

## What's new this month

### WELCOME

Welcome to the September edition of the European Rail Timetable which, together with the latest updates to current schedules, includes advance versions of selected international tables valid from the December timetable change. These will be found in our Winter International Supplement on pages 577 to 592. The supplement will be updated and expanded in our October and November editions as more information becomes available.

### ROUTE OF THE MONTH

To mark this month's much anticipated opening of the Borders Railway between Edinburgh and Tweedbank, our regular *Route of the Month* feature has a nostalgic Scottish theme. The new Borders Railway actually follows the northern section of the former Waverley Route between Edinburgh and Carlisle which was closed in 1969 as part of the Beeching cuts. Many other routes were also shut down during the same period but most of these are never likely to be serious candidates for a similar type of railway renaissance. One such route was the rural Callander to Crianlarich line and, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of its closure in September 1965, Nicky Gardner and Susanne Kries take a nostalgic look back at the line and the services that ran just four years before its closure. This month's feature will be found on page 35 and, on page 36, we have also reproduced the route's 1961 timetable in our own European Rail Timetable format.

### TIP OF THE MONTH

Continuing with the Scottish theme, our *Tip of the Month* article on page 36 outlines some of the best ticket deals that are available for travel around Scotland.

### AIRPORT LINKS

A new rail link from Gdańsk Lech Walesa airport to Gdańsk Wrzeszcz station has opened. Services run three to four times per hour with onward connections available to Gdańsk Główny station.

### INTERNATIONAL

Train **116/115** Warszawa – Minsk has changed its days of running (Table **56**). Previously departing Warszawa on Fridays and Sundays, train **116** now departs on Tuesdays and Sundays. In the reverse direction train **115** now departs Minsk on Mondays and Thursdays (previously Thursdays and Saturdays).

Serbian Railways has announced that the service between Beograd and Thessaloniki (**335/334**) will only run as far as Gevgelija until further notice (Tables **61** and **1380**). We understand that a bus connection is provided between Gevgelija and Thessaloniki.

### GREAT BRITAIN

Services on the new Borders Railway between Edinburgh and Tweedbank will commence on Sunday September 6 and timings will be found in Table **221**. The route will officially be opened by Her Majesty The Queen on September 9, the day she becomes Britain's longest serving monarch. Please note that there will be a number of service alterations on September 9 during the Queen's visit.

### FRANCE

The delayed reopening of the two branch lines from Nantes to Pornic and St Gilles Croix de Vie was scheduled to take place on August 31 following a lengthy closure period to allow upgrade work to take place. The new rail schedules will be found in Table **299**.

Corsican Railways has confirmed its autumn schedules (valid from September 7 to November 1) and these have been added to Table **369**.

### SPAIN

Further to last month's report on engineering works between Barcelona and València, we now understand that these will continue until December. One casualty is *Trenhotel* **897/894** *Alhambra* between Barcelona and Granada which is currently suspended. This is because much of the work is being carried out overnight and it has not been possible to provide alternative paths. Some commentators have suggested that these overnight services may not return after the work is completed. Time will tell if this is to be the case or not. Daytime *Talgo* services **1142** and **1391** between Barcelona and València have been withdrawn (Table **672**).

Spanish Railways has increased the number of buses running between Antequera - Santa Ana and Granada to provide additional connections from Barcelona and València to compensate for the suspension of *Trenhotel* **897/894** (Table **660**).

### DENMARK

Readers should be aware that engineering work is currently taking place at Tinglev which affects schedules between Vojens and Sønderborg, Padborg and Flensburg until October 4. Unfortunately, we are unable to show amended schedules within our limited space and travellers are advised to check locally (Table **710**).

### SWEDEN

Bus operators NET-Matkat (*NET*) and Veljekset Salmela (*VS*) have issued new schedules for the Finnish cross-border service between Haparanda / Tornio and Kemi which are valid until June 3 and 4, 2016 respectively (Table **768**).

### GERMANY

Until November 1 the main-line tracks of the Berlin Stadtbahn are temporarily closed between Berlin Zoo and Berlin Ostbahnhof (from September 9 to October 6 the section between Berlin Charlottenburg and Berlin Zoo will also be shut). During the closure regional and long-distance services will not operate via this route, although frequent S-Bahn services will continue to run as normal. Most *ICE*, *EC* and *IC* services will be diverted via the low-level platforms at Berlin Hbf with a small number of trains diverted to Berlin Gesundbrunnen. Most regional services will simply not run over the closed section, although the Wismar to Cottbus service (Table **837**) will run to a revised timetable via Berlin Gesundbrunnen and Lichtenberg. Updated timings for all affected services are included in this edition and, in the case of long-distance services will remain in place until the December timetable change. Most regional services are expected to return to normal on November 2 (except for Wismar to Cottbus which will continue to run via Berlin Lichtenberg until the December timetable change).

### POLAND

Polish Railways has issued new schedules valid from September 1 to October 17 and all tables have been updated accordingly.

It would appear that engineering work is taking place in the Łódź area, as many services do not serve Kaliska station during this period (many use Widzew instead), but details are inconsistent. Anyone planning to travel in the Łódź area is advised to check locally prior to their intended travel date. Tables affected are **1025**, **1060**, **1062**, **1080** and **1090**.

