

What's new this month

As well as numerous updates to the current winter timings, this edition includes a **Summer International Supplement**, which has been expanded this month to include advance summer versions of all our international tables. These are valid from June 10, and will be found on pages 572 to 620.

The **May** edition will contain further updates to the Supplement. A number of countries will be introducing new or amended timetables for the summer and these will be shown, where possible, in the **June** edition. British schedules will be valid from May 14, timings in Russia and the Ukraine will change from May 27, whilst the International section and most other countries in the June edition will be valid from June 10. An exception, however, is Finland, where the new timetable starts on June 4. The French section will include additional tables covering the high-summer timings in Brittany, valid July 8 to August 26.

INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar **9096** London St Pancras to Bourg St Maurice (Table **9**) will not run on April 13, but passengers will be allowed to travel on Eurostar **9092** on April 14 which is the last day of the Eurostar ski season.

The minimum check-in time for Eurostar services is 30 minutes, and the official connection time at Brussels for passengers changing onto Eurostar services is 45 minutes. However, we understand that recent changes to immigration procedures have led to increased queuing times and passengers are advised to allow longer than this, particularly when joining Eurostar trains at Paris, Brussels or Lille. It is also reported that due to a change in UK Border Agency procedures it is not currently possible to travel from Brussels to Lille by Eurostar train, although journeys in the opposite direction from Lille to Brussels are still bookable.

Train **409/407** *Francisco de Goya* Paris - Madrid (Table **46**) will be cancelled over Easter on April 6, 7 and 8, and also over the Ascension period on May 17, 18 and 19, due to engineering work.

As anticipated last month, the *Bosphor/Balkan Express* overnight service linking București, Sofia and Beograd with Istanbul is now replaced by bus between Kapikule (close to the Bulgarian border) and Istanbul. This is due to long-term engineering work in connection with the future high-speed line through the Bosphorus Tunnel, expected to open in 2015. With the eastbound service terminating at Kapikule at 0145 and the westbound commencing at 0405, we are uncertain whether sleeping cars will be conveyed on these services. The buses, which arrive at and depart from Istanbul's Sirkeci railway station, will run non-stop to the same schedule as the trains which they replace.

GREAT BRITAIN

The summer timetable in Great Britain will come into effect on May 14 and will be shown in our June edition. The 2012 Olympic Games will be held in London and at various venues around the United Kingdom, with the main events taking place between July 27 and August 12. Advance information about reaching the various Olympic venues will be found this month on page 623.

IRELAND

Limerick station has officially been called Limerick Colbert since 1966 in commemoration of Cornelius Colbert, one of the executed leaders of the Easter Rising of 1916. As Iamród Éireann has recently started using the full name in its publicity we have decided to follow suit.

A new direct service has been introduced from Limerick Colbert to Dublin via Nenagh, Roscrea and Ballybrophy (Table **236a**). Running on Mondays to Fridays and departing Limerick at 0515, it is timed to arrive Dublin at 0825. The 1745 from Limerick to Nenagh has been retimed to depart 1705 and is extended to Ballybrophy. In the opposite direction a new 1915 departure from Ballybrophy to Limerick will run on Mondays to Saturdays, with the 1800 departure from Dublin to Cork calling additionally at Ballybrophy to form a new connection. Also the 1854 departure from Ballybrophy to Limerick has been retimed to 1820 with the 1705 Dublin to Tralee service providing the connection.

The 0900 departure from Limerick Colbert to Thurles via Limerick Junction has been extended to Dublin Heuston all year round and not, as in previous years, only in the summer months.

FRANCE

Further tables have been amended this month with recent timetable changes. Engineering work continues to affect a large number of lines and further variations to individual trains have been added this month,

although it is not always possible to show full details.

ITALY

A new operator is set to start running shortly on Italy's high-speed lines in competition with Trenitalia. Called Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (NTV), the company will be running a fleet of 25 newly built high-speed trains branded *Italo*. Although a date has yet to be announced for the commencement of services, we are including the proposed timetable this month as part of Table **600**. The first *Italo* trains are expected to be introduced on the core Torino (Porta Susa) - Milano (Porta Garibaldi) - Roma (Tiburtina) - Napoli (Centrale) route, with Venezia services following at a later date.

Refurbishment of Alta Velocità trains continues and there are now six return services between Milano and Roma formed of these sets, with four extended to run to/from Napoli. These offer Executive, Business, Premium and Standard classes of accommodation (Table **600**).

