

What's new this month

As usual at this time of year, we are including advance versions of selected International tables valid from the December timetable change. These will be found in the **Winter International Supplement** on pages 571 to 591, valid from December 9. For a summary of the principal changes see the continuation of Newslines on page 570.

HIGH-SPEED TRAINS FEATURE

Our annual feature on High-Speed Trains will be found on pages 33 to 38, giving an overview of the different types of train in use throughout Europe, as well as details of the latest proposed lines.

AIRPORT LINKS

The Red (Vermelho) line on the Lisboa metro has now been extended beyond Oriente to Aeroporto station at Lisboa airport. As well as serving the mainline station at Oriente, the metro line continues towards the city centre (terminating at São Sebastião as shown on the city plan page 30) and Lisboa's other stations can all be reached with one change of train.

INTERNATIONAL

Hotel Train 335/332 Lusitania Madrid - Lisboa has been diverted, no longer serving Cáceres, but running via Salamanca and the border at Vilar Formoso, with the journey time remaining the same (Table 45). We understand this will be a temporary situation awaiting a decision to combine the *Lusitania* and **Trenhotel 312/310 Irún** - Lisboa between Salamanca and Lisboa. This will involve considerable retiming of one or both of the trains.

For some months, as part of ongoing UK Border Agency restrictions, no travel has been allowed from Brussels to Lille on Eurostar services. However additional onboard ticket checks are now taking place on certain Eurostar trains which means that Brussels to Lille journeys are once again possible at certain times. We understand the trains involved are those leaving Brussels at 1256, 1656 and 1952.

Alleo are running an additional service between Paris and München on eight dates between August 31 and October 7 (Table 32).

It has been reported that train **341/340 Beograd** Budapest - Beograd (Table 61) no longer conveys sleeping cars until further notice. The couchette and seats carriages are not affected.

GREAT BRITAIN

A considerable number of tables have been updated, particularly affecting timings on Saturdays and Sundays, and are generally now valid from the middle of September.

FRANCE

Reconstruction and other trackwork continues to be a major feature of many French lines, details of which are shown where possible in individual tables. Of note is work taking place from September 3 to November 23 on the Marseille - Gap - Briançon line (Table 362) north of Aix en Provence. There will be partial bus substitution with departures from Marseille up to 35 minutes earlier. Southbound arrivals into Marseille will be up to 40 minutes later.

A minor closure to report is that of Ravezies station on the outskirts of Bordeaux (once called Bordeaux St Louis) where trains on the 'Médoc' line (Table 307) reversed. Due to the future extension of the tram network to cover part of this line, all trains now miss out Ravezies and there is a revised timetable from August 27.

ITALY

From August 26 Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (NTV) has introduced three additional *Italo* return services between Milano and Roma; these are limited stop services and do not call at Bologna and Firenze. There are now also three services in each direction extended from and to Salerno (Table 600).

As mentioned last month, engineering work is taking place on the Brenner route until September 30 with services replaced by bus on most days. This also includes international trains where passengers will be required to transfer to bus transport for the journey between Innsbruck and Brennero/Brenner, although timings are barely affected. Local journeys are extended by ten minutes (Tables 595/6).

SPAIN

Valencia de Alcántara and San Vicente de Alcántara have been added to Table 677 in anticipation of a new regional service to Cáceres.

GERMANY

Services between Hannover and Hamburg run to an amended timetable from September 1 to November 25 and Table 900 has been updated

with the revised schedules. During this period most *IC* trains do not run between Hannover and Hamburg. Certain *ICE* services make additional calls at Celle, Uelzen and Lüneburg to compensate for the *IC* withdrawals. Other *ICE* services are diverted via Verden with extended journey times.

A major project to upgrade the Berlin to Rostock line starts on September 10 and will continue until April 2013. During this period the route between Oranienburg and Rostock via Neustrelitz will be completely closed to rail traffic. A limited number of through train services will continue to operate between Berlin and Rostock via Schwerin (including the daily *ICE* service). Regular bus services will be provided between the suburban Berlin station Birkenwerda and stations to Neustrelitz, also between Neustrelitz and Rostock/Güstrow. Please note that the replacement bus services are considerably slower than the existing train service, so passengers travelling between Berlin and Rostock are advised to use alternative rail services via Schwerin or Stralsund. Full details of the revised service will be found in Table 835 (to enable the full service to be shown, the table has been split into the relevant bus/train journey segments).

