

What's new this month

WELCOME

Welcome to the November edition of the *European Rail Timetable*, the last before the major mid-December timetable change which affects most European countries. Timings in this edition are generally valid until December 13 although there are a number of exceptions. For example, winter schedules in Finland are valid from October 26 to March 28. This month our **Winter International Supplement**, which shows selected advance timings from December 14, has been expanded to 47 pages and now includes winter versions of all our international tables. The supplement will be found on pages 576 to 622 and a summary of the principal changes will be found at the end of this month's *Newslines*.

We are pleased to announce that reprints of three former Thomas Cook publications are now available for purchase. They are the very first 1873 edition of *Cook's Continental Time Tables & Tourist's Hand Book*, the final edition of the *Overseas Timetable* (dated November/December 2010) and the very last *European Rail Timetable* published by Thomas Cook in August 2013. These can be purchased from our website (www.europeanrailtimetable.eu) or by contacting our office, details of which will be found on page 1.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

For the first time we are featuring a route outside of Europe as Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries, editors of *hidden europe* magazine, visit South Africa and take a trip on the overnight train from Johannesburg to Komatiport. This month's article will be found on page 35 and the actual timings for this particular journey can be found in Table **4400** of this month's *Beyond Europe* section.

INTERNATIONAL

It has now been confirmed that the *CityNightLine* service from København to Amsterdam, Basel and Praha is to cease operation. The final departure in both directions will be on Sunday November 2 (Tables **54**, **700** and **710**).

IRELAND

Bus Éireann have issued a new timetable on the Dublin to Londonderry route (Table **234**).

An additional service has been introduced from Waterford to Dublin. Running on Fridays and Saturdays, it calls only at Carlow and Athy (Table **241**).

FRANCE

There are minor changes to services on the Bordeaux – Toulouse – Narbonne route from October 29 (Tables **320** and **321**).

Table **399** (which is temporarily located on page 560) has been updated with details of the dedicated ski bus services between Geneva Airport and various French ski resorts. Please note that timings on certain routes for the 2014/2015 season were not available by our press date and, in these cases, last year's timings are shown as a guide. We expect all schedules to be confirmed for our December edition.

DENMARK

Services to Germany will be affected by engineering work during this month. Trains from Århus to Hamburg and Berlin will be subject to alteration between Århus and Fredericia during the weekend of November 1/2. Passengers travelling on *EC 380/1* will be required to change trains at Fredericia, whilst those on *EC 386/7* will find their train attached to another for part of the journey with minor re-timings (Table **700**).

More significantly, services via the Rødby ferry will only operate between Puttgarden and Hamburg/Berlin on Saturdays and Sundays November 8–16. Connections are available by a combination of local train between København and Nykøbing and bus between Nykøbing and Puttgarden; journey times will be significantly longer (Table **720**).

FINLAND

The Finnish section has been updated with new winter schedules valid from October 26 to March 28. A new through InterCity service will operate from Helsinki to Pori on Saturday evenings, running two hours later than the existing service that runs Sundays to Fridays (Table **792**). The early morning Turku to Tampere service has been withdrawn, together with the return service which departed Tampere at 0911 (Table **795**). Other changes are only of a minor nature although many journeys to and from the north of the country are accelerated by a few minutes.

Engineering work will affect services between Tampere and Oulu on Saturdays in November with trains replaced by bus for part of the journey.

GERMANY

Table **867** has been updated with the winter schedules of the *Harzer Schmalspurbahnen* valid from November 3 through to April 24 next year. Please note, however, that during the period November 3–28 engineering work will be taking place across the network and the only train services running will be between Wernigerode and Brocken together with a local shuttle service between Ilfeld and Nordhausen.

POLAND

New schedules have been issued valid from October 12. Unfortunately, these were not available in time for our October edition, but all tables have now been updated.

CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA

From October 11 private operator *RegioJet* extended its 0744 Praha – Havířov train to Košice, as shown in Tables **1160** and **1180**. In the other direction the train leaves Slovakia's second city at 0722. This doubles the number of through day trains between these points, the other being operated by Czech and Slovak Railways. Moreover, from December 14 the other operator on the Praha – Ostrava route, *Leo Express*, will also be extending a journey through to Košice, with an afternoon train from Praha returning overnight. Czech Railways' answer to the competition will be a SuperCity tilting train, knocking around 50 minutes from the journey time of the current EuroCity. Full details will, of course, be shown in the December edition.

SLOVENIA

Alterations have been made to the emergency timetable currently in operation on Table **1305**. Trains **480**, **481**, **482** and **483** will continue to run between Ljubljana and Rijeka, but additionally there will also be one train pair between Ljubljana and Koper until further notice. Departure will be at 1540 from Ljubljana and at 0525 the following morning from Koper. All other services are operated by bus as work continues to reconstruct weather damaged infrastructure.

Further engineering work is taking place on Mondays to Saturdays between Celje and Pragersko until the end of the current timetable. Most *ICS* trains will operate only between Ljubljana and Celje with a bus connection to and from Maribor (Table **1315**).

GREECE

Further timetable amendments have been made recently. Services to Halkida (Table **1420**) and Édessa (Table **1410**) have been reduced in frequency, whilst Vólos is currently served by bus (Table **1425**). There are also some amendments to Kalambáka (Table **1408**) and mainline services (Tables **1400** and **1405**).

