Introduction

Toulon will be familiar to many of our supporters after recent visits. Situated in the Provence region it is a city the size of Cork and home to one of the largest harbor’s in Europe. Toulon is an important center for naval construction, fishing, wine making, and the manufacture of aeronautical equipment, armaments, maps, paper, tobacco, printing, shoes, and electronic equipment.

There is also the other side to the maritime magnificence of Toulon. Endless rows of marinas housing luxurious yachts and private cruisers for the rich and famous who no doubt sail up and down the coast to Monaco or Nice on a regular basis.

With such a colorful history it is no coincidence that Toulon is steeped in literature and art, probably most famously known to current arts students as the location of the infamous prison, the ‘Bagne of Toulon’ in Victor Hugo’s Les Misérables. There is hardly a place to turn without noticing its fascinating history.

The city center and all its sights are easily covered by foot, throw in the Christmas markets and of course our game in this rugby mad city, we know you’ll have a great weekend.

Getting to Dublin Airport

Official coach supplier to Leinster Rugby can get you to/from Dublin airport from €8 one way / €13 return from various locations around Dublin. These prices include an online discount at www.aircoach.ie You can also pay as you board the bus.

Getting There

Unfortunately Toulon isn’t the easiest place to get to. The majority of supporters will be on a charter and flying directly to Toulon, your transfers will be included to/from the airport.

The OLSC is aware some supporters will be making a long weekend of it by flying to Nice with Ryanair or Aer Lingus. Unfortunately there was insufficient demand for a transfer bus back on Sunday night. There is a 6.46pm and 7.17pm train leaving Toulon train station for Nice, the journey time is just under two hours. Book in advance for the best fares at www.tgv-europe.com, from the center of Nice take a taxi to the airport (€25 for four people).

Accommodation

At the time of writing there was still limited availability at the IBIS Budget hotel located in the city centre, just 300 meters from the Port for €42 per room per night, you could also check www.laterooms.com for other options.
Supporters HQ

The OLSC has once again teamed up with the Guinness Bloc pub located in the center of Toulon at 56 bd Tesse. Open from 11am on Saturday and Sunday, there is a happy hour between 6-8pm daily where all beers are €3.80. There will also be specials outside of happy hour, Guinness (£5.50), Heineken (£5), Strongbow Cider (£5) plus a wide range of other beers on tap priced between £5.90 and £6.70. Like many French bars, food is not served however there are a number of options nearby. Our base also has a number of screens with Canal+ and BeinSport for the other Champions Club action over the weekend (remember most pubs in France do not have Sky Sports). There is also free Wi-Fi to save yourself expensive roaming charges.

Flags and being blue!

The flags issued in the RDS and Aviva Stadium (with a white plastic pole) have been cleared by the Dublin airport authority for hand luggage and should also be acceptable to pass through UK airports. The OLSC team of volunteers will have a limited number of flags to hand out in Toulon however please bring what you can from home.

Santa Hats

The OLSC in association with Bank of Ireland will have a limited number of free Santa hats to help the blue army be seen in the stadium on Sunday. Look out for volunteers handing these out and be sure to wear it in the ground. Please don’t ask for extras to take home, we need as much blue in the ground on Sunday as possible. There will be a limited number given away at Aviva Stadium next week.

Wining and dining

Comptoir des fromages at 9 Rue de la Paix is a great spot for a plate of cold cuts, cheese and a glass of wine from €15. La Tortue located in the port area at 71 Quai Sinse has a wide range of options, it is open 9am – 5pm on match day, bookings may be required. Finally, Othello located near the port at 381 Littoral Frederic Mistral is surprisingly good value for its location. With a wide-ranging menu it is open Saturday 5.30pm-11.30pm and every other day 12pm-2pm and 7.30pm-11.00pm.

Getting Around

The old town area of Toulon is pedestrianised and features cobbled streets with shops, cafes and restaurants (see our tips later in the guide). Regular buses are operated by RMTT, tickets can be purchased at the kiosk on place de la Liberté. These RMTT tickets are also valid on the company’s four bus boat services in the bay.

