

## What's new this month

In this final edition of the winter timetable period, most timings in Continental Europe are valid until June 8. In addition, advance summer timings for our international tables are shown at the back of this edition in the **Summer International Supplement** on pages 570 to 618, valid from June 9. Timings for Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine, however, are valid until May 25, whilst other exceptions include Finland, valid to June 2, and Sweden, where our tables are valid until June 29. British timings in this edition are subject to minor variation from May 19 and the full summer timings will be shown next month.

### RAIL PASSES

Our special **Rail Passes** feature has been updated with the latest information and will be found on pages 33 to 39. As well as details of the InterRail, Eurail, and Britrail schemes, we also list a wide range of passes for individual countries or areas, including city passes and visitor cards for major cities.

One noteworthy change is that the European East pass, previously only available to non-European residents, can now be purchased by anyone who is not resident in the countries covered by the pass, namely Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Note also that Corsica and the Nice - Digne narrow gauge line no longer offer discounts to railpass holders.

### ROUTE OF THE MONTH

*Table 10: The 11.31 to Paris* is the title of this month's Route of the Month written by Nicky Gardner, describing the high-speed route taken by Eurostar trains between London and Paris. It will be found on page 621.

### INTERNATIONAL

The introduction of through Paris - Barcelona TGV trains, which it was hoped would commence from April 28, has been delayed. No new date has been announced, but we understand that it will not open before May 30 at the earliest. Once open, two direct services will operate daily with a third operating on three days a week between the two cities (Table 13). Additionally, two S100 AVE train pairs will operate daily between Barcelona and Toulouse (Table 49).

Restaurant cars have been introduced on the InterCity services between Amsterdam and Berlin (Table 22).

### FRANCE

Ongoing engineering work on the Lille - St Quentin route means that most journeys are replaced by bus between Busigny and St Quentin until June 9, as shown in Table 257.

### BELGIUM

Amended domestic schedules on the Brussels - Antwerpen - Roosendaal route valid from March 11, which were unavailable in time for publication in our previous edition, are now shown (Tables 420/1).

### SWITZERLAND

The engineering work between Vallorcine and Argentière, which has been ongoing since December 21, has been extended to the whole Le Châtelard Frontière - Chamonix - St Gervais section since April 2. Buses replace trains until June 28 (Tables 365a and 572).

### SPAIN

The proposed Fridays only MD service from Miranda de Ebro to Bilbao returning on Sundays, with connections to and from Madrid (reported in last month's Newslines) did not materialise after all.

Renfe have introduced a new Fridays only Intercity service from Madrid to Pamplona/Iruña returning on Sundays (Tables 650a, 653). Also, two pairs of Barcelona - Pamplona/Iruña Intercity services have been extended to Vitoria/Gasteiz at the weekends.

The latest Spanish high speed line is expected to open between Albacete and Alacant in June.

### DENMARK

Engineering work will, once again, take place on the København - Kalundborg route this summer. During the period May 18 - September 1 services will be replaced by bus between Roskilde (Vest) and Holbæk. Amended schedules are shown in Table 704.

On Jutland, Arriva services will also be affected by engineering work around Skjern. The routes to Esbjerg (Table 707) and Herring (Table 713) will be subject to bus substitution for at least part of the journey from June 1 to August 11 and May 25 to August 19 respectively.

As we went to press, it appeared that the Limfjord bridge north of Aalborg would reopen to traffic on April 29 (one week later than reported last month - Table 701).

### ICELAND

Table 729 showing principal bus services in Iceland has been restructured to reflect the introduction of additional services. Strætó, the operator of city buses in Reykjavik, now also runs subsidised all-year services on long-distance routes, leaving from the Mjódd bus terminal in the suburbs. As a result, Sterna, whose services are aimed principally at tourists (with sightseeing stops) has cut back its routes to run only during the summer. We are grateful to Andreas Macrander for supplying detailed information.

### SWEDEN

Buses will replace trains between Åstorp and Helsingborg for the remainder of the current timetable (Table 734).

### FINLAND

From April 22 to June 20 a revised timetable is in operation for services via Pieksämäki/Kuopio. During the period 0700 to 1400 buses replace trains between Pieksämäki and Kuopio. At other times journey times are extended by a few minutes with earlier departures/ later arrivals possible. Table 798 has been updated with the revised timings.

### GERMANY

Since September 10, 2012 the route between Berlin and Rostock via Neustrelitz has been temporarily closed so that major upgrade work can take place. The whole line was due to reopen to traffic on April 27, but the section between Neustrelitz and Oranienburg will now remain closed until June 8. Table 835 has been updated to show the interim timetable valid April 27 to June 8.

### POLAND

We understand the Gdynia - Malbork - Kaliningrad summer service will not run this year (Table 1038).

### BULGARIA

Engineering work affecting services in the Stara Zagora / Yambol area was originally due to end on March 30. However, the work will now continue until May 30 and the resulting service changes are now shown in special versions of Tables 1500 and 1525 on page 622.

### TURKEY

The opening of a new curve has allowed the introduction of direct Eskişehir - Konya YHT (high-speed) services (Table 1570).

### RUSSIA

From May 26, new *Swallow* services will be introduced between St Peterburg and Novgorod na Volkhove and St Peterburg and Bologoye, combining and dividing at Chudovo (Table 1900). These are 160 km/h five car Desiro units built by Siemens AG. An additional *Swallow* service will operate between Novgorod na Volkhove and St Peterburg, forming a connection at Chudovo into a *Sapsan* service to and from Moskva.

### SHIPPING

LD Lines plans to introduce a service between Marseille and Tunis soon. There will be three sailings per week.

### SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Tables 10 to 99 (Summer) from June 9 will be found on pages 570 to 618.

**Table 10** – Eurostar services are valid June 2 - August 31. Major engineering work is planned on the high-speed line between Calais and Paris from September 24 until October 23.

**Table 13** – From July 7, the three times weekly TGV 9713 1007 Paris to Barcelona will be retimed six hours later to depart at 1607 as TGV 9717.

**Table 24** – Further to last month's report concerning the withdrawal of train 447/446 *Jan Kiepura* Amsterdam - Warszawa, together with the cars to Minsk (and also the Basel - Moskva car), we now understand that these services will continue unchanged and will not be withdrawn from the end of June as previously stated.

**Table 49** – From July 7, two S100 AVE train pairs will run daily between Barcelona and Marseille, and one a day will run daily between Barcelona and Lyon Part Dieu.

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's section covers North America (Tables from 9000 upwards). Newly featured are the Go Transit rail/bus service from Toronto to Niagara Falls (Table 9020), and the West Coast Express service from Vancouver to Mission City (Table 9070).

### NEXT MONTH

The June edition will be available from May 29 and, where possible, will contain the new summer schedules from June 9.