

What's new this month

As well as numerous updates to the current winter timings, this edition includes a **Summer International Supplement** on pages 572 to 605, with selected advance timings valid from June 10. The Supplement has been expanded and updated since last month's edition, and now contains Tables **10** to **68** (Summer). It will be further expanded next month so that the April and May editions will contain summer versions of all our International tables.

CRUISE TRAINS AND RAIL HOLIDAYS

Our annual feature covering luxury cruise trains and holidays by rail will be found on pages 33 to 38. A selection of special day excursions by train is also included, both in the UK and in continental Europe.

CAR-CARRYING TRAINS

As is normal in alternate editions (when we have a special feature, above), Tables **1** and **2** showing car-carrying trains are shown in summary form only and reduced to one page. However, the recent further contraction of the European motorail network has created space to allow more detail to be shown of the remaining services (page 40).

AIRPORT LINKS

Tbilisi airport in Georgia is the latest addition to Table **5** but at the moment it is only served by four trains a day.

A new rail link opened in February from Sochi airport to Sochi via Adler, initially with four trains a day (see Table **1960** for timings). The route is operated by Aeroexpress, who also run the rail links between Moskva and the three Moskva airports (Table **1901**).

INTERNATIONAL

With the impending extension from March 23 of a Strasbourg - Marseille TGV train to run between Frankfurt and Marseille, two versions of Table **47** are shown this month on page 73. The second version shows the improved connections from and to destinations in Germany which will be available from that date.

Due to engineering work in the Dijon and Dole regions, Lyria has had to cancel services on certain dates from Paris to Genève, Zürich, Lausanne and Bern (Tables **14**, **40**, **42**).

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.

Services to and from Istanbul are subject to alteration until further notice, and trains may be replaced by bus for part of the journey. For further details see under the Turkey heading.

Table **14** shows the possibility of an overnight journey between Paris and Genève Eaux-Vives changing at La Roche sur Foron. Previously this involved a further change at Annemasse, but a direct bus connection from La Roche sur Foron to Genève Eaux-Vives is now shown. The closure of the latter station in December and the reopening of Chêne Bourg station (closer to Annemasse) has prompted the redrawing of our Genève city plan on page 29 to show a wider area.

GREAT BRITAIN

On February 5 the operator of LE routes in Britain (see page 97) changed from National Express East Anglia to Abellio Greater Anglia. The summer timetable in Great Britain will come into effect on May 14.

FRANCE

Many of our tables have been rechecked from the latest information, which has revealed further late changes following the huge shake-up of timetables which took place in mid-December. One change of note is that TGV train **6127** (1819 Paris to Marseille) now calls at Lyon St Exupéry Airport. 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

Minor restructuring has taken place this month. Table **610** has been split into two at Pisa: Torino/Milano - Pisa remains as Table **610**, but Pisa - Roma has become new Table **611**. The previous Table **611**, Siena - Chiusi-Chianciano Terme, has been renumbered **619**.

SPAIN

Due to ongoing engineering work between Albacete and València and Alacant (Table **668**), services have increased journey times with later arrivals and earlier departures in València and Alacant.

Trains between Alcázar de San Juan and Ciudad Real (Table **678**) have been retimed slightly, including the 0800 departure from Alcázar de San Juan which now leaves at 0740.

The route from Palma to Enllaç via Inca on the island of Mallorca (Table **674**) has been electrified, and passengers now have to change trains at Enllaç for onward travel to sa Pobla and Manacor. Certain services have been accelerated by up to five minutes.

DENMARK

The saga regarding Danish Railways' type IC4 trains continues and once again they have been temporarily removed from service resulting in significant timetable changes. Trains to Kastrup airport and services between Århus and Aalborg are amongst those affected. Consequently, Tables **700** and **701** have been revised and the latter table is now valid only until June 9.

SWEDEN

At the end of January, Swedish Railways made some amendments affecting Table **730** which primarily concern the through København services. Trains **500/501** have been withdrawn but trains **519/524** now extend to/from København. The 1706 from Stockholm (train **505**) now runs to Malmö only, and a new departure at 1716 (train **509**) will run through to København (arrive 2231) daily except Saturdays.

There are also additional trains from March 12: train **528** 0811 Mondays to Saturdays from Malmö to Stockholm, train **504** 1643 daily except Saturdays from Malmö to Stockholm, and train **523** 0714 Mondays to Fridays from Stockholm to Malmö. Train **532**, the 1013 departure from Malmö to Stockholm, is also amended and will run only on Saturdays from March 12. Engineering work between Hässeleholm and Lund over the weekend of March 10/11 will affect services on this route and a special timetable will operate.