Getting to the Ground

Conveniently located in the city center, the 15,400 capacity stadium is the home of RCT Toulon.

NB - Following recent attacks in France, No person may enter the stadium if they have a backpack/bag etc.

Top 5 things to see and do

1. RCT Toulon vs Leinster on Sunday, KO 4.15pm local time
2. The Christmas Markets at place de la Liberté
3. Mt Feron cable car, take the No 40 bus from near the harbor
4. Stroll around the marina, this is luxury at its best
5. Old Town – take in the cafes, shops and restaurants Toulon has to offer

The local Tourism office is located at 12 place Louis Blanc at the harbor.

Christmas Markets

Toulon has a daily Christmas market of around 40 chalets at place de la Liberté at this time of year plus a large crib of over 700 santons and a giant skating rink.

RCT Toulon Café Store

Our opposition this weekend have their own shop located at the side of the Centre Commercial Mayol for those wanting to pick up a souvenir (they’re also online at www.rctstore.com)
AN UNLIMITED 2% OF YOUR MORTGAGE BACK AS CASH.

Now that’s a mortgage with a difference.

Cashback offer available on mortgages drawn down between 3rd June 2015 and 31st December 2015. The Bank reserves the right to seek refund of the payment from the customer if the mortgage is paid back within 5 years. Not applicable with the 1% stamp duty offer. Lending criteria and terms and conditions apply, and security and insurance are required. Maximum mortgage is generally 3.5 times gross annual income and 80% of the property value (90% of the property value up to €220,000 for First Time Buyers, 70% of the full property value for Buy to Let) but these limits may vary. A typical variable rate mortgage of €100,000 over 20 years costs €623.20 per month at Annual Percentage Rate (APR) 4.4%. A 1% interest rate rise will increase this repayment by €54.35 per month (APR 5.4%). Bank of Ireland Mortgage Bank trading as Bank of Ireland Mortgages and The Mortgage Store is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Keep in touch with the OLSC

You can keep up to date with all the latest news and information from the OLSC on our website, by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter. You can also view all our video content on our YouTube channel. Just search for us or simply scan the QR codes below to find us.

bankofireland.com/mortgages
1890 365 345

Keep in touch with the OLSC

Official Leinster Supporters Club

Twitter: OLSCRugby

YouTube: OLSCRugby

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Bank of Ireland Mortgage Bank trading as Bank of Ireland Mortgages and The Mortgage Store is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.
Data roaming

Our Supporters HQ has free wifi across the weekend allowing you to save money on expensive roaming costs. Unless you have a suitable mobile data package, we suggest you keep roaming switched off over the weekend to avoid an expensive reminder of the trip next month when you get your bill.

OLSC Offers

Season ticket holders can avail of the following discounts throughout the season – not just this weekend.

Life Style Sports
OLSC members receive 10% off all full priced stock store-wide, by showing their plastic card in store. If shopping at www.lifestylesports.com quote ‘OLSC2015’.

Windsor Motor Group
Season ticket holders who book a car service with the Windsor Motor Group will receive a free €30 fuel voucher and children’s kit bag, simply show your plastic card. In addition to this offer, season ticket holders who book a minor or major service will go into a draw to win a VIP trip to the Toulon home game at Aviva Stadium on Saturday 19 December. This includes a pair of VIP match tickets, overnight luxury accommodation and transfers to/from the game.

CityJet
Season ticket holders receive free security fast track access at T1, Dublin airport when flying on any Cityjet flight. Simply show your plastic season ticket card at the entrance to the security lane with your boarding pass.

The Bridge 1859
Season ticket holders receive 20% off all food 7 days a week. In addition to this, food and drinks will have 20% off 2 hours before and after any Leinster AWAY game. *Offer does not apply to finger food, season ticket card is non-transferable and must be shown prior to ordering. Discounts are subject to change and will be notified on this website, can not be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Bear Restaurant
Jamie Heaslip’s BEAR restaurant on South William Street in Dublin 2 offers season ticket holders 10% off food on match days on production of your plastic season ticket card.

