

What's new this month

WELCOME

Welcome to the September edition of the *European Rail Timetable* which includes advance versions of selected international tables valid from the December timetable change. These will be found in the first version of our **Winter International Supplement** on pages 576 to 591. This supplement will be expanded and updated in our October and November editions as more information becomes available.

We are pleased to announce that reprints of the very first 1873 edition of *Cook's Continental Time Tables & Tourist's Hand Book*, together with the final Thomas Cook editions of both the European and Overseas Timetables, are now available to purchase. Please visit our website (www.europeanrailtimetable.eu) for further information or contact the editorial office.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries enjoy a journey through the scenic *Sierra de Guadarrama* region between Madrid and Salamanca. This month's feature will be found on page 35.

INTERNATIONAL

Long distance services to and from the French ski resorts in Table 9 have been updated for the 2014/5 winter season. The Eurostar service to Bourg St Maurice will continue to run this winter commencing before Christmas 2014 and running until after Easter 2015.

The direct *Thalys* service between Paris and Brussels airport has been withdrawn between October 26 and December 13 (Table 18). We await to see if it will recommence from December 14.

GREAT BRITAIN

Many tables have been updated with revised Sunday services valid from September 14.

A second platform has been commissioned at Whitby station to allow the North Yorkshire Moors Railway to run additional steam-hauled services to and from the seaside resort. Details of these tourist services have been added to Table 211.

Following successful trials of a new combined rail and road bridge between Llandecwyn and Penrhyndeudraeth, through train services between Pwllheli and Machynlleth were due to recommence on September 1 (Table 148).

FRANCE

Services on the Lannion branch line are replaced by bus from September 1 (Table 284).

During the weekends of September 6/7, 20/21 and 27/28 services between Paris Austerlitz and Orléans are disrupted from late morning on Saturday until early afternoon on Sunday when the line is completely closed (Table 294). Please be aware that no replacement bus service will be provided and that onward journeys from Orléans towards Toulouse will also be affected at various other locations.

The work outlined above will also affect services on the Paris – Montluçon route (Table 315) where trains will operate between Bourges and Montluçon only. Furthermore, mid-morning services between Vierzon and Montluçon are subject to alteration from September 15 to November 5.

Rail services between Firminy and Le Puy en Velay were due to recommence on August 31 following a lengthy closure period to allow route modernisation work to take place. However, this work will now continue until October 5 and bus replacement services will remain in place until this date (Table 349).

The branch line between Toulon and Hyères will be closed to all rail traffic for ten months from September 1 as modernisation of the route is carried out. A replacement bus service is provided, details of which will be found in Table 350b.

Rail services on the narrow gauge route between Latour de Carol and Villefranche are suspended from September 29 to December 5. Only one alternative bus connection will be provided in each direction during this period. The winter version of Table 354 will be found on page 238. Schedules for Corsica valid from September 8 have been confirmed and added to Table 369.

SWITZERLAND

The route from Delémont to the border town of Delle in the Franche-Comté region of France has been added as a new Table 515. The anticipated extension of services to Belfort Montbéliard TGV and Belfort is, however, not expected until 2016.

ICELAND

Minor updates have been made to Table 729; the first schedules for the winter season are also shown.

POLAND

The Polish section has been updated and is now valid until October 11.

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Readers may recall that services on the highly scenic route to the Montenegrin coast at Bar have been severely disrupted since early summer because of flood damage in Serbia. In addition to the one Bar service running from Subotica and Beograd, from August 27 a new service between Požega and Bar has been introduced (Table 1370).

TURKEY

The eagerly awaited high-speed service between Ankara and Pendik (located approximately 25 kilometres east of Istanbul) commenced on July 26 with six trains per day in each direction. Journey times vary from 3 hours 44 minutes to 3 hours 59 minutes and Table 1570 has now been fully updated with the new schedules.

RUSSIA

Services on the Moskva to St Peterburg route may be affected by engineering work from 22 September to 31 October (Table 1900).

In 2011 Russia abolished daylight saving time (DST) and effectively changed to permanent summer time by not putting its clocks back in the autumn of that year. Since then Moskva has therefore been on GMT + 4 all year round. Perhaps predictably, the darker mornings in winter have not proved popular and have led to more road accidents and allegedly a worsening of the nation's health. The Russian government has therefore made the decision to put its clocks back by one hour in the early hours of October 26, the same date that most of Europe reverts to winter time. Unfortunately for anyone involved in international railway schedules, this does not mark a return to the pre-2011 situation of adopting daylight saving time (that is, putting the clocks forward by one hour each summer, in line with most of Europe) but is in fact a change to permanent winter time. Moskva will therefore move to GMT + 3 all year (the same as Belarus, which also abolished DST in 2011). Timings of many international trains will, of course, be affected and some timings are likely to vary by an hour or so from those shown in our tables. Many Russians favour a return to DST (as do we!) and it remains to be seen whether winter time will in fact remain permanent in the long term.

SHIPPING

As reported in June's *Newslines*, following an operation spanning 139 years, DFDS Seaways will finally cease operations on its Harwich – Esbjerg route on September 29. The closure of this crossing will bring an end to direct passenger ferries between Great Britain and Scandinavia (Table 2220).

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers China and since its last appearance there have been several new high-speed lines opened. Space constraints mean that we cannot show them all in this edition, but by redesigning some tables we have managed to include some. Table 7040 has been expanded to include the new line between Taiyuan and Xi'an and the high-speed extension between Yichang and Chongqing has been incorporated into Table 7075. We have added Tianjin to Table 7015 and Jilin to Table 7020 which now shows predominately "G" class trains. Table 7080 has been extended to show the high-speed line from Nanchang to the coast via Sanming. Our coverage of high-speed services operating south and west of Lake Taihu, previously shown in Table 7100, has been enhanced and moved to a new Table 7102.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

What's new this month *(continued from page 3)*

WINTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

The following notes refer to the Winter International Supplement on pages 576 to 591.

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 9 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 reboarding 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.

City Night Line alterations

All *City Night Line* routes to and from København are expected to be withdrawn from the timetable change date. The services affected are **40456/50473** (Praha), **472/473** (Basel) and **40473/40447** (Amsterdam).

We understand that *City Night Line* services to and from Paris may also cease running from the same date. Trains affected would be **40451/40418** (München), **50451/40479** (Hamburg) and **451/450** (Berlin).

It has also been reported that the Amsterdam - Köln - Berlin - Warszawa (**447/446**) and Praha (**457/456**) services may no longer run between Amsterdam and Köln.

hidden europe

Discover Europe's rich diversity with *hidden europe* magazine.

Well penned prose about journeys and places — from the Ural Mountains to the Azores, from the Arctic to the Mediterranean.

Join us as we venture by train and ferry to the nerve ends of Europe. 'Slow Travel' at its best.

e-mail: info@hiddeneurope.co.uk
phone: +49 30 755 16 128



www.hiddeneurope.co.uk