

What's new this month

WELCOME

Following the start of the new timetable period on December 10, we have been busy rechecking many of our tables and making any necessary adjustments to reflect confirmed schedules. We will, of course, continue the process of checking and updating our tables throughout the year.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

A popular route for rail journeys between London and Germany is that via Brussels and Aachen, often using a direct German ICE train from Brussels to connect with the Eurostar service. For our Route of the Month, which will be found on page 36, it is the eastbound ICE journey across eastern Belgium to the German border city of Aachen that is described by our regular travel correspondents, Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries. Despite running on high-speed lines for much of the journey, it is a trip with numerous points of interest.

SPAIN

The morning *Media Distancia* train from Badajoz to Madrid (**17197/17199**) and evening return service (**17194**) will be classified *Talgo* from March 1 (numbered **197/199/194** respectively) which means that first class accommodation will also be available on these services (Table 677).

GERMANY

As mentioned in last month's *Newslines*, the Hamburg – Rostock – Stralsund route will be affected by engineering work from January 8 to April 14. During this period the section of line between Schwerin and Bad Kleinen will be completely closed to rail traffic with replacement buses running. Full details of the alternative travel arrangements are now available and our special version of Table **830**, valid during the work, has been fully updated and will be found on page 566. Please note that journeys between Hamburg and Rostock can be made without having to use a replacement bus service by travelling via Lübeck (as indicated in the temporary table). The Wismar – Schwerin – Berlin service (Table **837**) is also affected with buses running between Wismar and Schwerin, details of which will also be found on page 566.

A new local cross border service, operated by *eurobahn*, between Bad Bentheim (Germany) and Hengelo (Netherlands) is due to start running from January 14. This useful new link is provided by extending the hourly Bielefeld – Bad Bentheim service a few kilometres across the border, with all trains also calling at Oldenzaal (Table **811**).

Timings for the *Weißeritztalbahn* tourist railway have been added to Table **853**. This line last featured in this publication back in 2002 before the line was severely damaged by floods. The line, which provides daily steam operated services throughout the year, fully reopened to Kurort Kipsdorf last summer.

POLAND

All tables have now been fully updated to show schedules valid until March 10.

SLOVAKIA

Wien has been added to Table **1180** in order to show the through Wien – Bratislava – Košice *IC* train introduced in December.

HUNGARY

Budapest – Debrecen – Nyíregyháza trains are currently arriving 10–15 minutes later due to engineering work, and these temporary timings are shown in Table **1270**. Those *IC* trains which normally continue beyond Nyíregyháza to Miskolc (and back to Budapest) now terminate at Nyíregyháza and do not connect with the Miskolc trains. Similar arrangements apply in the other direction, with earlier departures in Table **1270**. Timings shown in this edition are valid to February 25 but the engineering work is understood to continue beyond that date.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Schedules for services in both the Bosnian Federation (ŽFBH) and Republic Srpska (ŽRS), unavailable at press date last month, have now been updated.

SERBIA-MONTENEGRO and MACEDONIA

Schedules for local services have been received and all tables updated accordingly. Beograd centar station has been added to a number of tables to reflect its growing importance; all local services between the capital and Niš (Table **1380**) and Užice (Table **1370**), and most Novi Sad trains (Table **1360**) now use Beograd centar station.

GREECE

A few minor alterations have been made to timings. The most significant change sees the early morning Paleofársalos to Kalambáka service depart at 0400, 38 minutes earlier than before (Table **1408**).

TURKEY

The timings of connecting bus services shown in Table **1570** have been amended although, as with the high-speed train services, it is unclear how long these particular schedules will remain in force.

All regional services have now been checked and some timings and train numbers have been amended.

ROMANIA

Further updates have been made to tables and all local services have now been fully checked, including those run by private operators.

UKRAINE

One of the four trains each way between Przemyśl and Lviv (Table **1732**) is train **51/2** operated by Polish Railways. Information available as we went to press with our Winter edition suggested that the through sleepers from Wrocław and Warszawa to Lviv in this train had been withdrawn, but these reappeared in the final version of the Polish timetable, with the Warszawa portion starting back from Gdynia, and train **51/2** retimed. Rather than reintroduce Table **97**, the information is now shown in an expanded Table **1732**.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers India and will be found on pages 570 to 581. All tables have been checked against the latest available information with the only changes being of a minor nature.

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