

What's new this month

With winter fast approaching, this is the time of year when we start to include advance versions of selected International tables valid from the December timetable change. These will be found in our **Winter International Supplement** on pages 571 to 591, valid from December 11. A summary of the principal changes will be found on page 337.

With the opening of the **Rhin-Rhône** high-speed line on that date, we have also included on page 591 the full Paris - Dijon - Besançon - Basel - Zürich timetable (Table **370**) from December 11, when passengers for Mulhouse, Basel and Zürich will switch to using Paris Gare de Lyon instead of Paris Est station.

Last month we expanded the European Rail Timetable by 32 pages and started to include a new 12-page **Beyond Europe** section, covering a different area of the world outside Europe each month. In this edition it is the turn of **China**, with principal rail services shown on pages 558 to 569. You can find further details of the areas covered each month on page 558.

HIGH-SPEED TRAINS FEATURE

Our annual feature on High-Speed Trains has been updated to include the latest new lines and planned schemes, as well as details of the various types of train. The feature will be found on pages 33 to 38.

AIRPORT LINKS

Airports added this month are Exeter and Southend. The low-cost carrier easyJet will be flying from Southend from April 2012 and the airport now has its own recently opened rail station.

INTERNATIONAL

Table **20** - As previously reported *Thalys* **9412/9453** Paris - Köln will be extended to and from Essen from August 29. Further trains will be extended from December 11, as shown in the winter version of this table in this month's Winter Supplement.

City Night Line has withdrawn its restaurant cars from the Paris to Berlin, Hamburg and München sleeper services. We are awaiting confirmation whether the restaurant car will return to the Paris - Berlin service from November 1.

Further to last month's Newslines concerning engineering work in the Saarbrücken and Metz areas, Paris bound *City Night Line* services from Berlin (**CNL 450/470**), Hamburg (**CNL 40479**), and München (**CNL 40418**) will be unable to call at Saarbrücken and Metz on the mornings of August 28, September 4, 12, 19 and 26. Also, between August 7 and September 30, **CNL 450/470**, **CNL 40479** and **CNL 479** Hamburg - Zürich will depart Göttingen 24 minutes earlier. We understand that the arrival time in Paris is unaltered. This affects Tables **20**, **30** and **32**.

Due to a problem with the Ukrainian sleeping cars, daily train **35/36 Lviv Express** Wrocław - Lviv will run on alternate nights from September 4 (Tables **96**, **1056**).

Elipso has announced that *Trenhotel* **477/475** João Miró Paris - Barcelona will be affected by engineering work on certain dates from August until October involving later arrival times and earlier departure times at Barcelona França. Precise times and dates can be found in Table **13**. Additionally, Elipso has announced that *Trenhotel* **409/406** Francisco de Goya Paris - Madrid will not run in either direction on September 10, 17 or October 15 (Table **46**).

Table **44** - We understand that the availability of sleeping cars on train **221/220** *Stendhal* Paris - Venezia has been severely reduced due to maintenance difficulties, but couchette cars are unaffected.

Table **88** - The Austrian Railways *Intercity* bus between Klagenfurt and Venezia now terminates in Venezia at Tronchetto instead of Piazzale Roma. A new people mover (opened last year) links Tronchetto with Piazzale Roma, which is only a short walk from Venezia Santa Lucia rail station. The city plan of Venezia on page 32 has been amended accordingly.

GREAT BRITAIN

Chiltern Railways is speeding up its London - Banbury - Birmingham service (Table **128**) from September 5, whilst Arriva Trains Wales will commence running an enhanced service to Fishguard Harbour (Table **135**) on September 12. Weekend services are generally now shown in our tables until October 23.

FRANCE

Bus substitution between Toulouse and Tessonnières is due to continue until September 18, and the revised rail services for Tables **314**, **317**

and **323** after that date will be found on page 237. However, passengers travelling between September 19 and 24 are advised to check locally before travelling.

The new timetable from December 11 will see significant changes, notably in the Dijon area with the opening of the Rhin-Rhône high-speed line linking Dijon with Mulhouse. There will be two new stations on the high-speed line, Besançon Franche-Comté TGV, and Belfort Montbéliard TGV. The former will have a shuttle rail service to the existing Besançon station (Besançon Viotte) taking around 15 minutes. Table **370** will be extended to show the TGV service from Paris Gare de Lyon via Dijon through to Basel and Zürich, and an advance version of this table valid from December 11 will be found on page 591.

The new line will also revolutionise services on the north-south axis from Strasbourg to Dijon, Lyon and beyond. There will be six daily Strasbourg - Lyon TGV trains, three continuing to Marseille and two to Montpellier. One of the Strasbourg - Marseille trains will start from Frankfurt/Main as shown in Table **47** (Winter). A third Metz - Nancy - Lyon TGV train will also be introduced, continuing to Marseille.

