

What's new this month

Welcome to the expanded European Rail Timetable, now with an extra 32 pages. Our coverage now includes principal rail services throughout Turkey and Russia, the new tables being numbered **1570 to 1590** and **1960 to 1990** respectively.

As previewed in the June and July editions, a major change from this edition is the introduction of a new **Beyond Europe** section, covering a different area of the world each month. In this edition the section covers **South East Asia and Australasia**, numbered from Table **6000** upwards.

AIRPORT LINKS

An extra page has been allocated to Table **5**, our Airport Links table, so that we can continue to expand the number of airports shown. This month we have added Minsk, Odesa, Tallinn, and Sochi, host city of the 2014 Olympic Winter Games. The latter airport, actually situated at Adler, is due to have its own railway station next year.

INTERNATIONAL

As a result of a correspondent's suggestion, **CNL 1258/1259** Zürich - Mannheim - Berlin has been added to Table **30** to show an additional overnight connection from Paris to Berlin by changing at Mannheim. Also, Table **49** now shows connections at Bern into train **EN 272/274** (Barcelona to Zürich) from Berlin, Frankfurt and Basel.

We understand that engineering work in the Saarbrücken and Metz areas on certain dates from August 1 until October 1 will delay the Paris bound *City Night Line* services from Berlin (**CNL 450/470**), Hamburg (**CNL 40479**), and München (**CNL 40418**) by up to three or four hours. This will diminish their effectiveness and *City Night Line* was considering whether to run on these particular dates as we went to press (Tables **20** and **32**).

City Night Line has withdrawn its restaurant cars from the Paris to Berlin, Hamburg and München sleeper services (Tables **20** and **32**). We are awaiting confirmation if the restaurant car will return to the Paris - Berlin service from November 1.

We have received *Thalys* timetables valid until December 10. Train **9342** 1416 Amsterdam to Paris and train **9327** 1125 Paris to Amsterdam will not run on Saturdays from September 3 (Table **18**). Engineering work in the Amsterdam area on September 10, October 8 and 9 will cause *Thalys* services to terminate at Schiphol (Tables **15** and **18**).

To provide more space in Table **56**, **EC 249/248** *Wawel* Hamburg to Kraków has been taken out and given its own Table **58**, whilst the old Table **58** has been renumbered **57**.

Trains **EC 15** 0909 Zürich to Milano and **EC 22** 1710 Milano to Zürich (Table **82**) are now formed of locomotive hauled stock instead of ETR 470 tilting units. The journey time has been increased as a result, with **EC 15** departing Zürich 38 minutes earlier and **EC 22** arriving Zürich 38 minutes later.

GREAT BRITAIN

Due to engineering work associated with the Chiltern mainline 'Evergreen 3' upgrade, Chiltern Railways services (Table **128**) are heavily altered from Saturday August 13 until Saturday August 27. Full details are available from either the Chiltern Railways or National Rail websites.

BELGIUM

The Belgian section has been expanded by one page and the opportunity taken to reorganise and restructure many of the tables.

As almost all trains shown within our pages are classified by Belgian Railways as Intercity or Interregional services, we have decided to show the route identity as classified by Belgian Railways in the tables. In order to assist travellers, footnotes detail the route, including originating and terminating stations, even if that station or that part of the route is not actually shown within our pages. It should be noted that some routes differ at weekends.

ITALY

Details of summer schedules were received too late for full inclusion last month, but all tables have now been updated.

SPAIN

Minor changes have been made to the *Avant* high-speed shuttle service between Madrid and Puertollano via Ciudad Real (Table **660**).

The direct *AVE* service between Toledo and Albacete via Madrid has been withdrawn (Table **668**). One *Alvia* pair between Madrid and València via Albacete has also been withdrawn, and the last two evening *AVE* services between Madrid and València have been combined.

Major engineering work is taking place at Barcelona Sants between August 4 and 27 and services from Barcelona to València, Alacant and Cartagena are affected (Table **672**). Most *Euromed* services will depart Barcelona Sants 35 minutes earlier; the *García Lorca*, train **697**, will depart at 0712 instead of 0800 and train **694** will arrive at Barcelona Sants 23 minutes later than normal.

PORTUGAL

Since the last edition, there is a revised timetable on the Lagos - Tunes - Faro line (Table **697**), and minor changes on several other lines. Certain journeys Entroncamento - Coimbra and Aveiro - Coimbra (Table **699**) have changed their days of running.

News broke recently that the Porto - Vigo cross-border service was under threat, but Portuguese and Spanish Railways have now come to a financial agreement that has secured its future.

No date has yet been announced for the completion of engineering work on the Evora and Beja lines (Table **698**), but changes are likely to be introduced at short notice.