Sportsfile
Sportsfile capture both players and supporters home and away. Purchase any image from www.sportsfile.com and quote OLSC1516 to receive a 15% discount.

Dublin Airport Authority
Get 10% off long term car parking at www.dublinairport.com by quoting ‘OLSC1516’ during the season, note this does not apply during the summer break.

Horse Show House
OLSC members can show their card at the Horse Show House for pints of Guinness for €4.50 on match days.

Message from the Coach

Leo Cullen
Head Coach

Our last away trip, to Bath, seems like a long time ago now. All things being equal we should have had two games under our belts to address some of the issues from that game but of course ‘Desmond’ ensured that Glasgow didn’t go ahead and as a result we had to make do with the Ulster game alone.

Encouragingly we did address some of those issues as a team and we took the win against Ulster and were happy to move on and face into a trip to Scotstoun as a last game before Toulon.

It wasn’t to be. There can be two schools of thought. The game lost is an opportunity lost to fine tune some elements and get game time. Or during a demanding schedule of games everyone gets a weekend ‘off’ and players come in to this game fresher than they would do with a physically demanding 80 minutes against the reigning Guinness PRO12 champions under their belts.

I use the word ‘off’ loosely as of course we had to travel to Glasgow and prepare as if the game was going ahead until it was postponed that morning. The travel and the waiting around has it’s own impact mentally but there were no injuries to report anyway!

Time will tell what impact Glasgow will have had but the players have stayed very focused on Ulster, then Glasgow but now we move on to face a huge task.

After two opening defeats and only a losing bonus point to show, we are under no illusions. But we also don’t need to look too far away either for reasons to believe.

Both Bath and Wasps made it to last years quarter-finals on the back of two losses in rounds one and two. We are willing to fight for every last point in this group until our destiny is decided. That starts this Sunday away to Toulon.

We have huge respect for Toulon and what they have achieved over the last few seasons domestically and in Europe. And yet we pushed them as close as any other team last season when taking them to extra time in the semi-final.

We know too that our supporters have been very well received in Toulon and in Marseilles and I have no doubt that this weekend will be no different.

Of course this is our first trip to France since the awful events a few weeks back and the people of France are still very much in all our thoughts as they continue to rebuild.

In the Rec in Round Two, you drove us on in your hundreds and we very nearly got there. I know that for all the colour and fervor that the Toulon supporters bring that you will not be lacking either and we look forward to representing you as best we can.

Safe travels and enjoy the game.

Leo Cullen
Head Coach
Message from the Committee

Looking out the window on a grey December day the blue army would be forgiven for dreaming of a milder clime…and now that time is upon us! The South of France is calling out to us again for the first of our European clashes against Toulon. While the weather may not have the usual balmy highs, the temperatures will surely rise when the Leinster team arrive into town.

With back to back European and Pro12 action leading up to this clash it really isn’t going to get much tougher than this. After Toulon’s European success over the last couple of seasons we need to show our support for the boys in blue now more than ever. A win in the fortress that is Stade Felix Mayol would certainly be an early Christmas present for the Leinster players and supporters and set up our home fixture against the French team next Saturday on a huge positive note.

The players know what is expected from them and are going to rise to the challenge and we as supporters need to do the same! Those of us going to this clash need to be prepared to answer the call to rival that of the ‘Pilou-Pilou’ and paint the town blue. Flags, Jerseys, face paint and most importantly bring the noise to cheer on the boys in blue.

Toulon is a city steeped with Marine tradition and beautiful architecture and there are many things to see and do. Enjoy your stay and the hospitality of the locals who love their rugby and are very much looking forward to socialising with us. We hope to see you at the Guinness Bouc, our HQ at some point over the weekend.

Finally, we would like to thank Bank of Ireland for their continued support of these guides, Sportsfile for the use of official Leinster Rugby photos and Terry Quinlan of Pilot Media Design who volunteers his time to design and layout our away guides.

BE SEEN - BE HEARD - BE BLUE - BE LEINSTER

The OLSC Committee