

## What's new this month

This is the last edition before the mid-December timetable change which affects most of Europe, and timings in this issue are therefore valid to December 8. However, advance details of international services from December 9 will be found at the back of this edition in the **Winter International Supplement** (pages 571 to 620) which has been expanded this month to include winter versions of all our International tables (numbered **9** to **99**). A summary of the main changes will be found on page 570.

The December edition will be valid from the start of the new timetable on December 9, and will show the new timings throughout Europe where possible.

### NIGHT TRAINS FEATURE

Our annual **Night Trains** feature will be found on pages 33 to 38, providing an overview of the various types of overnight accommodation to be found on Europe's trains. New to the feature this year is a listing of Europe's principal night trains which includes details of the railway company operating each sleeping car as well as cross references to the relevant timetables.

### INTERNATIONAL

As predicted last month, trains **335/332 Lusitania** Madrid - Lisboa (Table **45**) and **Trenhotel 312/310 Surex/Sud Expresso** Irún - Lisboa (Table **46**) now run as a combined train between Medina del Campo and Lisboa. As a result the southbound **Sud Expresso** (train **312**) now runs approximately three hours earlier, whilst the northbound train runs four and a half hours later. Connections from London and Paris are affected, and in particular the southbound **TGV** from Paris does not connect at Irún with the **Sud Expresso** but instead terminates at Hendaye, leaving passengers to make the short 2 km journey to Irún by local train or other means (fortunately two and a half hours are available for this). Portuguese railways have provided a dedicated connection to Porto at Coimbra-B, which is shown in Table **45** as well as **690**.

The effect of the above change on the **Lusitania** is less drastic, but departure from both Madrid and Lisboa is around an hour earlier, and the train now takes the longer route between Ávila and Salamanca via Medina del Campo. Of course it also benefits from the connection at Coimbra to Porto mentioned above. In the Winter Supplement both the **Lusitania** and **Sud Expresso** are now shown in an enlarged Table **46**.

### IRELAND

As reported last month the expected changes to the Dublin - Donegal bus timetable (Table **234a**) have now taken place.

### FRANCE

Amongst the many changes from December 9 will be the withdrawal of the Bordeaux - Limoges - Lyon train. The Grenoble to Valence line (Table **364**) will be closed long-term for electrification, with bus substitution between Grenoble or Moirans and Valence.

### SPAIN

Many changes have occurred on the Madrid - Cáceres - Badajoz and Huelva routes (Table **677**). The morning regional service (**17104**) from Madrid to Mérida has been diverted at Cáceres to Valencia de Alcántara, while the return service (**17029**) from Valencia de Alcántara terminates at Cáceres. The later morning R-598 service from Madrid to Badajoz (**17900**) has been diverted at Mérida to Zafra (and to Huelva on Fridays to Sundays) to form a direct **Intercity** service from the capital. Connections to Badajoz can be made at Mérida into the train from Puertollano which previously served Badajoz. The daily **Media Distancia** service between Sevilla and Mérida is extended to Cáceres and is now an **Intercity** service. Regional train **17804/17801** Madrid - Alcázar de San Juan - Badajoz (Table **678**) is withdrawn and the R-598 service **18330/18331** between Alcázar de San Juan and Badajoz becomes an **Intercity** service.

**Trenhotels 897/894 Alhambra** Barcelona - Granada (Tables **672, 671**) and **931/932 Pío Baroja** Barcelona - Gijón (Tables **652, 653, 689**) no longer run on Saturdays. **AVE 4149** and **4178** Madrid - Valladolid (Table **663**) are retired and replaced by a pair of **Avant** services on Sundays, whilst the second of two pairs of **AVE** services between Madrid and Albacete (Table **668**) now runs on Mondays to Fridays only, mirroring the first pair. Further to last month's report, the three daily Sevilla - Huelva **Media Distancia** services (Table **671**) are all running.

### PORTUGAL

The scheduled taxi connection Tua - Cachão to connect with the isolated rail service to Mirandela (Table **694**) appears to have been withdrawn again.