A further innovation from December will be the introduction (by linking existing services) of several through trains from Paris Bercy via Dijon to Lyon, using the classic PLM line. Through journeys by this route will take five hours, as opposed to two hours by TGV. Full details of all the new timings will, of course, be shown in the December edition.

ITALY

There are minor schedule and train number changes on Tables **580** and **610** from September 5.

We understand that Arenaways service between Torino and Milano (Table **585**) was suspended in early August.

SPAIN

Several AVE services on the Madrid to Sevilla and Málaga high speed line have been withdrawn, including AVE **2280** 0830 Madrid to Sevilla, AVE **2281** 0815 Sevilla to Madrid and AVE **2062** 0630 Madrid to Málaga. Two daily services, AVE **2203** 2010 Málaga to Madrid and AVE **2213** 2105 Málaga to Madrid, have been combined on Mondays to Saturdays to form new AVE **2413** 2030 Málaga to Madrid. Sunday timings remain the same. Madrid to Sevilla AVE **2210** at 2100 and AVE **2220** at 2200 and the return Sevilla to Madrid AVE **2201** at 2045 and AVE **2211** at 2145 are combined into AVE **2410** at 2130 and AVE **2411** 2115 respectively (Table **660**). Two AVE services between Madrid and Sevilla are on holiday for an extra week, resuming on September 18 instead of September 12.

Arco **694/697** *García Lorca* Barcelona to Sevilla, Málaga, Badajoz, Granada and Almería no longer convey direct cars to the last three destinations. Arco connections, in the same timings, are available at Alcázar de San Juan for Badajoz, and for Almería and Málaga at Linares - Baeza. Additionally from September 11, the *García Lorca* will be formed of Alaris stock with two portions: from Barcelona to Sevilla and Barcelona to Málaga. Málaga will therefore gain a through first class car and a through buffet car both from Barcelona. Overall timings will be reduced by over an hour but connections at Alcázar de San Juan and Linares - Baeza will be maintained in similar timings. The description on page 119 in the Thomas Cook rail guide *Europe by Rail* as "Spain's most interesting train" may now have to be altered. See Tables **661**, **668**, **668a**, **672** and **678**.

Alaris **1111** 1100 Barcelona to Alacant and the return **1202** 1822 (Table **672**) will be formed of Talgo stock from September 11.

From the end of August, Vigo station is to be altered from being a terminus to having through platforms, and a new line is to be constructed linking Tui and Guillarei with Vigo. This will enable trains to avoid the detour via Redodela, and through services will no longer need to reverse at Vigo. All services to Vigo are now terminating at Vigo Guixar, approximately 1 km from the old Vigo station, and some timings have altered by up to 3 minutes (Tables **680**, **681**, **682** and **696**). This situation is likely to last for several years.

Buses will operate between Reinosa and Santander on dates listed in Table **684**.

From Madrid to Vitoria / Gasteiz a new *Alvia* service will commence on September 11 departing Chamartin station at 1855 on Sundays to Thursdays. In the reverse direction it will depart Vitoria / Gasteiz at 0645 on Mondays to Fridays from September 12 (Tables **663**, **689**).

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What's new this month — continued from page 3

SPAIN (continued)

Engineering work to improve FGV's Benidorm to Denia line means partial bus substitution for several months. Details are in Table 667.

PORTUGAL

Following a period of complete closure for electrification and modernisation, the line from Lisboa to Évora and Beja reopened at the end of July. The new timetable consists of four IC trains (three at weekends) between Lisboa and Évora, with connections for Beja at Casa Branca (Table 698).

Modernisation of the Castelo Branco - Covilhã section of the *Beira Baixa* line (Table 691) has resulted in a revised timetable from July 31. The upgrading, together with a reduction in the station dwell time at Castelo Branco, has brought Covilhã around 20 minutes closer to Lisboa. On the *Duoro Valley* line (Table 694), two Régua - Pocinho trains have been retimed on Saturdays.

FINLAND

The next Finnish Railways timetable change will take place on October 31. These revised schedules will be valid until March 4, 2012, possibly marking a permanent change to the normal schedule change dates.

GERMANY

Tables 911 - 913 have been restructured this month. Table 912 has been revised to show all services from Frankfurt to Stuttgart, Karlsruhe and Basel (including timings at Darmstadt, Bensheim, Weinheim and Bruchsal which were previously shown in Table 911). Therefore, the complete service between Frankfurt and Stuttgart/Karlsruhe can now be found in a single table. Local services between Offenburg and Strasbourg have also been incorporated into Table 912 which will hopefully make planning journeys across the border easier. Long-distance services between Koblenz and Frankfurt/Mannheim have been transferred to a new Table 911 (the local service between Mainz and Mannheim remains in Table 911a). Local trains Frankfurt - Mannheim/Heidelberg and Mannheim - Heidelberg - Karlsruhe have been moved to a new Table 913.

