now been incorporated into Tables **735** and **746**.

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

### GERMANY

*Hamburg-Köln-Express* has amended its timetable from September 1, no longer running between Köln and Frankfurt. On the Hamburg to Köln section there are now just four trains a week in each direction, running Fridays to Mondays (Table 800).

From September 12 to November 14 all trains are replaced by bus between Freilassing and Berchtesgaden. Revised timings during this period have been added to Table 891.

### ALBANIA

Shortly after we closed for press with the August edition, the timetable was again changed. In addition to the single return journey between Durrës and Kashar (for Tiranë) reported last month, services were reintroduced from Durrës to Librazhd and Shkodër and return (Table 1390).

### TURKEY

The daytime service between Kapikule to Halkalı has been reinstated in European Turkey and timings have been added to Table 1550. This may mean the international service from Sofia and Bucureşti may also be running through to Halkalı, although this has yet to be confirmed.

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section features China with tables numbered from 7000. All tables have been updated using the latest information provided in June this year.

We have added a new table, numbered 7066, to show the Beijing to Xi'an high-speed service.

### WINTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Eurostar services London – Paris/Brussels shown in Table 10 are valid until February 4. In Table 17, the London to Mame la Vallée-Chessy (station for Disneyland) service is valid until July 7 and London to Marseille until November 4, 2017. Due to engineering work taking place on the high-speed line between Calais and Paris, Eurostar services will depart Paris up to 12 minutes earlier and arrive up to 12 minutes later from January 23 to February 4, 2017.

We have incorporated the additional *ICE* services, which are expected to be introduced between Brussels and Frankfurt from December, into Table 21.

The Gotthard Base Tunnel will open for regular passenger services on December 11 and Swiss Railways has published a provisional timetable. The number of Zürich to Milano services will increase from 7 to 8 per day with a reduced journey time of 3 hours 36 minutes (37 minutes faster than current timings). There will also be a new Basel – Arth-Goldau – Milano service (Table 82).

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