### DENMARK

The engineering work taking place between Aalborg and Frederikshavn has been extended to run until November 18, instead of October 28 as intended (Table **701**).

### POLAND

The service between Jelenia Góra and Szklarska Poręba Góra (Table **1084**) has been suspended until Summer 2013 due to track reconstruction and a bus service is running in its place.

### CZECH REPUBLIC

The two non-stop journeys each way between Praha and Brno previously shown in Table **1150** without a start date finally commenced on October 4. These trains are named **D1 Express** after the motorway linking the two cities.

Regiojet added two journeys each way to its Praha - Ostrava - Haviřov service from September 1 and is therefore now running the full timetabled service. From December 9 a third operator, known as **Leo Express**, will commence running every two hours on the Praha - Ostrava route; timings will be shown in the December edition.

### SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

The long anticipated reopening of the branch line between Podgorica and Nikšić took place on October 2. There are five services in each direction linking the capital with Montenegro's second city, including one conveying a through sleeping car to and from Beograd (Table **1371**).

### ALBANIA

Following a recent visit by a regular correspondent, minor adjustments have been made to Table **1390**.

### GREECE

Unexpected news received this month was the reopening of the Flórina line to passenger services on October 14. Trains had been terminating at Édessa since January 2011, but three **InterCity** services will once again connect the north-western town with Thessaloníki (Table **1410**).

### TURKEY

Services in Table **1576** are suspended until mid-February to allow for engineering work, whilst services to and within Syria are believed to be suspended due to the on-going hostilities in that country.

### RUSSIA

A new timetable has been issued for the **Sapsan** high-speed trains between Moskva and St Petersburg (Table **1900**) valid from October 28 until April 7, 2013. Mondays only train **154**, departing Moskva at 0700, runs additionally on Saturdays, whilst the return Sundays only train **163**, departing St Petersburg at 1925, runs additionally on Fridays.

With Russia and Belarus no longer adopting daylight saving time, there will be an extra hour's time difference between these countries and their western neighbours from October 28 to March 23, when most of Europe reverts to winter time by putting clocks back by one hour. Some international trains are therefore partially retired. Where information is known, revised timings are shown in our tables, but other trains (notably those between Russia and Ukraine) may also be affected.

### SHIPPING

There are changes to days of running and departure times of many routes operated by Grandi Navi Veloci.

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers Canada and the USA. In Canada **Via Rail** has continued to cut back the number of services it runs. Notably there is now only a single train between Toronto and Niagara Falls (Table **9020**), the **Maple Leaf** which is the international train to New York. Ontario Northland has cancelled its **Northlander** rail service and replaced it with a bus (Table **9025**).

Amtrak has deferred issuing its Fall (Autumn) timetable until January 14 due to planned service alterations including the extension of some northeast corridor services to Petersburg and Norfolk in Virginia, and of **Downeaster** services to Freeport and Brunswick in Maine. There will also be changes to the **Thruway** bus network. As the USA section will not appear again until our May edition, readers are invited to contact the editorial office for updated schedules after January 14.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 570

## Advance details of services from December 9

### INTERNATIONAL

The following notes refer to the Winter International Supplement on pages 571 to 620, which has advance tables valid from December 9:

**Table 9 (Winter)** – A new *Lyria* ski train service will run between Lille and Brügge on Winter Saturdays with connections from London by Eurostar. Routed on its outward journey via Bellegarde, *TGV9796* calls at Genève, but on its inward journey *TGV9278* travels via Vallorbe and therefore does not call at Genève.

**Table 10 (Winter)** – Eurostar timings are valid until February 9 and may be subject to further change after this date.

**Table 10a (Winter)** – The first *rail-sea-rail* connection of the day departing Paris Nord at 0701 no longer works on Mondays to Fridays due to a broken connection at Boulogne.

