

OFFICIAL
LEINSTER
SUPPORTERS
CLUB



Montpellier Hérault RC vs. Leinster Rugby
Saturday January 20th 2018
KO: 14:00 (local)



GUIDE TO MONTPELLIER



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Introduction



Montpellier is the 7th largest city in France, and is also the fastest growing city in the country over the past 25 years. Located 10kms inland from the Mediterranean Sea, it is one of the oldest university towns in the world with a population of approximately 275,000. The university of Montpellier was founded in 1160 having being granted a charter in 1220. This was ultimately suppressed during the French Revolution but was re-established in 1896.

A popular spot during the summer, Montpellier is a sports-mad city being home to a number of professional sporting organisations such as football, rugby league, handball, ice hockey, water polo, baseball and of course, our opponents Montpellier Hérault RC. Montpellier was one of the hosts of the FIBA Eurobasket 2015 tournament and the city itself has also been home to the Open Sud de France tennis tournament since 2010.

The southern French city has much to see and do that can easily be navigated 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. Place de la Comedie is the centre of the city and has many medieval streets leading from it along with a number of restaurants and our Supporter HQ.

Leinster took on Montpellier in the RDS in October 2017 in the opening round of the 2017/18 Champions European Cup winning 24-17. Leinster were also the victors in the January 2017 fixture in the RDS however our last visit to Montpellier, in October 2016, resulted in a 22-16 victory to home side in front of a crowd of 10,679.

Getting to Dublin Airport



Get to/from Dublin airport the easy way with Aircoach, official coach supplier to both the team and the OLSC for inter-provincial away trips. Full timetable information and their cheapest fares can be found at www.aircoach.ie

Those driving and who may need car parking at Dublin airport can avail of 20% off standard car parking rates by quoting 'CP2018' at www.dublinairport.com or via their app. Enter the code, you'll be quoted the normal rate then after entering your car registration details you will see the savings made.

Arriving in Montpellier

Charter flights are the only way to fly to Montpellier directly from Dublin, if you are traveling this way your transfers are included. Check the itinerary provided by your travel operator.

If arriving independently in Montpellier, take the airport shuttle (Navett Aeroport) or a taxi at €20 to the city centre (Place de la Comedie or as the locals say Comedie).

Many supporters will be flying to the likes of Carcassonne and Lyon, both airports are well connected by trains. Like at home, to avail of the cheapest fares book your rail tickets before you fly as early as possible at <https://en.oui.sncf/en/>

The city centre train station is Montpellier St Roch, located 400 metres from Comedie.

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.

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

OLSC Supporters HQ



Supporters who made our last visit in October 2016 may be familiar with O'Calarons pub. Dubliner (and Leinster supporter) Gareth Holmes will once again be hosting us in the family-run pub located in the city centre. 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 9.30am on Saturday and noon on Sunday) 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 and cider will be €6, lager €5, 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).

Top 5 things to see and do during your stay

1. Montpellier Hérault RC vs. Leinster Rugby – Saturday at 2pm (local)
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 Supporters HQ this weekend.



Flags

A very limited number of flags with white poles as given away in the RDS, Aviva Stadium and at away games will be available at the ground from the OLSC volunteers.

Getting to the Ground

Our suggested areas to purchase match tickets were Pesage (standing).

Altrad Stadium
500 Avenue de Vanières
34070 Montpellier

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 on a charter you should follow the instructions provided and board your bus nearby the stadium that will take you back to the airport.

Our recommended area

So that we can be together to make maximum impact, we recommend the Pesages zone 1 (standing) area. Get there early to get a good spot!



There will be bag searches in operation at the ground so please avoid taking any large bags, instead leave these at your hotel.

Special invitation from ClapasCistes (Montpellier Supporters Club)

Leinster supporters attending the game are invited to attend a light lunch consisting of pastries, delicatessen, bread, coffee, tea and fruit juice). This will take place near the stadium between 11am-12.30pm very close (200 metres) from the stadium and the cost will be €8.

Then from 12.45pm you can welcome in both teams and have pre-match drinks at the Montpellier club bar in the ground.

If you would like to attend either session, please email bdenis_fr@yahoo.fr

Food and beverages at the Stadium

Like many grounds in France, you will need to purchase tokens to be used at the various food and beverage stalls inside the ground. You'll see the roaming sellers and they normally accept both cash and cards – please note you can not pay with cash or cards at the vendors themselves, only tokens are accepted.

Montpellier Hérault RC online

Facebook: [Montpellier.Rugby](https://www.facebook.com/Montpellier.Rugby)

Twitter: [@MHR_officiel](https://twitter.com/MHR_officiel)

Instagram: [mhr_officiel](https://www.instagram.com/mhr_officiel)

Website: [montpellier-rugby.com](https://www.montpellier-rugby.com)





OFFICIAL LEINSTER SUPPORTERS CLUB

2017/18 SEASON TICKET HOLDER DISCOUNTS*

Life Style Sports

OLSC members receive **10%** off all full priced stock store-wide by showing their plastic card in store. If shopping online, quote the code that was printed on your season ticket card letter that you received in August.

