

## What's new this month

### WELCOME

Welcome to the January 2015 edition of the *European Rail Timetable*, an opportune time to wish all of our readers a very happy New Year.

Following the start of the new timetable period on December 14, we have been able to confirm and update timings in many of our tables. In certain countries only partial information was available in time for our December issue, but it has now been possible to include all of the remaining schedules.

### ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, editors of *hidden europe* magazine, explore southern Italy on a fascinating journey from Napoli to Taranto (Table 638).

### INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar will run 36 extra services over the school half-term holiday period in February.

Engineering work will affect services on the high-speed line between Paris and Lille from January 6 with many Eurostar services from and to Paris retimed by a few minutes (Table 10). From January 6 to July 11 the majority of Eurostar services from Paris will depart three minutes earlier. In the opposite direction, from January 6 to January 19 all Eurostar trains to Paris will arrive three minutes later and then from January 20 to May 23 will arrive up to 21 minutes later.

Eurostar will introduce a new direct train from London to Marseille from May 1, calling at Lyon Part Dieu and Avignon TGV (Tables 11 and 17a). Due to border controls and security requirements, passengers on the London-bound service will be required to leave the train at Lille Europe with their luggage to undergo customs formalities before rejoining the same train. The length of the stop at Lille, previously reported as 103 minutes, has now been reduced to 75 minutes, resulting in an earlier London arrival time of 2212.

The two additional *EC Thello* services between Nice and Milano mentioned last month, are expected to commence from April 12 (Table 90).

One noteworthy item that was included in Table 95 last month but not mentioned in *Newslines*, is the introduction of a weekly service between Moskva and Budapest via Brest, Warszawa and Bratislava running in train 22/21 *Vltava*. This partially compensates for the withdrawal of train 16/15 *Tisza* in December.

Another service introduced to replace the recently withdrawn train 16/15 is the daily 601/608 *Zakarpattya* Bratislava – Lviv – Kyiv (Table 96).

### FRANCE

Table 265 now has confirmed timings for the bus journeys operated by *Ligne BCD* between Calais Ville and Calais Fréthun, connecting with TGV trains to and from Paris. Newly added to this table are further buses between these points (when there is no suitable train) connecting with Eurostar's Brussels services shown in Table 10.

In a late development, we have been advised that all rail services between Montréjeau and Luchon have been withdrawn, including the direct couchette cars serving Paris via Toulouse (Table 325).

### ITALY

Further information has been received from Trenitalia, and most timings have been checked and updated.

Rho-Fiera Milano station has been renamed Rho Fiera Expo Milano 2015 in preparation for the nutritional exhibition 'Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life' which opens on May 1. Consequently, additional services (including Torino – Milano *Frecciabianca* services) will stop on certain days and, owing to the complexity of the variations, our tables in the area are valid only until April 25 but will be updated in a later edition (Tables 585 and 590).

Not reported previously is the addition of Roma Fiumicino airport to the *Frecciargento* network with the introduction of two direct train pairs serving Roma Termini, Firenze, Bologna and Venezia (Table 600).

### DENMARK

Readers should be aware of forthcoming engineering work between Odense and Fredericia, scheduled to take place from late March to early August, which will result in retimings and cancellations (Table 700).

### ICELAND

Previously summer only, bus services now operate all year round to the Westfjords (Table 729).

### NORWAY

There had been doubts over the future of the Porsgrunn to Notodden local service (Table 779) but continuation of the service is now confirmed until at least June 13.

### GERMANY

All services to and from Leipzig are subject to alteration from February 24 to March 2 with many trains not serving Leipzig Hbf. In addition, timings of certain long distance trains between Halle and Leipzig may be altered by a few minutes from January 12 to February 5.

### SLOVAKIA

The two cross-border trains between Čierna nad Tisou and Chop have been retimed, by several hours in some cases. The revised times are shown in Table 1195.

### HUNGARY

Some of the cross-border local trains between Záhony in Hungary and Chop in Ukraine have revised timings from January 1, as shown in Table 1270.

Due to reconstruction of a bridge on the approaches to Budapest Keleti station, there will be alterations to schedules between January 5 and March 6. Certain trains to and from Győr, Hegyeshalom, Szobathely and Sopron (Table 1250) will use Budapest Déli station instead of Keleti - this affects the 9000 series train numbers (*EC* and *IC* trains are not affected). Other services retimed are mostly local trains (also trains to Baja) but passengers are advised to recheck before travel.

### CROATIA, BOSNIA, SERBIA, MONTENEGRO and MACEDONIA

Full schedules have now been received for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Montenegro, and all tables updated.

Additionally, new timings for local services in Serbia, which we were unable to confirm last month, are now finalised and the relevant tables updated.

### GREECE

No sooner had we reported that passengers travelling between Athina and Halkida were required to change trains at Inói, than the service was again restructured and the necessary change of train is now at Afidnai (Table 1420).

### BULGARIA

We have been made aware of reports that there may be a significant number of service withdrawals from February 1. The timings currently shown in our Bulgarian section are those advertised for the December timetable change but we would strongly advise intending travellers to confirm their journey plans before departure, particularly if travelling from February 1.

### TURKEY

A new high-speed service has been introduced between Istanbul (Pendik) and Konya, effectively extending the previous Eskisehir to Konya service. There are two services provided in each direction with morning and evening departures (Table 1570). Bus connections between Konya and Alanya have also been added to this table.

Rail services between Konya and Karaman are suspended until March 30 due to engineering work with a replacement bus service in operation (Table 1581). It appears that services between Karaman and Adana may also be suspended during this period and it is not clear whether or not replacement road transport is provided between these points.

### ROMANIA

The temporarily suspended Sofia – Bucureşti – Chernivtsi – Moskva service (382/3 *Bulgaria Expres*) has been replaced for the interim period by an *IR* train between Bucureşti and Suceava, running in the same timings (Table 1680).

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

### LITHUANIA

On January 1 Lithuania became the latest country to join the Euro single currency zone.

### SHIPPING

The 2015 season will see *Blue Line* and *SNAV* operate a joint daily service between Ancona and Split, commencing on March 28 and sailing overnight in both directions (Table 2725).

The Strömstad to Sandefjord sailings of *Fjord Line* have been added to Table 2387.

There are two withdrawals to report this month. *DFDS* was to close its Portsmouth to Le Havre route at the end of 2014 (Table 2165), and the Trapani to Cagliari route of *Tirrenia* will not operate this year (Table 2675).

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers India with tables numbered 5000 upwards. There have been no major changes since the Indian tables were last featured, although there have been some alterations to timings.

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