**Table 11 (Winter)** – There will be considerable changes to *TGV* services from Brussels and Lille to the south and west of France. Amongst the many changes are:

**5234/5235** Lille - Nantes will reduce from six days a week to Fridays only. **9802/9816** Brussels - Bordeaux will be withdrawn, and being the sole direct service, Brussels passengers will have to change at Lille.

**5264/5265** Bordeaux - Lille will reduce from daily to weekends and run one hour later. **5167/5166** Toulouse - Lille will run two and a half hours later. **5192/5193** Lyon - Lille will start back at Marseille and will be diverted to Lille Flandres.

**5154/5123** Grenoble - Lille will be withdrawn. **5137** Lille - Marseille (Saturdays only) will be withdrawn. **9865/9864** Nice to Brussels will run three hours later severing the connection at Lille for London.

**Table 13 (Winter)** – The Perpignan - Figueres high-speed line will see additional trains, with connections for Barcelona at Figueres pending opening of the Figueres - Barcelona high-speed line later in 2013. A new direct Genève - Figueres *TGV* is due to commence operation from the start of the new timetable, and from April 1 the two Paris - Figueres trains will be increased to three and retimed. From July these will be joined by trains from Toulouse and Marseille.

*Elipsos Trenhotel 477/475* *Joán Miró* Paris to Barcelona will run five days a week in the winter but will revert to running daily from March 15. Train **477** will depart Paris two hours later and the return will depart 45 minutes earlier from Barcelona. The train will no longer call at Limoges.

**Table 16a (Winter)** – The additional Lille - Brussels *TGV* services mentioned last month will not now commence until July.

**Table 17a (Winter)** – The direct weekly London to Avignon service will run for 26 weeks in 2013 as against 10 weeks in 2012.

**Table 18 (Winter)** – High-speed *FYRA* services operated by *NS* *Hispred* will commence running between Amsterdam and Brussels, replacing the conventional 'Benelux' service via Den Haag. Provisionally there will be 10 journeys each way, increasing to an hourly service when further trains are available for service. As Den Haag will lose its through service to Brussels, connections are shown at Rotterdam.

Three minutes will be shaved off the Paris - Amsterdam *Thalys* timings. Engineering work between Paris and Brussels from March 8 until April 13 will result in approximately three minutes earlier departures from Paris and three minutes later arrivals into Paris. On March 9, 10, 16, 17 there will be no service between Paris and Brussels.

**Table 20 (Winter)** – *Thalys* will extend two more Paris - Köln services through to Essen but only in one direction. The company hopes to introduce two more Essen to Paris trains at a later date.

**Table 22 (Winter)** – After serving Schiphol airport since December 2006, trains on the Amsterdam to Berlin route will revert to serving Amsterdam Centraal. One return service a day will be extended to Berlin Brandenburg Airport, now expected to open in October 2013.

**Table 24 (Winter)** – Train **453/452** *Trans-European Express* Paris - Moskva will be diverted through France via Strasbourg and Kehl instead of Metz and Forbach. It will also run six times a week instead of five in the summer period.

**Table 30 (Winter)** – *ICE 9558* 0600 Frankfurt - Paris will depart at 0700 on Saturdays.

**Table 42 (Winter)** – *Lyria 9287* 1757 Paris to Bern will be extended daily to Interlaken Ost, whilst *Lyria 9284* Bern to Paris will start back at Interlaken Ost on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Table 44 (Winter)** – *Thello* will introduce a night train on the Paris - Roma route, also serving Bologna and Firenze, following a period of a year with no direct train. Three daily Lyon - Torino *EC* services are proposed, but a start date has not yet been announced. This will restore a through rail service on this route after a break of several years.

There will be a daily Milano - Paris *TGV* departure at 0842 replacing the trains which currently run at 1012 on Saturdays and Sundays and at 1110 on Mondays to Fridays. This will allow better connections from overnight services from the south of Italy.

**Table 47 (Winter)** – *TGV 9582* Marseille - Frankfurt will call at Chalon sur Saône instead of Mâcon Ville thereby matching the calling points of the southbound **9580**.

