

## What's new this month

This edition is going to press just a few days after the major schedule change of **December 9** which affected most of Europe. Inevitably there are late changes to certain timings, and some of our tables have been further updated this month.

### SAMPLE FARES FEATURE

Our annual Sample Fares feature will be found on pages 33 to 38. As usual it aims to give an idea of the level of fares payable in a wide range of European countries, and includes brief details of the various types of tickets available.

### CAR-CARRYING TRAINS

A new train will connect the Netherlands with Slovenia this summer when Euro-Express-Traincharter plans to introduce a weekly service from 's-Hertogenbosch to Koper, ideally situated for holidays in Istria or on the Adriatic coast (Table 1).

### INTERNATIONAL

**Table 17a** – Eurostar is introducing a new direct train from London to Lyon Part Dieu, Avignon TGV and Aix en Provence TGV on nine Saturdays in May and June. The train will continue empty to Marseille before returning to Aix to pick up passengers. Due to border controls and security requirements, the London-bound service will necessitate a change of train in Lille Europe, where passengers will have to leave the train with their luggage to undergo customs formalities before reboarding. Normal service will be resumed in July and August when Eurostar will run to Avignon Centre as in previous years. If the trial service to Aix en Provence is successful it may pave the way for a longer season in 2014.

**Tables 13, 49** – The Barcelona - Girona - Figueres high-speed line is due to open on January 7 for domestic trains, and the Figueres - Barcelona trains which connect with the Paris - Figueres TGVs will be accelerated by about 50 minutes. International trains are not expected to be extended to Barcelona before April at the earliest.

**Table 44** – The Lyon - Torino buses no longer appear in railway timetables and have been removed from this table. Thello plans to introduce trains on this route at some point in the future.

**Table 46** – Due to engineering work, the five times a week Elipsos Trenhotel **407 Francisco de Goya** runs in four different paths, with the Sunday departure from Madrid not arriving into Paris until Monday afternoon at 1220.

**Table 51** – We understand that the Berlin - Kaliningrad summer only service has been withdrawn and we are waiting to hear if the Gdynia - Malbork - Kaliningrad service (Table **1038**) will run.

**Table 59** – Futher to last month's report regarding the diversion of the weekly Nice - Moskva train (**18/17**), we understand that it does not call at Venezia Mestre and Klagenfurt.

**Table 88** – With further Venezia - Milano trains now being extended through to Torino, the opportunity has been taken to add Torino Porta Susa and Torino Porta Nuova to Table **88**.

**Table 96** – As expected train **51/52 Wrocław - Kraków - Lviv - Kyiv** has been withdrawn together with the Przemysł - Kyiv cars (Table **1056**) and the alternate day Przemysł - Lviv - Chişinău cars (Table **1730**).

### IRELAND

Northern Ireland Railways will introduce a new timetable from January 6 and Tables **230**, **231** and **233** have been updated. Readers who require timings before January 6 should refer to the December edition. Certain Belfast - Dublin *Enterprise* services are stopping additionally at Lisburn. An hourly service will be introduced between Belfast and Portrush (Table **231**) on Mondays to Saturdays.

Iarnród Éireann services in this edition are valid to January 19.

### FRANCE

A late change is that the rail service from Calais to Dunkerque (Table **259**) was suspended from December 9 and not March 31 as originally planned. The line will remain closed for the rest of the year. In its place the bus service operated by Ligne BCD is shown (rail tickets are valid).

Buses will replace trains between Ussel and Clermont Ferrand (Table **326**) until February 1, and the temporary timetable will be found on page 558. The timetable for the replacement buses between Grenoble and Valence also has a late change - the latest version is shown in Table **364**.

Montluçon has a new non-stop bus journey to Limoges (Table **303**), and another to Vichy (Table **327**) where passengers can change onto a train for Lyon. The Montluçon - Gannat line (Table **329**) will be closed for track work from March 4 with bus substitution.

The large amount of engineering work currently taking place in France is affecting many lines, and changes may take place at short notice.

### ITALY

Further information has been received from Trenitalia, and many more timings have been checked and updated. There are a number of additional high-speed trains in Table **600**, some starting mid-January. In a late change, up to five minutes extra running time has been added to some high-speed journeys, notably affecting southbound departures from Torino and Milano, many of which are five minutes earlier.

There is considerable change in the Cuneo area where services now run to a more regular pattern (Tables **581/2**).

### SPAIN

As mentioned under the International heading, the Barcelona - Figueres high-speed line is due to open on January 7 for domestic services. As we were going to press, outline timetable details were received, with *AVE* departures from Barcelona Sants at 0735, 0905, 1050, 1250, 1450, 1615, 1850, 1925 and 2050. Journey time to Girona is 40 minutes and to Figueres Vilafant 55 minutes. Departures from Figueres Vilafant to Barcelona are at 0650, 0750, 0850, 1050, 1250, 1450, 1650, 1950 and 2040, departing Girona 16 minutes later. Further details will be shown next month.

Certain services on the Castejón de Ebro - Pamplona - Vitoria/Gasteiz axis have been extended to Zaragoza by combining with Zaragoza - Castejón de Ebro - Logroño trains (Table **653**). The Barcelona - La Molina seasonal weekend train has been extended to Puigcerdà (Table **656**).

### PORTUGAL

All of the Lisboa - Porto - Braga *Alfa Pendular* trains now call additionally at Nine (Table **695**).

### POLAND

Polish Railways have issued timetables only until February 9 and therefore all services are subject to alteration from February 10. As mentioned last month, many local services in the Śląskie region centered on Katowice were taken over by Koleje Śląskie from December 9. Unfortunately, due to a catalogue of problems, certain services had to be contracted back to Przewozy Regionalne within days of the changeover. As we went to press details were still being finalised.

### BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

It is reported that the Novi Grad to Bihać (Table **1350**), and Brčko to Tuzla (Table **1358**) lines have closed, although this may possibly only be temporary.

### BULGARIA

Most services between Sofia and Mezdra are retimed until April 20 owing to engineering work in the Mezdra area. Tables **1500** and **1520** have been updated with the new timings.

### MOLDOVA

Moldovan Railways have issued a new timetable and Tables **1726** and **1730** have been updated.

### RUSSIA

From January 20 there will be minor changes to the high-speed *Sapsan* service between Moskva and St Petersburg (Table **1900**): the 1345 journey from St Petersburg will be reduced from daily to Fridays and Sundays, whilst the twice weekly 1925 journey will be withdrawn.

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's section covers **India** (Tables **5000** upwards).

### RAIL PASSES

From January 1 the Eurail Global pass for non-European residents will be valid in Turkey, as well as the 23 countries already covered. Turkey will also be a new option in the Eurail Select Pass scheme allowing travel in 3, 4 or 5 adjoining countries. At the same time France will no longer feature in the Select Pass scheme.

### NEXT MONTH

The February edition will contain an 18-page Summer International Supplement, with selected tables valid from June 9. As usual, it will be expanded in the March edition, and the April and May supplements will contain summer versions of all our international tables.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

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and thank you to all the operators and correspondents who have supplied information