

## What's new this month

With this, the March 2013 edition, we are proud to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the timetable. To mark the event we are including a special 16-page Anniversary Supplement at the front of this edition. We are also pleased to announce a new regular item called *Route of the Month*, written for us by travel writers Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, who produce the magazine *hidden europe*. Our first *Route of the Month* is entitled *East to Vienna*, and appropriately appears as part of our Anniversary Supplement, since Thomas Cook himself was escorting parties to Vienna at around the same time that the timetable started in 1873.

We have also included in the Anniversary feature a further piece by Nicky and Susanne entitled *The Book of Hours* reflecting on the role of printed railway timetables today. We are also grateful to Simon Calder and Mark Smith for their introductory comments at the beginning of the special section.

### 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.

### INTERNATIONAL

Due to technical issues with the new *Fyra* high-speed trains which were recently introduced onto the Amsterdam - Brussels route (Tables 15 and 18), all international *Fyra* services have been suspended, and it is believed that it could be some time before the issues are resolved. As an interim measure, two pairs of trains have been introduced between Den Haag HS and Brussels using the classic line, although on Saturdays and Sundays they are running only between Den Haag and Antwerpen. From March 11 the service will be increased to eight trains each way, running every two hours between Den Haag and Brussels (Antwerpen at weekends).

Passengers from Amsterdam can use the domestic *Fyra* trains, changing at Rotterdam onto the temporary service to Antwerpen or Brussels, as shown in Table 18. The domestic *Fyra* trains continue to run normally between Amsterdam and Breda using the high-speed line and, being loco hauled, are not affected by the problems. Passengers holding international tickets between Amsterdam and Brussels may use these services between Amsterdam and Rotterdam without paying the usual supplement.

Of course, through services between Brussels and Amsterdam continue to be available by *Thalys* train. Although now more complex than hitherto, we have attempted in Table 15 to show the best connections available from London to Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

No date has yet been announced for the introduction of through *TGV* services between Paris and Barcelona (Table 13). We can be certain, however, that the proposed date of April 1 which was being suggested at the beginning of the year will not be achieved, as the *TGV* rolling stock is still awaiting approval for running on the recently opened high-speed section from Figueres to Barcelona.

Due to engineering work in France, the Paris - Venezia night train operated by Thello (Table 44) will be delayed in both directions on the mornings of April 30, and May 3, 4. Southbound arrivals will be up to 104 minutes later, and northbound arrivals at Dijon and Paris will be up to 51 minutes later. Furthermore, on 19 dates in March and April *Elipsos Trenhotel 475 Joan Miró* Barcelona to Paris will depart Barcelona 90 minutes earlier, arriving Paris 1 hour 43 minutes earlier.

Note that both bus operators plying the Madrid - Lisboa route (Table 45) have altered their schedules.

### GREAT BRITAIN

Services from Doncaster to Hull, Scunthorpe, Grimsby and Cleethorpes (Tables 192 and 193) are affected by a colliery landslip at Hatfield and Stainforth. Northern Rail services on the Doncaster - Goole - Hull route are diverted via Selby with a replacement bus service between Doncaster and Goole. A revised hourly rail service is available between Goole and Hull. Transpennine services from Doncaster to Grimsby and Cleethorpes are replaced by buses between Doncaster and Scunthorpe. This disruption is likely to continue for several months.

### FRANCE

In connection with the *CEVA* new line project (Cornavin - Eaux-Vives - Annemasse) the Genève Eaux-Vives to Annemasse line was cut back in December 2011 to Chêne Bourg in the suburbs of Genève, as shown in Table 366a. However, from April 1 this year the line will be closed altogether and replaced with a bus service from Genève Cornavin (the main station) to Annemasse. Numbered 61, the bus service will run every 15 minutes from 0600 to 2000 and every 30 minutes 2000 to 2200. On Saturdays and Sundays it will run every 30 minutes from 0600 (0800 on Sundays) to 2200. The journey time will be 37 to 44 minutes, according to the time of day.

### SPAIN

The two pairs of Barcelona to Sevilla and Málaga *AVE* services (Tables 650 and 660) now run combined as one train between Barcelona and Córdoba in both directions causing some retimings.

Some reductions in frequency have occurred on certain *AVE* services between Madrid and Sevilla and Madrid and Málaga (Table 660). *AVE 2102* Madrid to Málaga is retired to run over two hours earlier and now departs Madrid at 0825. It is renumbered **2082** and runs non-stop.

The multi-portioned *Arco 280/283 Camino de Santiago* Irún/Bilbao - Vigo/A Coruña has lost one of its portions. The Bilbao - Monforte de Lemos - Betanzos-Infesta - A Coruña service has been withdrawn but connections by *MD* train, in the same timings, are available at Monforte de Lemos for A Coruña via Betanzos-Infesta (Tables 680, 682 and 689).

The two semi-fast through journeys from Bilbao to Hendaye which Euskotren ran on Saturdays on Sundays (Table 686) have been withdrawn.

### GERMANY

The next phase of work to upgrade the line between Hamburg and Hannover is scheduled to take place from March 2 to August 22. During this period a revised timetable will be in operation and all relevant tables have been updated to reflect the new schedules.

From March 4 to October 5 the line between Schaffhausen and Erzingen will be temporarily closed so that the route can be doubled and electrified. Table 939 has been updated to show the amended timetable with buses replacing trains between Schaffhausen and Erzingen/Lauchringen.

Since September 2012 the route between Berlin and Rostock has been temporarily closed so that major upgrade work can take place. The line was due to reopen to traffic from April 26, but the section south of Neustrelitz will now remain closed until June 9. Details of the revised timetable between April 27 and June 9 will be published in the May edition.

### POLAND

From February 10 there were significant retimings throughout Poland as shown in our tables. Amongst the changes is the withdrawal of the local service between Elblag and Braniewo (Table 1038). Further changes are expected from April 14. From March 3, all services operated by PKP Intercity will require compulsory reservation, including those *TLK* services which previously only required it in first class.

Warszawa Modlin Airport station has been added to Table 1030 to show the *TLK* trains to Olsztyn and Gdynia which call there. Details of the semi-fast *Koleje Mazowieckie* trains from Warszawa to the airport are also now listed in the notes to this table (previously shown in Table 1099).

### TURKEY

Due to engineering work, services between Arifiye and Eskişehir in Table 1570 are suspended until at least March 28.

### RUSSIA

Additional services will run between Moskva and St Peterburg over the March holiday period (Table 1900).

### SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

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, valid from June 9.

Eurostar services in the Summer Supplement (Table 10 Summer) are valid from June 2 to August 31.

The plan to introduce a *TGV* service between Lille and Amsterdam from July appears to have been dropped for this year. Thello hopes to reintroduce Nice - Milano *IC* trains, but it remains to be seen if this will come to fruition this summer. Lyon - Torino *EC* services are also in the planning stage at Thello, and could possibly be introduced from December 2013. This would restore a through rail service on this route after a break of several years.

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers China, which is significantly revised following the opening of further high-speed lines.

### CLOCK CHANGE

Summer time (also known as Daylight Saving Time) will commence in the early hours of Sunday March 31, with clocks going forward as usual by one hour in all European countries, with the exception of Belarus, Russia and Iceland. Night train arrivals may be affected that day.