**Table 49 (Winter)** – The three times weekly *Elipsos Trenhotel 274/273* *Pau Casals* Barcelona - Zürich will be withdrawn.

**Table 52 (Winter)** – The Praha - Linz service will be revised with three departures southbound instead of two (including an early departure at 0515) creating additional connections from Praha to Zürich.

**Table 56 (Winter)** – Trains *EC45* Berlin - Warszawa and *EC46* Warszawa - Berlin will both run 60 minutes earlier, creating a better spread of services between Berlin and Poznań.

**Table 58 (Winter)** – Train **249/248** *Wawel* Hamburg - Wrocław - Kraków will be cut back to run between Hamburg and Wrocław only.

**Table 60 (Winter)** – A new early morning *EC* train named *Petrov* will link Brno with Bratislava and Budapest, returning in the evening. The through Berlin - Wien Praterstern cars conveyed in *EC 177/279* and *EC 378/278* Berlin - Bratislava will be discontinued. In replacement, however, there will be a later train from Praha to Wien at 1839, and a new Wien to Praha train one hour later than the current 0550 from Praterstern.

**Table 61 (Winter)** – Train **343/342** *Ivo Andrić* Budapest - Beograd will be withdrawn.

**Table 62 (Winter)** – *IC 310/311* Villach - Ljubljana - Zagreb will be withdrawn.

**Table 70 (Winter)** – A *City Night Line* service between München and Milano will be reintroduced. It last ran in December 2003, though a München - Stuttgart - Basel - Chiasso - Milano service did run for a while from that date. The new train will form part of **CNL485/484** München - Roma detaching/attaching at Verona.

**Table 76 (Winter)** – The two direct Praha - Nürnberg services will be diverted to München, giving four trains per day, whilst additional buses will run between Nürnberg and Praha.

**Table 82 (Winter)** – Trains *EC18/19* Zürich - Milano and *EC158/153* Basel - Milano via the Gotthard tunnel will be withdrawn.

**Table 86 (Winter)** – A new pair of *Railjet* trains (*RJ167/168*) will run between Wien and Zürich.

**Table 90 (Winter)** – We understand the three proposed daily Nice - Milano services are due to commence from March 31.

**Table 90a (Winter)** – The three times weekly *Elipsos Trenhotel 11274/11273* *Salvador Dalí* Barcelona - Milano (Table **90a**) will cease running from the timetable change. This leaves train operator *Elipsos* with just the *Francisco de Goya* between Paris and Madrid and the *Joán Miró* between Paris and Barcelona.

**Table 92a (Winter)** – Train **285/284** *Zagreb* Wien - Zagreb will be withdrawn.

**Table 99 (Winter)** – Train *EC137/136* *Moravia* Ostrava - Břeclav - Bratislava - Budapest will be extended to Warszawa and renamed *EC131/130* *Varsovia*, and there will be a new *EC107/106* *Moravia* Warszawa - Břeclav. Train *EC110* *Praha* Warszawa - Praha will run one hour earlier and the return *EC111* will run one hour later.

### DOMESTIC SERVICES

Other major changes from December 9 include the opening of the new *Hanzelijn* from Lelystad to Zwolle in the Netherlands, which will become the main route for trains from Amsterdam to Leeuwarden and Groningen. Many timings in the Netherlands will be changed as a result.

In France, there will be new low-cost *TGV* services from April 1 from Marne la Vallée in the eastern suburbs of Paris, with internet booking only. They will run to Marseille and Montpellier calling at Lyon St Exupéry, with Valence, Avignon, Aix en Provence and Nîmes also served at certain times.

In Austria a new high-speed line will open between Wien and St Pölten, speeding up services on the *Westbahn* to Linz and Salzburg. The new Wien Hauptbahnhof station will partially open for certain services.

All these changes will be shown in the December edition of the European Rail Timetable, which will be available from November 28. Timetables can be pre-ordered from [www.thomascookpublishing.com](http://www.thomascookpublishing.com) or by ringing our Sales line (see page 1).