The Bridge 1859

Season ticket holders who present their plastic card, 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.

Lemon & Duke

Season ticket holders receive **20%** off all food, between 5pm-9pm Sunday to Wednesday when they present their plastic card.

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 before or after a game.

Sportsfile

Sportsfile capture both players and supporters home and away. Purchase any image from their website and quote 'OLSC1718' to receive a **15%** discount.

Horse Show House

OLSC members can show their card at the Horse Show House for pints of Guinness for **€4.70** 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.

Dublin Airport Car parking

The discount code covering the entire season no longer applies. A unique code for each European away trip will now be included in each OLSC away guide.

Mao

Mao Restaurants offer season ticket holders **10%** off the A La Carte Menu in their restaurants only. Does not apply to At Homes. Terms and Conditions apply.

*Current as at 1st September 2017.

Message from the Coach



It's hard to believe that we are into the final round of the Champions Cup after what has been a hugely testing Pool 3 campaign.

Not many people outside of Leinster Rugby thought it at the time when the draw was made but as a group we knew the challenges that these three teams would pose and sure enough it has played out that way. The last few months have shown Glasgow, Exeter and Montpellier playing brilliant rugby in their domestic leagues and all three are there or thereabouts for the season ending run-in. We have done well to get to this point.

In particular the last few months with Exeter back-to-back followed by three hugely bruising interpro derbies and then a final two European games. It's as demanding a schedule and a block of games as I can remember.

The coaching team, the back room staff and in particular the players have worked incredibly hard to make sure that we arrive at this juncture with something to play for but we know from going to France in Round 6 last season and to Castres, that these games are never straight forward.

Any French team playing at home is going to be tough and this Montpellier team at home are able to marry toughness with an excellent brand of rugby that is reaping rewards in both the Top14 and in the Champions Cup.

We also know from our Round 2 trip here last season that nothing comes easy to teams that visit the Altrad Stadium.

Last season we managed to stay in the game long enough for Isa to get us over the line with a late converted try. That losing bonus point, in the end, went a long way to securing the home Quarter-Final that every team wants.

The last few months has again reinforced what we already knew about the lengths that Leinster supporters will go to support this team. It's not only measured in distances travelled - although to see over 1,500 in Sandy Park was particularly inspiring - but also by the numbers that regularly come to the RDS Arena and the Aviva Stadium.

Getting 40,000 plus into the Aviva for Exeter and again over 17,000 plus for games during December and January, comes at a cost. Tickets, travel, accommodation, even baby sitters, it all adds up.

All the effort is appreciated and we know that again this weekend we will see those pockets of blue around the Altrad Stadium so thank you again for the considerable effort in getting here.

To all our sponsors, thank you for your unwavering support, and in particular to Bank of Ireland, who have also supported these OLSC Away Guides, thank you.

Safe trip and here's to dreaming big in 2018.

Leo
Head Coach



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Message from the Committee



Our sixth and final game in the pool stages of Europe this season awaits this weekend with a visit to Montpellier, home of the 2016 European Rugby Challenge Cup Champions.

The city itself is situated on hilly ground 10km inland from the Mediterranean coast on the River Lez. The name of the city which was originally Monspeulanus, is said to have stood for Mont Pelé (the naked hill, because the vegetation was so poor) or Le Mont de la colline (The mount of the hill).

Montpellier is one of the few large cities in France without any Roman heritage and also one of the few cities in southern France without Greek foundation.

Time and time again, Montpellier has been written about as 'France's most seductive and underrated city' as well as under the headline 'Why the French city of Montpellier should be on your travel bucket list', and it would be unfair to note all these attractions in the away guide given the majority of supporters who travel will be on the chartered flight arriving Friday and leaving Saturday evening. If you are staying a little longer have a look around by checking out tourist information on the very good (and in English) website noted earlier in the guide, visit the tourist information centre at Comedie or ask at your hotel.

As was the case in October 2016, the absence of direct flights leaves the Leinster travelling faithful more than likely once again severely diluted, as we expect just a few hundred to be present in the Altrad Stadium. Montpellier supporters, like ourselves are passionate and vocal and something we are used to with any French away game so those who do make the journey will need to continue to roar from kick off to the final whistle to let the boys know that while blue might not be everyone's colour, those of us there will be hard to silence.

Outside of the game, if you can then 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 our Supporters HQ. The team there will be doing everything it can to make supporters feel at home. We hope you enjoy the weekend and hope to see you at our HQ at some point over the weekend.

Be seen, be heard, be blue....

C'MON LEINSTER!
The OLSC Committee