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's *Beyond Europe* section covers Africa and the Middle East with tables numbered **4000** upwards. A notable change concerns the international trains between Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and Kapiri-Mposhi in Zambia (Table **4330**) which will no longer convey through coaches across the border. Passengers intending to make international journeys on this route will be required to change trains at the border station of Nakonde.

This month we have also included a special two page feature which provides an overview of rail services in the American state of California that are not operated by Amtrak and not covered in our regular *North American Beyond Europe* section (which will appear next month).

NEXT MONTH

The December edition will, where possible, show updated timings from December 14. To allow us to gather as much information as possible publication of the December edition will be about one week later than usual with advance orders dispatched from Tuesday December 9.

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WINTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

The following notes refer to the International Winter Supplement on pages 576 to 622.

Table 10 (winter) – Due to engineering work on the high-speed line in France, services from Paris to London between February 2 and 7 will depart Paris nine minutes earlier.

Tables 11, 17a (winter) – *Eurostar* will introduce a new direct train from London to Marseille calling at Lyon Part Dieu and Avignon TGV from May 1, 2015. Due to border controls and security requirements, passengers on the London-bound service will be required to leave the train at Lille Europe with their luggage to undergo customs formalities before re-joining the same train.

The *Eurostar* service to Paris Disneyland will run on four days a week instead of the previous five and will not run between January 5 and February 7.

Tables 11, 14 (winter) – *Lyria* will introduce a direct service running four times a week between Lille and Genève calling at Charles de Gaulle and Marne la Vallée. Good connections will be available at Lille for journeys from and to London and Brussels.

Table 15 (winter) – InterCity services from Amsterdam (see also entry below) arrive in Brussels Midi/Zuid at 15 minutes past the hour. *Eurostar* services depart Brussels for London at 52 or 56 minutes past the hour and we are awaiting confirmation from Eurostar that these 37–41 minute connections will be officially recognised.

Table 18 (winter) – Direct hourly InterCity services will be reintroduced between Amsterdam and Brussels.

Table 22 (winter) – An additional early morning service (*IC245*) will run from Amsterdam to Berlin on Mondays to Saturdays departing Amsterdam at 0502, but evening service *IC243* will only run on Sundays. In the opposite direction *IC242* will no longer run from Bad Bentheim to Amsterdam on Sundays, although a new early morning service (*IC244*) will run from Bad Bentheim on Mondays. From March 29 train *IC240* will run daily from Hannover to Amsterdam.

Table 58 (winter) – *EC249/248 Wawel* Hamburg – Berlin – Forst – Wrocław will be withdrawn and therefore Table 58 will be deleted.

Table 60 (winter) – *EC173/172 Vindabona* Hamburg – Berlin – Praha – Wien – Villach will be re-routed to run Hamburg – Berlin – Praha – Budapest and will be renamed *Porta Bohemica*. We believe this brings to a close over 50 years of direct continuous service between Hamburg and Wien via Berlin.

A new two-hourly *Railjet* service will be introduced on the Praha – Wien – Graz route.

The current *EC273/272 Avala* Praha – Budapest – Beograd will be split into two separate services. *EC273/272 Csárdás* will operate between Praha and Budapest, whilst *EC345/344 Avala* will operate Wien – Budapest – Beograd.

EC379 Carl Maria von Weber Berlin – Praha – Brno will terminate at Praha.

Table 61 (winter) – *EC343/342 Ivo Andric* will be reinstated between Budapest and Beograd.

A new overnight service, *EN481/480*, will commence running between Budapest and Sofia via Timișoara, Craiova and Vidin. This will be the first regular long distance passenger train scheduled to use the recently opened combined rail/road bridge across the Danube near Vidin.

Table 65 (winter) – An additional EuroCity service, *EC149/148*, will run between Wien and Budapest.

Table 66 (winter) – *EN421/420 Köln* – Frankfurt – Wien was originally expected to run from and to Dormund but we now understand that it will only be extended as far as Düsseldorf to make use of the car carrying facilities there.

Table 90 (winter) – A new direct Milano – Nice – Marseille *EC Thello* service, *EC147/159* will be introduced. *EC147* will form a useful connection at Marseille from the new London to Marseille *Eurostar* service which is due to be introduced from May 1. Two further *EC Thello* services are expected to be introduced at a later date between Nice and Milano.

Tables 97, 98 (winter) – Russian Railways have announced that due to a significant reduction in passenger numbers, Train *16/15 Tisza* Moskva – Budapest – Beograd and Train *60/59 Bolgariya Express* Moskva – București – Sofia will be temporarily suspended from the timetable change.

Table 99 (winter) – *EC103/102 Polonia* Warszawa – Wien – Villach will no longer run between Wien and Villach. *EC131/130 Varsovia* Warszawa – Budapest will be diverted to Praha, renamed *Praha* and renumbered *EC111/110*.

CITY NIGHTLINE ALTERATIONS

As mentioned earlier, all *City Night Line* routes to and from København are to be withdrawn from the beginning of November with all three services (to and from Amsterdam, Basel and Praha) commencing their final journeys on November 2, 2014.

Although we have not received official confirmation, we do now expect *City Night Line* services from and to Paris to cease running from the timetable change date on December 14. Trains affected are **40451/40418** (München), **50451/40479** (Hamburg) and **451/450** (Berlin).

Earlier reports that that the Amsterdam – Köln – Berlin – Warszawa (**447/446**) and Praha (**457/456**) services may no longer run between Amsterdam and Köln have yet to be verified.

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