

Official Leinster Supporters Club



Guide to Toulon

Leinster v Toulon
Sunday, April 6, 5.30pm
Stade Felix Mayol



Bank of Ireland 

Official Sponsor Leinster Rugby

Introduction



Leinster v Toulon

Stade Felix Mayol - Sunday, April 6, 5.30pm.

Situated in the Provence region, under the protection of Mont Feron at the southern end of the French Alps and bordered by the Cote d’Azur of the Mediterranean Sea, Toulon is a city approximately the size of Cork.

Its harbour, one of the largest in Europe, is among the best natural anchorages on the Mediterranean. A naval arsenal and shipyard was built in 1599 and a small sheltered harbour, the Veille Darse, was built in 1604–1610 to protect ships from the wind and sea.

Such an attraction for both naval forces and tradesmen alike has helped generate tremendous economic activity in the City for hundreds of years. It currently houses the French Naval Fleet and is one of the biggest ship building locations on the planet.

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

With such a colourful 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.



Let us not forget why we are here this weekend, the rugby. The locals are very noisy and passionate. As current Heineken Cup champions they will be doing everything they can to defend their title as the road to Cardiff continues.

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Travel & Supporter HQ

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Getting there

We know that most supporters are either flying direct on charters to Toulon or making their way via Marseille and Lyon by train or car. Train tickets in France can be purchased online and collected at the station, see www.tgv-europe.com

Accommodation

Toulon was at the time of writing fully booked the night before the game. If you are reading this and still in need of a bed check www.laterooms.com. You could also try www.airbnb.com where locals often advertise rooms to rent for the night.

OLSC Special Bus Transfer

The OLSC has arranged a special return coach on Sunday morning (departing from outside arrivals at 11.50am) returning for the Aer Lingus flight home from Nice to Dublin after the game.

Full details have been emailed to all passengers who have prepaid. The bus will drop you off at the central bus station and depart from the same location at 8pm on Sunday night. Please don't be late after the game as we can't wait.

If you have a confirmed booking and need to contact us about the bus in France, please call or text on + 353 86 893 9129.

Getting Around

A large part of the centre in the Old Town is for pedestrians only. The bus company RMTT operates in and around Toulon. Tickets can be bought at the kiosk on place de la Liberté. RMTT tickets are also valid on the company's four bus boat services in the bay. They also operate four Boat trips.

Supporter HQ

The OLSC has teamed up with Paul and the team at the Guinness Bouc, located in the centre of Toulon at 56 bd Tesse. Open from 10.30am until 2am daily, Leinster supporters will be made welcome with specials of Heineken at €5 a pint, Guinness €6, Desperado €5 and Kilkenny at €6. They also have a wide range of other beers available. Throughout the weekend they will be serving in glasses instead of plastic cups.

Like many French bars, food is not served however there are a number of options nearby with whatever your pallet or wallet desires. You are also welcome to bring in any takeaway food purchased nearby.

The HQ has a number of screens with Canal + for the other European Club action over the weekend (remember most pubs in France do not have Sky Sports). They also have free wifi to save yourself expensive roaming charges.

Helpful Links

Tourist Info: www.toulontourisme.com

Train tickets: www.tgv-europe.com

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Flags & Caps

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Flags



The flags with a white plastic pole handed out in the RDS have been cleared by the Dublin Airport Authority as hand luggage and should also be acceptable to pass through UK airports (for those not going direct). The OLSC team will have a limited number of flags to hand out over in Toulon, however please bring what you can from home.

Commemorative Cap

The OLSC in association with Bank of Ireland, proud sponsor of Leinster Rugby has arranged for a limited number of blue baseball caps to be given away this weekend. These feature the date on the side so are set to be a souvenir. They will be distributed by the OLSC team at airports on Saturday and near the stadium on match day (while stocks last).

Toulon Supporters

French rugby supporters often like to swap items such as scarves, hats and beanies (sometime even jerseys!) with visiting supporters. The OLSC recommends you bring old season ticket scarves etc. If you

receive one of our limited blue caps please don't give it away until after the game as we need as much blue in the stadium as possible.

The locals have their own often deafening chant of the Pilou-Pilou:

“ Ah! We are the ruthless Pilou-
Pilou warriors
Coming down from the
mountain to the sea (Pilou-Pilou!)
With our dishevelled women
breastfeeding our children
Under the shade of the great
white coconut trees (Pilou-Pilou!)

We the ruthless warriors
sing our ruthless war cry
(Aaaarrgggghhhh!)
I said our ruthless war cry!
(Aaaarrgggghhhh!)
Because Tou-lon (Red!)
Because Tou-lon (Black),
Because Tou-lon (Red and Black!) ”

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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.



Official Leinster Supporters Club



www.olsc.ie



Twitter:
[OLSCRugby](https://twitter.com/OLSCRugby)



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3 The Ground

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Stade Felix Mayol

Stade Felix Mayol is conveniently located in the city centre. It was named after a famous French singer and entertainer who donated land to the local sports club RC Toulonaise shortly after World War I.

Today, after many makeovers, the stadium holds 15,400 and stands on the same plot of land amid tall buildings and urban hustle & bustle. It represents the very pulse of sport in Toulon.



Quai Joseph Lafontan,
83000 Toulon, France.
Available on Google maps.



There are more than 2000 parking spaces either in the 'Mayol' Parking underneath the ground or next to the stadium in the 'Facultés Mayol 2' parking.



You can get to Toulon via the A50 motorway or the A8/57 motorways (from Nice in around 90 minutes). The A50 in fact takes you almost to the door of the ground.

