

**OFFICIAL
LEINSTER
SUPPORTERS
CLUB**



GUIDE TO MONTPELLIER

MONTPELLIER HERAULT V LEINSTER
SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER, 2016
KO: 2.00PM CET

Accommodation info
Travel Details
Supporters HQ & more

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Introduction



Montpellier is one of the oldest university towns in the world with a population of approximately 257,000 and is located 10kms inland from the Mediterranean Sea.

A popular spot during the summer, Montpellier is a sports-mad city being home to a number of professional sporting organisations such as Montpellier HSC (football), The Red Devils (rugby league), Montpellier Handball, Montpellier Vipers (hockey) and, of course, our opponents Montpellier Hérault RC.

The southern French city has much to see and do that can easily be done on foot for supporters visiting this weekend. Take a walk around the streets and you'll see many historical sights including the stately Gothic Cathédrale Saint-Pierre de Montpellier which dates back to 1364 and is distinguished by conical towers. Those looking for some culture should check out one of the many art exhibitions on at the moment. One which has free entry is the Jean-Paul Bocaj exhibition in the historic district.

Place de la Comédie is the centre of the city and has many medieval streets leading from it along with a number of restaurants and our Supporter HQ (see details later in the guide) nearby.

Getting to Dublin Airport



Aircoach, official coach supplier to both Leinster Rugby and the OLSC operates regular services to/from Dublin airport. For the cheapest fares, to book online and for time tables see www.aircoach.ie

If parking at Dublin airport, get 10% off Express Red or Holiday Blue parking at www.dublinairport.com by quoting 'OLSC6HF0J4'.

Weather to expect

At this time of the year it can be cooler with temperatures ranging from 9-20 degrees.

Arriving in Montpellier

Given the absence of direct flights, we expect the vast majority of supporters coming from Ireland to be traveling on the Joe Walsh Tours charter flight. Transfers are included with this package that will take you to your hotel (either the Crowne Plaza or Mercure).

Those travelling independently arriving at Montpellier should use the airport shuttle (Navette Aeroport). Priced at €1.60 each way (or €2.60 with a combined bus and tram ticket) this will take you to Place de l'Europe in the east of the city centre. From there, walk (15-20 minutes) or take a tram on line 1 towards Mosson.

In 5 stops (about 10 minutes) you will then be at Place de la Comédie. A taxi from the airport to the city centre will cost about €26. If arriving by train, you'll arrive at Montpellier St Roch which is just 400 metres from Place de la Comédie.

In and around Montpellier

Discover all that Montpellier has to offer by using the extensive tram service. Running until midnight, you can purchase tickets at each station. Single tickets cost €1.50 or buy a one day pass for €4 (purchase at the tram stop or tourist office). The trams run from the early hours each day normally until around 2am. (See tram map on page 6 of this guide)

Supporters may also be interested in a 'City Card' from the local tourism office. These give you free public transport around the town, a guided tour of the historical centre and a discount on the admission price at selected venues. Available for 24 hours (from €13.50), 48 hours (from €19.80) and 72 hours (from €25.20).

For tips and to book any tours, call into the Tourism Office located at 30 Place de la Comedie that is open 9.30am-7.30pm (Monday-Saturday) and 10am-5pm on Sunday. They also have an excellent website (in English) at www.montpellier-france.com

Supporters HQ



Dubliner (and Leinster supporter) Gareth Holmes operates the family-run Irish pub 'O'Carolan's' which will be our Supporter HQ this weekend. Located in the heart of picturesque old town Montpellier, with a terrace on Carré Saint Anne, probably the most beautiful square in the city, it's a short walk from Place de la Comédie and is therefore near the tram for the ground (line 2). O'Carolan's is just off rue Foch, turn onto rue du Petit Scel at the Eden Park shop and you'll find it on the left.

Our HQ will be opening early this weekend (from 10am) and closes at 1am (late pub hours are rare here). It has free wifi and multiple screens showing sport (rugby is a priority!) including the other Champions Cup action across the weekend.

Leinster supporters can enjoy 15%-20% off usual prices at the bar with the following prices: Pints of Guinness, Carlsberg, Kronenbourg and Magners €6; local wines from €3; craft beers from €6; and spirits from €6.

Like many pubs in France food service is limited, however the HQ will have toasties from €3 and there are a number of restaurants to cater for all tastes within a five-minute walk.

OLSC Restaurant tip

For simplicity and value, we think you can't beat L'Entrecote located near Comedie at 3 Rue de Verdun, look for the yellow signage. Their menu is simple, steak and chips with a distinctive 'secret sauce' for €19 – be warned there can sometimes be a queue to get in and they have just two sittings per day (12 noon - 2pm and 7.15pm - 10.45pm). Get there early to make sure you get a table (no reservations possible).

Flags and being blue!

The blue flags with white poles handed out in the RDS and Aviva Stadium are cleared as hand luggage with Dublin airport so please bring what you can from home. The OLSC committee will have a very limited number of flags to give away on Sunday – first in, best dressed!