SWEDEN

New schedules valid from August 14 are shown in this edition. Readers who require timings prior to this date should contact the editorial office. Opening of the southern section of the Botniabanan is not now likely to take place until the December 2011 timetable change, which should see through trains from Sundsvall to Örnsköldsvik and on to Umeå.

POLAND

Tables **1020** Gdynia - Poznań, **1060** Warszawa - Katowice and **1065** Warszawa - Kraków have benefitted from an additional page in the Polish section.

BULGARIA

Work to double and electrify the line between Plovdiv and Dimitrovgrad was originally scheduled to end on June 30, but will now continue until September 30. During this period domestic trains are replaced by bus between Pärvomai and Dimitrovgrad with journey times extended by up to 45 minutes. International trains *Balkan Express* and *Bosphor* are diverted and retimed as shown in Table **1550**.

TURKEY

This issue sees the introduction of services in Asian Turkey to the European Rail Timetable, with the addition of Tables **1570 to 1590**. The new high-speed line from Ankara to Konya is understood to be complete, but an opening date has not yet been announced.

ROMANIA

Schedules between Bucureşti and Constanţa have been improved following completion of the latest phase of trackworks. This has led to retimings of most services in Table **1680**. Of note, two return Bucureşti - Mangalia services run between the capital and Constanţa non-stop in 2 hours 30 minutes.

UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA

New Table **1795** has been added in order to improve our coverage of the area around Donetsk and Luhansk in the eastern part of Ukraine.

There are some changes to services in Moldova. The Warszawa - Chişinău cars, which run on alternate days, have been rerouted in the Ukraine via Korosten and now run in the *Kyiv Ekspres* (Table **1700**).

ESTONIA

Table **1880** has been expanded to show more clearly the connections from Tallinn to Riga by changing at Valga.

Buses will replace trains between Türi and Viljandi until Summer 2012 due to engineering work (Table **1890**).

LITHUANIA

The services from Vilnius to Kaunas (Table **1811**) and Vilnius to Vilnius Airport (now renumbered **1812**) are now shown in tabular form.

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What's new this month - *continued from page 3*

RUSSIA

A major expansion of our coverage of Russia sees several new pages added this month (Tables 1960 to 1990) along with new maps. Table 1990 shows all principal trains on the Trans-Siberian route.

Following withdrawal of the weekly Moskva - Pyongyang (North Korea) sleeping car via Harbin late last year, we are now showing in Table 1990 the through car which takes the much longer route via Tumangan, which is on the North Korean side of its short border with Russia. This carriage is attached to the *Rossiya*, the principal train on the Trans-Siberian route, and is detached at Ussuriysk, just 112 km short of Vladivostok. According to the Russian timetable, the journey between Moskva and Pyongyang is a staggering 10,272 km, taking eight days. The service runs twice monthly, although there is an additional service as far as Tumangan on four dates each month. Readers should note, however, that this route is not officially open to tourists.

Additional *Sapsan* high speed trains between Moskva and St Peterburg (Table 1900) have been introduced for the summer season. Mondays only train 154 from Moskva to St Peterburg will run additionally on Saturdays until August 27, whilst the reverse Sundays only train 163 will also run on Fridays until August 26.

SHIPPING

Brittany Ferries will be ending the summer season of its fast ferry service on the Poole - Cherbourg route on September 28, a month earlier than previously planned (Table 2145).

BEYOND EUROPE

From this edition onwards we are featuring a different area of the world each month in our new **Beyond Europe** section. Tables 6000 onwards will be found on pages 564 to 575, showing principal services in **South East Asia and Australasia**. See below for details of the areas that will be covered in forthcoming editions.

NEXT MONTH

As well as the latest updates to the timetables, the September edition will include a 20-page **Winter International Supplement**, showing provisional winter versions of selected tables valid from December 11. This will include details of the new Paris - Basel - Zürich services which will leave from Paris Gare de Lyon instead of Paris Est, and will use the new Rhin-Rhône high-speed line which shortens the route between Dijon and Mulhouse.

The September edition will also include our annual **High-Speed Trains** feature, whilst the **Beyond Europe** section will cover China.

If any readers would like to suggest additional airports that could usefully be added to our Airport Links table, we will also endeavour to include them next month!

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.

BEYOND EUROPE

With the Thomas Cook *Overseas Timetable* having ceased at the end of last year, we have been looking at ways in which we can continue to provide some of the information for services outside Europe to our readers. With this in mind, we have introduced from this month a new **Beyond Europe** section to the European Rail Timetable. Each monthly edition will cover a different area of the world, and there will be six areas, each appearing twice yearly as follows:

South East Asia and Australasia : *August and February editions*

China : *September and March editions*

Japan : *October and April editions*

North America : *November and May editions*

Africa and Middle East : *December and June editions*

India : *January and July editions*

Each **Beyond Europe** section will include principal rail services in the areas covered. The months have been chosen so that we can bring you up-to-date information for those countries which make seasonal changes.

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