4 Supporters Village

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RCT Supporters Village

Located at Place Besagne, just a short stroll from the stadium, the supporters village will be open from 11am to midnight on Saturday and 10am – 10pm on match day (Sunday).

The village will be home to music all day, big screens for other European club action, appearances from Toulon players along with bars and food options.



Top 5 things to see and do

1. The game! - Toulon v Leinster, Sunday 6 April, KO 5.30pm (local)
2. Mt Feron - take the cable car for fantastic views over the city at 584 metres
3. Old Town - visit the historic centre located between the port and Cours Lafayette
4. Boat trip - see the ships of the French navy in the bay (www.reseaumistral.com)
5. Wine & Food Festival - located on Place d'Armes over the weekend

Office de Tourisme de Toulon is located at 12 place Louis Blanc and at an office at the harbour.

OLSC Discounts For Supporters Home And Away

1. Leinster clothing: To stock up with all the Leinster gear you need ahead of the game this weekend – or at any time – visit any Lifestyle Sports store where your season ticket will get you 10% off. Quote 'OLSC2013' at www.lifestylesports.com/leinster to avail of the 10% season ticket discount

2. Dublin Airport Specials:

Car Parking: Book any car parking for our away games this season and save 20% at DAA carparks by quoting 'OLSC14' at www.dublinairportcarparking.ie

Terminal 1: 20% off all food/non alcoholic beverages when you show your away match ticket at

- Alcock & Brown Restaurant and Bar (Land side mess level over departures)
- Gate Clock Bar (Air side Pier B 300 gates)
- Refuel Cafe (Air side Pier B 300 gates)
- Cafe Refuel (Air side Pier A 200 gates)
- CU Bar (Air side Pier D 100 gates)

3. Bear:

Jamie Heaslip's restaurant on South William Street, Dublin 2 offers all season ticket holders a 10% discount on presentation of their plastic card on match days.

4. The Exchequer:

Gordon D'Arcy's restaurant on Exchequer Street, Dublin 2 offers all season ticket holders a three course meal for the price of two. Pints of Guinness and Heineken are also just €4

5. Sportsfile:

Sportsfile are the official photographget to Leinster Rugby. Photos taken by Sportsfile are available to purchase directly online and if you quote 'OLSC1315' at www.sportsfile.com, you will save 15%. Photos are normally uploaded during the games when the boys in blue are playing both home and away.

6. More:

Season ticket holders can avail of a wide range of discounts, to see the full list visit the 'Blues Benefits' page at www.olsc.ie



5 Message from the Coach

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Our last trip to France was certainly an interesting one but we came out of it with a really good win having been tested by a well-coached Castres team. Since then our focus has been on the PRO12 and I am delighted to say that our players have not been found wanting be that in the RDS or away from home.

Nor have you our fans been found wanting. I am well used to the RDS experience at this stage but I still get taken aback by the reception we get when our boys run out onto a pitch away from home. On a recent cold Thursday evening, in Cardiff, we ran out to find not one, not two, but three pockets of Leinster fans dotted around the Cardiff Arms Park.

We as a management team and a playing squad notice that support and feed into it and I can't emphasise enough how important a role the travelling blue army will play this weekend against Toulon. Since that Northampton game in the Aviva, every Heineken Cup game has been a knock out game of sorts but this one is it.

To be fair it is why you get involved with professional rugby or any sport for that matter. To be involved come the business end of the season, with it all to play for, all on

the line. There is a buzz and an excitement that is addictive and this weekend will be no different.

Since our last trip to France, plenty of our players have had their own French adventure with the Irish set up, but that is well out of the system now and they are fully focused on the job at hand and it is quite a challenge.

When you are in the Quarter-Finals, you are happy just to be there and in the mix to a point but you always keep an eye on the draw like all fans do! To get an away trip to France, against the defending champions, well to be fair, we couldn't have asked for a tougher draw.

Similarly since our last trip to France players like Jordi Murphy, Marty Moore, Jack McGrath and Rhys Ruddock have added considerable international experience to their CVs and they have really impressed me with how they have made that step up.

Another man has also added to his CV but he's had enough written and spoken about him for now. Suffice to say that he has deserved every column inch and every radio sound bite that has come his way. But he is not done yet and this is another challenge entirely for him and for us.

We have trained well and we have had a great boost having the international contingent back in the set up. Nothing has been left to chance for this one and we are ready for the considerable task ahead.

Thanks for your continued support at home and away and have a safe trip this weekend.

Matt O'Connor

Head Coach, Leinster Rugby



Message from the OLSC Committee



This weekend sees a much anticipated visit to Toulon to take on the mighty Rouge et Noire, defending champions of the Heineken European Cup. Since supporters found out we drew Toulon back in January the blue army has been planning.

It doesn't get much tougher than this, coming to France for cup rugby is never easy and it's even more exciting in the knockout stages, remember Toulouse in 2010 and Clermont Auvergne in 2012?

Given the Sunday evening kick off, it is a testament to our hunger for European silverware that we will have over 2,200 supporters cheering on the boys in blue. While we may come away with our ears pounding from chants of 'Pilou-Pilou', we will need to give as good as we get (and then some) in this cauldron where the only prize is first – a home semi-final in April.

The players know what they need to do and we too need to play our part too. It won't be easy as we are outnumbered 6 fold by some of the nosiest rugby supporters we have ever come across (those who have been to one of our away Clermont games will know exactly what to expect).

The city is a beautiful one with 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'll have a limited number of commemorative baseball blue caps to give away thanks to Bank of Ireland, look out for the OLSC team handing them out – first in best dressed!

The OLSC Committee