Top 5 things to see and do this week-end

1. Montpellier Hérault RC v Leinster Rugby – Sunday at 2.00pm (local time)
2. Bus tour (in English) – begins at Place de la Comédie
3. Cycle Tour – Bibliothèque Universitaire, rue des États Généraux
4. Aquarium Mare Nostrum – part of Odysseum Shopping centre
5. O'Carolan's Pub – the OLSC HQ this weekend

Getting to the Ground

Our suggested areas to purchase match tickets were Pesage (standing) and Twickenham Stand Centrale (seated).

Altrad Stadium
500 Avenue de Vanières
34070 Montpellier

Located in the heart of the Ovalie district, 500 avenue de Vanières, near the 'Big M' roundabout, the stadium is very easy to get to and the easiest way is by tram taking Line 2 in the direction of 'Sabines-Saint Jean de Vedas', the nearest tram stop is 'Sabines'. Situated 800 meters away from the stadium, a shuttle is in operation on match days (Tram + Shuttle is €2.50)

After the game head back to the OLSC HQ, if you are travelling with Joe Walsh Tours on the charter you should follow the instructions provided and board your bus nearby the stadium that will take you back to the airport.



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 storewide, by showing their plastic card in store. If shopping online quote 'OLSC1617'.

CityJet

Season ticket holders receive free security fast track access at Terminal one 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.

The Exchequer

Gordon D'Arcy's Exchequer bar on Exchequer Street, Dublin 2 offers €4.50 pints on selected beers before and after a home game. The Exchequer Wine bar in Ranelagh offers a complimentary glass of wine with any main meal purchased on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday before or after a game. Both deals require presentation of your plastic season ticket card.

Sportsfile

Sportsfile capture both players and supporters home and away. Purchase any image from their website and quote 'OLSC1617' to receive a 15% discount.

Horse Show House

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

Zambrero

Ex Leinster player Darragh Fanning offers season ticket holders a 15% discount on all food and drinks when you show your plastic season ticket holder card.

Oslo Beauty

Rob Kearney is offering season ticket holders a 10% discount on treatments on Monday and Tuesdays. To avail of the discount quote 'Leinster Rugby' or simply say 'Rob sent you!'.

Windsor Motor Group

Season ticket holders who show their plastic card will receive 15% off any car service including labour, parts or bodyshop work. Windsor are also offering €500 off any new or used car.

Mao

Season ticket holders who show their card will receive 10% off the A La Carte menu in Mao restaurants. This offer does not apply to Mao at Home.

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Message from the Coach



As another Champions Cup season starts, and we set about our first away trip of the season, I would again like to thank you for your continued efforts in supporting this team wherever they go.

That support has already been witnessed in Scotland twice and in Cardiff most recently and I know that we will see familiar faces in Montpellier this weekend as we will in Northampton and in Castres in due course.

As much as we want to make the RDS a special place to play, it is equally important for us to see that support on our big away days in the Guinness PRO12 and in the Champions Cup.

As we set about another campaign against Europe's elite I think this group of players can be very proud of their achievements in finishing top of the Guinness PRO12 last season, an achievement that resulted in top tier seeding in the Champions Cup for this season.

That seeding and the subsequent draw has us in a pool with Castres, Northampton and this weekend we face last season's Challenge Cup winners Montpellier away from home.

They have a very experienced coach and an excellent squad full of international players and they will be relishing the opportunity of being once again in the Champions Cup. The challenge for us is meeting that enthusiasm head on and ensuring that we can perform to the best of our abilities.

We have played Montpellier before as recently as the 2011/12 season so I hope that that familiarity helps you all to have a great weekend.

Again, thanks for the support and safe travels.

Leo Cullen
Head Coach

Message from the Committee



Leinster supporters last visited Montpellier back in November 2011, the visit to Stade de la Mosson (different to where we play this Sunday) saw Johnny Sexton slot a last-minute kick sealing a 16-16 draw. Later that season saw us win the European Cup at Twickenham with a win over Ulster.

This weekend sees a visit to the smaller 14,700 capacity Altrad Stadium and, unfortunately, due to the absence of direct flights from Ireland, our travelling support is expected to be severely diluted with just a few hundred of our supporters expected to be in the stadium.

Montpellier supporters are passionate and vocal, it's something Leinster supporters are used to with any French away game so those few hundred people will need to give everything to help the boys in blue. This is expected to be a tough fixture, especially on the back of the opening Castres game last weekend.

If you are at the game this weekend sing as loud as you can. Let's get 'C'mon you Boys in Blue' and 'Molly Malone' ringing around the stadium. Regardless of what is happening on the pitch, supporters must stay vocal and focused to urge the team on.

Outside of the game be sure to get out on foot to see the medieval history of Montpellier. There's a lot to see and do and in the evening we recommend catching up with others in the blue army at O'Carolan's, our Supporter HQ, based near Comedie for the weekend. The OLSC has arranged reduced prices and extended hours and the team there will be doing everything they can to make supporters feel at home.

We hope you enjoy the weekend at hope to see you at our HQ at some point over the weekend.

Be seen, be heard, be blue...

C'MON LEINSTER!
OLSC Committee