FINLAND

Timings in Finland this month are valid from March 5 to June 3, although the changes from March 5 are very minor in nature.

GERMANY

There are a number of long-distance train number alterations in place until March 31, details of which were previously shown in a special panel on page 367. However, for this month the panel has been moved to page 607 so that the Engineering Work Summary panel can be expanded to show details of the seemingly ever increasing number of locations where engineering work is taking place!

The narrow gauge Mollibahn in northern Germany has now partially reopened with trains operating between Rennbahn and Kühlungsborn West. A replacement bus service continues to operate the 4km between Rennbahn and Bad Doberan stations. Table **833** has been updated with details of this service which is valid until March 29.

Summer schedules for the *Harzer Schmalspurbahnen*, valid from April 28, will be found on page 607. Schedules for the Romantische Straße bus route have also been updated for the 2012 season (Table **927**).

POLAND

Most services in Poland have been revised from March 1, including the Warszawa - Łódź route (Table **1090**), the Gdynia - Bydgoszcz - Poznań service (Table **1020**) and the Gdynia - Warszawa route (Table **1030**), with the Warszawa to Łódź and Gdynia timetables being completely recast.

CZECH REPUBLIC

From February 20 Student Agency has increased its Praha - Ostrava *RegioJet* service from five trains each way to seven (Table **1160**).

SLOVAKIA

From February 13 there were some very minor timing changes in the Humenné area affecting Table **1194**. From March 4 the Bratislava - Dunajská Streda - Komárno service will be operated by Student Agency instead of Slovak Railways, with a new regular interval timetable as shown in Table **1171**.

GREECE

Due to the lack of international rail services we have introduced new Table **1460** this month giving outline details of a number of international bus services linking Greece with Bulgaria, Macedonia and Turkey.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 571

What's new this month - continued from page 3

TURKEY

The situation regarding the suspension of services from Haydarpaşa in Table 1570 has now become clear. No long distance trains are running between Haydarpaşa and Arifiye, and from there only a limited service is running to and from Eskişehir. Most long distance trains that formerly started from or terminated at Haydarpaşa have been withdrawn completely or cut back to start and terminate at Ankara.

Less clear is the situation in European Turkey where the *Bosphor/Balkan Express* overnight service is expected to be operated by bus for part of the journey within Turkey (possibly between Çerkezköy and Istanbul) from late February and continuing for the foreseeable future. Details of changes to domestic trains are not known at present.

UKRAINE, BELARUS, RUSSIA

The two-hour time difference entering Belarus or Russia from the Ukraine, Poland, Baltic States or Finland will once again be reduced to one hour from March 25 when the latter countries put their clocks forward for the summer. With Russia and Belarus no longer adopting daylight saving time (but having moved to permanent 'summer' time) there will be an effect on the timings of many international trains crossing these borders. Many of our tables show both sets of timings but as information on the revised train times for the period up to March 24 was limited (in particular those between Russia and the Ukraine) changes of up to an hour are likely until that date.

A separate version of Table 1910 showing the revised international service between St Petersburg and Helsinki from March 25 is shown on page 607.

SHIPPING

On February 17 DFDS Seaways and LD Lines launched a joint service between Dover and Calais. Initially, there are five daily sailings (four on Sundays), although this is expected to increase in future with the addition of a second ship. It appears, however, that foot passengers are not accepted. Readers may recall that the recent demise of SeaFrance had left P & O Ferries as the sole operator of this famous cross-channel route (Table 2110).

BEYOND EUROPE

The **Beyond Europe** section covers a different area of the world outside Europe each month, rotating around six different areas, and has become an established part of the timetable since it started last year. This month it is the turn once again of **China**. Since this section was last published there has been a slow down in the construction of high-speed lines and many scheduled openings have not yet taken place. However one that did is the Guangzhou nan - Shenzhen bei line, which will eventually be extended into Hong Kong (Table 7055).

SUMMER SUPPLEMENT

Tables 10 to 68 (Summer) will be found on pages 572 to 605 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 Airport, which will open a few days earlier on June 3.

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

CLOCK CHANGE

Summer time will commence as usual in the early hours of Sunday March 25, with clocks going forward by one hour in all European countries, with the exception of Belarus, Russia and Iceland. Night train arrivals may be affected that day.

NEXT MONTH

As well as the latest changes to current timings, the April edition (available from March 23) will contain the full version of the Summer International Supplement, containing all our International tables valid from June 10.

EUROPE BY RAIL

A new revised edition of our guidebook **Europe by Rail** is now available. Subtitled *The Definitive Guide for Independent Travellers* it provides an ideal companion to the timetable and Rail Map of Europe.

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.

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