Simplification of services within Italy has prompted more changes to our tables, allowing additional detail to be shown in some cases. As there are now no through services between Roma/Lamezia and Cosenza, Table **633** has been restructured to show Paola - Cosenza - Sibari in more detail. Catanzaro Lido - Lamezia, formerly part of Table **635**, is now shown in new Table **634** (note that this service is currently operated by bus). The table showing the Circumvesuviana Ferrovie operation based in Napoli has been renumbered from Table **623** to **639**, whilst Bari - Taranto local trains are now shown in tabular form (Table **631**).

Complicated Table **626**, which showed services from Roma to Foggia as well as many secondary services from the capital and Napoli via Cassino and Caserta, has been split into two separate tables. Roma - Caserta - Napoli and Foggia remains as Table **626**, but services into the Campania region are now shown in new Table **627**. The latter table now includes the local service between Campobasso and Termoli, not previously shown, allowing connections into Adriatic line trains shown in Table **631**. Space created by these changes has also enabled us to show Sardinia in a clearer, less cramped, format (Table **629**).

SPAIN

One pair of Madrid to València *Alvia* services will be extended to Gandia daily throughout the summer (in previous years the service operated to Gandia on summer Saturdays returning the next day). Also one pair of Madrid - Castelló de la Plana *Alvia* services will be extended daily in the Summer to Vinaró (Tables **668** and **672**).

DENMARK

Several engineering projects will cause disruption to various lines once again this summer: Aalborg - Frederikshavn between April 28 and October 29 (Table **701**), Langå - Struer May 12 - September 30 (Table **712**), Roskilde - Holbæk June 2 - September 2 (Table **704**), and Herring - Skanderborg April 14 - August 12 (Table **713**). On each route a section of line will be closed which will differ as work progresses. We expect that alternative travel arrangements will be provided but timetables were not available at press date.

SWEDEN

Direct København - Malmö - Göteborg *Snabbtåg* (S) trains will cease on April 9 and thereafter only *Öresundståg* (Øtåg) services will operate on this route. However, engineering work will take place between Laholm and Helsingborg from April 16 to May 20 and passengers travelling during this time will be required to complete part of the journey by replacement bus. A second version of Table **735** valid for this period can be found on page 621.

NORWAY

The Norwegian section has been updated to show all variations during the April and May holiday periods.

Until June 3 a modified service runs between Hamar and Lillehammer with certain trains replaced by bus. Table **783** has been updated with these changes. Please note that all services between Hamar and Lillehammer are replaced by bus April 1-7 (during this period long distance trains between Oslo and Trondheim are operated by bus between Oslo and Lillehammer).

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GERMANY

From April 10 to May 26 all services between Basel Bad Bf and Schaffhausen (Table 939) operate to a special timetable with buses replacing trains between Lauchringen/Erzingen and Schaffhausen. Details of the revised service will be found on page 622.

Berlin's new airport, Berlin Brandenburg Flughafen, is scheduled to open on June 3 together with a brand new railway station situated directly under the terminal building. From this date the current *Regional Express* service between central Berlin and Berlin Schönefeld will be diverted to the new station which will result in some modified timings. The service between the airport and Berlin Hbf will be increased to four trains per hour with the addition of two services an hour operating via Südkreuz and Potsdamer Platz stations. Details of the new service will be found on page 622. A limited number of long-distance trains will also serve Berlin Brandenburg Flughafen and details of these will be found in the footnotes of Table 810. The new airport will replace Schönefeld and Tegel airports.

The 2012 K-D shipping timetable (Table 914a) has now been fully updated for the 2012 season which starts on April 6.

POLAND

Four services have been withdrawn on the Leszno - Wolsztyn - Zbąszyń - Zbąszynek route (Table 1099) and four Leszno - Zbąszynek services have been cut back to run only between Leszno and Wolsztyn.

SLOVAKIA

From March 4 there were some minor amendments to Table 1185 including the retiming of the first Žilina - Zvolen train to 0452, whilst the 0617 from Zvolen now leaves at 0612. In Table 1190 the Friday evening extension of Bratislava - Banská Bystrica train Ex531 to Brezno has been withdrawn.

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

It is reported that train 360/1 Beograd - Timișoara - București (Table 1365) is currently replaced by bus between Beograd and Vršac, apparently due to severe motive power shortages. It is not known how long this situation will prevail.