AUSTRIA

There have been a number of alterations on the Wiener Neustadt - Friedberg - Fehring route (Table 983) following the withdrawal of services on the Friedberg - Oberwart branch line on August 1. The most notable change is the withdrawal of the Mondays to Fridays 1941 departure from Fehring to Friedberg. This means the last northbound departure from Fehring is now at 1726.

POLAND

Many services will alter from September 1 and these changes have been incorporated into the relevant tables.

It was previously reported that engineering work would result in the closure of Łódź Fabryczna station from September 1. However the work has been further delayed and the station is now expected to close from October 16. Table 1090 on page 478 shows the service between Warszawa and Łódź Fabryczna from September 1 until October 15, whilst a temporary version on page 479 shows the service between Warszawa and Łódź Kaliska from October 16 until December 10.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Student Agency's *RegioJet* trains have not yet started to run between Praha and Ostrava, but at least part of the service shown at the foot of Table 1160 is likely to start during the Autumn.

BULGARIA

Bulgaria's only narrow gauge line runs from Septemvri (situated on the Sofiya to Plovdiv main line) to Dobrinishte via the popular mountain resort of Bansko (a distance of 125 kilometres). The line always appears to be under threat of closure but continues to survive with four complete journeys in each direction. We have now managed to find space to include timings for this line, details of which can be found in Table 1510. Hopefully we can retain this table for the foreseeable future! To accommodate the new table we have moved schedules for international trains between București and Ruse/Sofiya from Table 1500 to international Table 61. The Sofiya to Varna/Burgas service, previously shown in Table 1520, is renumbered as 1500 (and now includes all services between Sofiya and Ruse). The Sofiya to Vidin and Calafat to Craiova service becomes Table 1520 (previously 1510).

LITHUANIA

The local service between Vilnius and Turmantas has been taken out of Table 1820 and given its own number 1818. The intermediate station Ignalina has been added.

RUSSIA AND BELARUS

As previously noted on page 2, the governments of both Russia and Belarus have decided to do away with daylight saving time, and in fact to stay permanently on summer time. This means that they will not put their clocks back at the end of October but will remain all year on GMT + 3 (Belarus) or GMT + 4 (Moskva). Unfortunately for timetable compilers (not to mention passengers) the effect on rail schedules will be that from October 30, when other countries put their clocks back, any trains to or from neighbouring countries in the west (notably Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic States) will be one hour adrift from their normal schedules on crossing the border. We will, of course, attempt to find out the details of the retimings for our November edition. One interesting consequence of the decision is that in winter there will be a three hour time difference at the Norwegian / Russian border, affecting the two cross-border bus services to Murmansk shown in Table 789!

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's section covers **China**, including the newly opened high-speed line between Beijing and Shanghai (Table 7065). We understand, however, that certain services on this line have been temporarily suspended. Next month's Beyond Europe section will cover principal rail services in **Japan**.

NEXT MONTH

As well as the latest changes to the current schedules, the October edition will contain an expanded Winter International Supplement, with tables numbered up to 68. The November edition will contain winter versions of all our International tables, as well as the annual **Night Trains** feature. The December edition will be valid from December 11 and will show where possible the new schedules throughout Europe.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES FROM DECEMBER 11

A brief summary of the principal changes contained within the Winter International Supplement appears below:

Table 10 - Eurostar tables have been compiled from a very early proof timetable and we were awaiting an updated version as we went to press with this edition.

Table 11 - Many services have been recast and a summary will follow in next month's Newslines.

Table 18 - One pair of *Thalys* trains from Paris to and from Brussels will be extended to and from Brussels Nationaal/Zaventem airport daily.

Table 20 - Two additional *Thalys* services between Paris and Köln will be extended to Essen.

Table 40 - With the opening of the Rhin-Rhône high-speed line, the Paris - Basel - Zurich TGV services will cease to run from Paris Est via Strasbourg, but will now run from Paris Gare de Lyon via Dijon,

Besançon and the new line. Services will increase from five a day to six. Trains 91/90, 97/96 and 295/296 on the Brussels - Strasbourg - Basel corridor have been moved out of Table 40 and into a revamped Table 43, in order to accommodate the Paris - Zürich services. Connections London - Lille - Strasbourg - Basel will be recast.

Table 47 - With the opening of the Rhin-Rhône high-speed line, there will be a new daily TGV 9580/9582 from Marseille to Frankfurt (Main) via Lyon and Strasbourg with connections at Frankfurt to and from a number of German destinations. The Luxembourg and Strasbourg to Nice and Portbou overnight services have been removed from this table, as they are shown in full in the French section.

Table 44 (to be shown in next month's Winter Supplement) - For over ten years Artesia trains 227/226 *Palatino* Paris - Roma and 221/220 *Stendhal* Paris - Venezia have departed from Paris Bercy, but from December they will return to the nearby Paris Gare de Lyon.