Following a previous announcement it was expected that Przewoź Regionalne was to withdraw all of its *IR* services from September 1. However, a few have survived the timetable change, most notably on the route from Warszawa to Łódź (Table **1090**).

Kraków Balice airport station will reopen on September 1 following reconstruction. A regular interval half-hourly service will be provided for the 18 minute journey into the city centre (Table **1099**).

### HUNGARY

From September 6 to 25 services on the Budapest to Zalaegerszeg and Szombathely route are subject to alteration with buses replacing trains between Székesfehérvár and Veszprém (Table **1230**). Journeys on international train *EC* **246/247** *Cittadella* from Budapest to Ljubljana will be affected by this disruption with amended timings at Budapest.

Reconstruction of the Budapest to Esztergom line has been completed and train services recommenced on August 20 after many months of partial bus substitution. Timings are shown in Table **1299**.

### UKRAINE

Ukrainian Railways has reintroduced two daily services to Mariupol which were withdrawn in 2014. These are **584KJ/84DJ** Kyiv – Mariupol and **70LJ/70DJ** Lviv – Mariupol, timings for which will be found in Table **1775**.

### ESTONIA

Eesti Liinirongid AS (Elron) has issued a new timetable for the Tallinn to Viljandi and Pärnu routes, although changes are only of a minor nature (Table **1890**).

### RUSSIA

Minor amendments have been made to *Sapsan* high-speed train service between Moskva and St Peterburg. Additionally, engineering work being carried out between the two cities will affect services from September 7 to 30 (Table **1900**).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers China with tables numbered **7000** to **7250**.

All tables have been updated with the latest information available. The most notable change is to Table **7020** where most services have changed from type 'D' trains to the faster type 'G'.

We have added details of high-speed services on the following routes: Qiqihar to Harbin (Table **7000**), Lanzhou to Ürümqi (Table **7120**) and Huaihua to Guiyang (Table **7192**). Table **7185** has been created to show timings on the Guiyang – Guilin – Guangzhou high-speed line.

Some disappointing news just received from Australia is that there are to be cutbacks to Great Southern Rail services from late December this year. The twice weekly Melbourne to Adelaide *Overland* service will be withdrawn completely, with the final service departing Melbourne on December 29. In addition, the *Indian Pacific* and *Ghan* transcontinental trains will run just once a week throughout the year in 2016. We hope to have all timings confirmed for inclusion in the special Winter edition of our timetable published in December.

### WINTER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

The following notes refer to the Winter International Supplement on pages 577 to 592, which has advance tables valid from December 13.

**Table 9 (winter)** - Eurostar has released timings for the 2015/2016 winter ski services between London and Bourg St Maurice. Please be aware that, as Christmas Day falls on a Friday this year, the first overnight departure will not be until January 1. These services are now open for booking.

**Table 10 (winter)** - Eurostar timings for services from London to Paris and Brussels are now available until March 26. Engineering work in the Channel Tunnel will affect services on January 16, 17, 30 and 31, but timings on these dates are still to be confirmed. Also, engineering work on the high speed line between Calais and Paris from February 1 to March 26 will affect services; during this period trains will depart Paris 10 minutes earlier and arrive Paris 10 minutes later than usual. Please note that no services will call at Ashford International on February 21 due to engineering work.

**Table 11 (winter)** - TGV **9860** from Toulon to Brussels will start from Nice at 0602. This replaces the existing 0905 departure from Nice which only runs as far as Lille.

**Table 17 (winter)** - Eurostar has issued advance timings for its London to Marseille and Marne la Vallée-Chessy services valid from the timetable change on December 13. The Marseille service will continue to run once a week, on Saturdays, until March 19. From March 25 the number of departures will increase to three times a week, running additionally on Mondays and Fridays. Services to Marne la Vallée will continue to run four days a week, increasing to six during holiday periods (except for a five week break from January 3).

**Table 30 (winter)** - This table will only be valid until April 2, 2016, as there will be major changes following the opening of the TGV Est high speed line extension to Strasbourg on April 3. We will be including two advance versions of Tables **30** and **32** in our October edition showing the service before and after the opening of the new line.

**Table 60 (winter)** - Significant changes will be implemented on the Hamburg – Berlin – Praha – Budapest axis with all daytime services from Germany only running as far as Praha hlavní (except for train *EC 173/172 Hungaria* which will continue to run as a through service to and from Budapest). Good connections will be maintained at Praha for journeys to and from Bratislava and Budapest. The number of direct services between Hamburg and Praha will increase to four in each direction. Please note that many of the train names have been shuffled around.

**Table 99 (winter)** - A number of changes will be implemented on the Warszawa to Praha and Wien routes. The Warszawa to Praha route will benefit from a second *EuroCity* service, although the current *EC 110/111* will be retimed considerably as a result. A new Warszawa to Ostrava *EuroCity* service will also be introduced. Wien services will be starting from/terminating at Wien Hbf and so will no longer serve Wien Westbahnhof.

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