TURKEY

All domestic rail services between Kapikule/Uzunköprü and Çerkezköy are suspended until further notice (for at least one year, possibly longer). These withdrawals are to enable the line to be upgraded in advance of the opening of the new Bosphorus tunnel linking European and Asian Turkey. Please note that Turkish Railways will not be providing replacement bus services (except for the overnight service to/from Bulgaria as shown under the International heading). However, a number of other operators provide bus services between Istanbul and Edirne, such as *Metro Turizm* and *Ulusoy* (contact details will be found on page 514). We understand that a local rail service is still operating between Istanbul and Çerkezköy, although we are unable to confirm timings.

UKRAINE & MOLDOVA

The Chișinău to Warszawa sleeper which runs on alternate even dates has been diverted to Przemyśl (Tables 1056, 1730, 1750).

RUSSIA

Table 1910 has been updated to show timings until October 27 for the international service between St Peterburg and Helsinki. It will be further amended from October 28 when Summer Time will end in Finland (since Russia no longer changes its clocks).

SHIPPING

Corsica Ferries has introduced two new routes for this summer. The island of Elba will be served by fast craft six times daily taking 30 minutes between Piombino and Portoferraio, enhancing the services operated by Moby Lines and Toremar (Table 2699), and Savona - Calvi will see one sailing weekly (Table 2565).

Until November 4, Condor Ferries' fast ferry sailings from Weymouth will transfer to the Poole terminal.

BEYOND EUROPE

The **Beyond Europe** section covers a different area of the world outside Europe each month, rotating around six different areas. This month it is the turn once again of **Japan**, where there is a new timetable from March 17. One change of note is the withdrawal of the *Nihonkai* and *Kitaguni* overnight services from Osaka to Aomori and Niigata respectively.

SUMMER SUPPLEMENT

Tables 10 to 99 (Summer) will be found on pages 572 to 620 and are valid from June 10.

Three international trains which traditionally have run on Summer Saturdays will return to action this Summer as usual. Eurostar will be running train 9084/9087 from London to Avignon (Tables 11, 17a), Thalys will be running 9928/9954 *Thalys Soleil* from Amsterdam and Brussels to Marseille (Tables 11, 18) whilst German Railways (DB) will run train 1280/1281 *Grossglockner* from München to Zell am See.

Table 10 (Summer) - Eurostar timings are valid until August 27, although we are awaiting details of the amended timetable which will operate during the London 2012 Olympics from July 27 until August 12.

Table 22 (Summer) - train IC 143/146 Amsterdam - Berlin will be extended to the new Berlin Brandenburg Flughafen (Airport), which will open a few days earlier on June 3.

Table 44 (Summer) - *Thello*, operator since December of the Paris - Venezia night train, is expected to introduce its second night train running between Paris and Roma. This former *Artesia* service was suspended in December.

Table 50 (Summer) - Train EN301/300 *Berlin Night Express* Berlin - Malmö will run on three days a week throughout the season, the plan to run on a fourth day (Mondays) during the Summer period having been dropped.

Table 56 (Summer) - For the duration of the Euro 2012 football tournament, all *Berlin Warszawa Express* services will run daily.

Table 58 (Summer) - Train EC249 *Wawel* Hamburg - Kraków will call at the new Berlin Brandenburg Flughafen. However, in the opposite direction, EC248 will not call there as it takes a different route into Berlin Hauptbahnhof.

Table 61 (Summer) - Through sleeper and couchette cars will run this summer from Praha to both Burgas and Varna, conveyed in the *Metropol* between Praha and Budapest. The train will run between June and September, twice weekly to Burgas and once weekly to Varna, with an additional portion from Budapest running for a slightly longer season than that from Praha.

Table 70 (Summer) - *City Night Line 363/358 Pictor* München - Venezia will be diverted via Tarvisio from the start of the summer timetable. We are waiting confirmation whether this is a permanent alteration.

Table 88 (Summer) - The weekly relief Wien - Roma *Euro Night* will be diverted to Pisa and Livorno.

Table 97 (Summer) - The coastal town of Bar in Montenegro has been added in order to show the twice-weekly through service to and from Moskva. A new weekly service from Moskva to and from Split (Croatia) will also run this summer and timings have been added to this table. Both these journeys will take three nights.

NEXT MONTH

As well as the latest changes to current timings and an updated Summer International Supplement, the May edition will contain our special feature on **Rail Passes**. This describes the InterRail, Eurail and Britrail schemes along with passes for individual countries and principal city passes.

All of our timetables, maps and guidebooks can be ordered online at www.thomascookpublishing.com. There is a 10% discount for online purchases of the monthly European Rail Timetable. Our sales staff in Peterborough will also be happy to take your order by telephone on +44 (0)1733 416477 during office hours, which are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. The timetable is also available on subscription.