POLAND

Alterations will occur in Poland on certain services from September 3 and again from October 16. Where possible, both periods have been shown, but travellers should note that services until September 2 are available in the August edition.

Services affected include those linking Warszawa with Katowice, Poznań and Kraków, whilst trains between Warszawa and Łódź are subject to alteration due to the complexity of the changes. A new service between Chelm and Wodawa (Table 1055) has been introduced.

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Engineering work in Romania will further affect the Beograd - Timișoara route until September 9. During this period no bus service will be provided between Beograd and Vrșac (Table 1365).

TURKEY

The *Toros Ekspresi* name can once again be seen in use, this time for a new daytime train between Eskişehir and Adana (Table 1581).

Increasing patronage has led to the introduction of additional trains from Izmir to Usak (Table 1571) and Denizli (Table 1572). One Izmir - Usak train is extended to and from Afyon and Konya, returning passenger services to that line for the first time in several years.

MOLDOVA

A new pair of trains has commenced running between Chișinău and Ocnîța (Table 1730).

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers China (Tables 7000 upwards). All tables have been checked and updated where appropriate. The opening of yet another high-speed line, this time from Wuhan to Yichang, has necessitated the addition of a new Table 7043. This line will eventually become part of a high-speed railway connecting Shanghai with Chengdu.

In the October edition it will be the turn of Japan to feature in our Beyond Europe section. The six sections each appear twice yearly as shown on page 558.

NEXT MONTH

The October edition will include an expanded Winter International Supplement, with advance versions from December 9 of Tables 9 to 68. The Supplement in the November edition will include all our International tables (9 to 99), whilst the December edition will be valid from December 9 and will include, where possible, the new winter schedules throughout Europe.

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Advance details of services from December 9

INTERNATIONAL

The following notes refer to the Winter International Supplement on pages 571 to 591, which has advance tables valid from December 9:

Table 9 (Winter) – A new *Lyrria* ski train service will run between Lille and Genève on Winter Saturdays with connections from London on Eurostar.

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 Figueres - Barcelona high speed line is expected to open on December 9 and the two existing Paris - Figueres TGV services should be extended to Barcelona. A new direct Genève - Barcelona train is also due to commence operation from the opening of the new line. Further new services will be added during 2013; current plans are for a third Paris - Barcelona service from April 1, and from July 7 a daily Barcelona - Toulouse and two daily Barcelona - Marseille trains are due to start.

Elipsos Trenhotel 477 Joan Miró Paris to Barcelona will depart Paris two hours later and the return **474** will depart forty five minutes earlier from Barcelona.

Table 16a (Winter) – Additional TGV services will be introduced between Lille and Brussels.

Table 18 (Winter) – There will be additional Thalys Brussels to Paris trains on Mondays to Fridays at 0637 and daily at 1413. 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 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 when it opens in 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.

Further tables will be added to the Supplement in the October and November editions and changes of note are as follows:

Table 44 (Winter) – A new Paris - Roma *Thello* overnight service is expected to commence on December 9, following a period of a year with no direct train on this route.

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 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 76 (Winter) – The two direct Praha - Nürnberg services will be diverted to München, giving four trains per day, whilst connections will be available to Nürnberg at Schwandorf.

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

Table 99 (Winter) – Train EC137/136 *Moravia* Ostrava - Břeclav - Bratislava - Budapest will be extended to Warszawa and renumbered 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. Most timings in the Netherlands will be changed as a result.

In France, there will be new low-cost TGV services from Marne la Vallée station 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 Nimes also served at certain times. There will also be an evening journey to Lyon Part Dieu, and a morning departure on certain days from Lyon Perrache.

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.

In the Czech Republic a third operator, known as *Leo Express*, will commence running every two hours on the Praha - Ostrava route.

These domestic changes will be shown in the December edition of the European Rail Timetable, which will be available from the end of November.

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