What's new this month

WELCOME

As well as various updates to current European schedules, this month's edition of the *European Rail Timetable* includes advance versions of all our international tables valid from December 9 in our Winter International Supplement. This will be found towards the back of this edition, from page 601, and will be updated further in our November digital publication as more information becomes available.

On page 562 we have included extracts from the timetable news that appeared in last month's digital edition. This will allow customers who prefer our printed publication to keep fully up to date with the latest developments.

Early in September we welcomed Richard Stirk to the timetable team. Naturally we hope he has a long and enjoyable career with us. Richard has a particularly strong interest in the railways of the Balkans and Turkey and so these areas will be included as part of his portfolio.

INTERNATIONAL

The twice weekly Leo Express 1361/1356 Praha – Bohumín – Kraków will terminate at Bohumin from October 9 to November 29 due to trackwork. A bus replacement service will convey passengers to and from Kraków (Table 99).

NETHERLANDS

The return of rail services on the line from Schiedam to Hoek van Holland has been further delayed with Rotterdam metro services now expected to be introduced along the route from late January, 2019. The replacement bus service will continue to operate until the line can be reopened (Tables **15** and **497**). Once up and running, the route through to Hoek van Holland will be operated as an extension of metro line B, with services of line A being extended as far as Vlaardingen.

SPAIN

Spanish Railways has introduced an Alvia 730 series high-speed train on the Madrid – Murcia – Cartagena route on Mondays to Fridays, replacing Altaria trains **224/221** (Table **668a**). These services are now numbered **5666/5567** and can run on diesel or electric power meaning the journey time between Madrid and Cartagena can be reduced by up to 28 minutes.

Owing to ongoing delays with route upgrade work between Antequera and Granada, Spanish Railways is planning to introduce a temporary service between Granada and Madrid via Moreda and Linares-Baeza from early November. The daily Talgo service will be advertised as running non-stop (but will actually call at Linares - Baeza en route to change drivers). Provisional timings have been added to Table 661.

ICELAND

Bus services in Iceland are provided by numerous operators resulting in some complex schedules which are difficult for us to show in the limited space available. This month we have made some changes to the structure of Table **729** to hopefully improve the way our Icelandic content is presented. We are very grateful to reader Andreas Macrander who regularly supplies us with the most up-to-date timings for this particular table.

GERMANY

Work to renew the bridge which carries the main-line tracks over the Berlin Außenring at Karower Kreuz is scheduled for completion on October 12. From this date all regional services will run via the rebuilt section of line with through services once again running on the Stralsund/Schwedt – Berlin – Falkenberg/Lutherstadt Wittenberg routes. In addition, services between Berlin and Szczecin will revert to running from and to Berlin Gesundbrunnen (no longer serving Berlin Lichtenberg). Two versions of Table **845** are included in this edition: timings from October 12 can be found on page 398, whilst the amended schedules until October 11 have been moved to page 567.

Services between München and Lindau via Memmingen are expected to return to normal from October 15 and Table **935** has been updated with timings from this date. Unfortunately we do not have space to show two versions of this table so please refer to previous editions for timings until October 14 (although Table **75** does show amended schedules for international services via Memmingen).

FERRY SERVICES

Sailings to the Danish island of Bornholm in the Baltic Sea were taken over by Mols-Linien A/S from September 1, operating under the name Bornholmslinjen and replacing the sailings of Bornholmerfærgen. The shortest and most frequent route links the main town Rønne with the Swedish port of Ystad, taking just 80 minutes by fast ferry (Table **2494**). There is also a daily sailing to Køge in Denmark (Table **2430**), and a service operating on three to five days per week to Sassnitz in Germany (Table **2384**).

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers four areas: China (from page 570), Japan (from page 584), South America (from page 596) and South Korea (from page 599).

September saw the opening of the cross-border high-speed line from Kowloon to Shenzhen and beyond with a new range of services provided by operator MTR. In Kowloon high-speed services use a brand new station called West Kowloon (not serving Kowloon's other main station, Hung Hom). The Kowloon – Shenzhen – Guangzhou service has been added to Table **7085** and West Kowloon station has also been added to Tables **7060** and **7200** so that all long-distance services to and from Hong Kong can be clearly shown.

There have been only minor changes to Japanese schedules since this section last appeared but travellers should be aware that services in Tables 8170, 8225 and 8230 are liable to disruption and cancellation owing to recent flooding and earthquake damage.

In Brazil, the service between Sao Luis and Parauapebas now runs three times a week in each direction instead of just once (Table **9950**). A new table, numbered **9960B** has been added to the Argentinian section showing services between Alta Córdoba and Cosquín.

WINTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Table 18 (Winter) – The remaining Amsterdam – Lille Thalys services will be withdrawn from December 9, being replaced by additional services between Paris and Amsterdam. New departures from Paris will be available at 1125 (Mondays to Thursdays) and 2025 (daily except Saturdays) whilst southbound departures from Amsterdam will also be available at 1515 (Mondays to Thursdays) and 1615 (on Sundays). Thalys will also introduce two daily Amsterdam – Paris Charles de Gaulle – Marne la Vallée services from March 31, 2019.

Table 20 (Winter) – Thalys service 9403 (previously 9401) Paris – Brussels – Köln – Essen will be retimed to depart Paris 12 minutes later (at 0613) and will run combined with the retimed Thalys service 9303 Paris – Brussels – Amsterdam between Paris and Brussels. 9403 will terminate at Köln from the timetable change.

Tables 20, 21 (Winter) – ICE 211/210 Brussels – Köln – Frankfurt, which currently runs Fridays and Sundays only, will operate daily from April 7.

Table 32 (Winter) – The Paris Gare de Lyon to Freiburg (Breisgau)TGV service 9589/9588 (currently shown in French Table 370) will bediverted to run from and to Paris Est via Strasbourg and Offenburg.The new daily service will be numbered 9591/9590.

Tables 60 and 99 (Winter) – Austrian Railways will introduce a new nightjet service 457/456 Metropol between Berlin and Wien/Budapest operating via Frankfurt an der Oder, Wrocław, Chałupki and Bohumín. The service will also convey through cars Berlin – Wrocław – Przemyśl. German Railways withdrew the original Metropol service, which was routed via Praha, in December 2017. A new Table 71 has been created to show detailed timings of the three separate portions. Readers interested in unusual train routeings may like to know that, after being detached at Racibórz, the Berlin - Przemyśl through cars will retrace its inbound journey for a few kilometres before traversing the south to east avoiding curve at Kedzierzyn-Kożle enabling it to continue its journey east.

Table 64 (Winter) – A new direct daytime service between Berlin and Wien will be introduced. *ICE* 93/92 Berlin – Nürnberg – Wien will run daily and utilise the high-speed infrastructure between Halle and Nürnberg.

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What's new this month (continued from page 5)

WINTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Table 75 (Winter) – EC193/192 München – Zürich – Basel will be withdrawn.

Table 86 (Winter) - *RJX* 167 Zürich – Wien will be extended to Bratislava, whilst in the opposite direction *RJX* 160 will start from the Slovak capital.

Table 99 (Winter) – From April 13, 2019 *EC* 105/104 *Sobieski* Wien – Warszawa – Gdynia will convey a portion with 2nd class seats to and from Kraków.

CLOCK CHANGE

Daylight Saving Time will end during the early hours of October 28 with clocks moving back one hour in most European countries. The only exceptions are lceland, Russia, Belarus and Turkey. Please note that changes to timings of cross-border services to and from Russia and Belarus are incorporated in our tables.

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