

**OFFICIAL
LEINSTER
SUPPORTERS
CLUB**



GUIDE TO TOULOUSE

Toulouse v Leinster Rugby
Sunday 21st October 2018
KO: 4:15pm (local)

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Introduction



Welcome to our first away trip of the 2018/2019 Champions Cup season where we face the mighty Toulouse. These two powerhouses of European Rugby last clashed way back in the semi-final of the Heineken Cup on April 30, 2011 when Leinster took the victory by nine points (32-23) in front of a crowd of 50,073 in the Aviva Stadium. Leinster went on to add a second star that season, followed by a third the following season and our record fourth back in May, which equalled Toulouse's record of four titles.

Toulouse is the setting for this first fixture between the two four-time Champions. Playing host is the 19,500 seat capacity stadium Stade Ernest-Wallon, which is the main home to Stade Toulousain aside from their occasional trip to the nearby Stade Municipal. The city itself is France's fourth largest metropolitan area and is well renowned as the centre of the European aerospace industry, with the headquarters of Airbus and the Galileo positioning system amongst a number of other corporations to call here home.

A city with unique architecture made of pinkish terracotta bricks which earned it the nickname La Ville Rose ("The Pink City"), Toulouse can count two UNESCO World Heritage sites in its ranks. The Canal du Midi (designated in 1996 and shared with other cities) and the Basilica of St Sernin, the largest remaining Romanesque building in Europe (designated in 1998 because of its significance to the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage route). The University of Toulouse, founded in 1229 is one of the oldest in Europe and with more than 103,000 students, is also the fourth largest in France. The city is jam packed with so much to see and do that if you do get the chance to see more than just the stadium (and the airport) we encourage you to so !

While Toulouse haven't reached the dizzying heights of equalling that stage of the competition in 2011, they have been to the Quarter Finals three times since and are certainly still a force to be reckoned with. In fact to add to their four European titles, they've been runner up twice, coupled with French Champions nineteen times and runner up eight times....Quite the record. We all know our form in this competition since then, but we cannot and must not rule out the style, pace and panache of Toulouse as after all they too are four time Champions.

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 our inter-provincial away trips. Full time table information and their cheapest fares can be found at www.aircoach.ie

Those driving and who may need car parking at Dublin Airport can get 10% off any non-promotional rates in the red zone by using 'OLSC10PDACP' at www.dublinairport.com or via their app.

If you need a taxi, try www.irelandbytaxi.com to pre book and lock in your fare to/from the airport – there will be no unexpected surprises!

Get dressed in blue for the weekend

Remember, season ticket holders get 10% off in store and on line using the discount code printed in the supporters guide that came with your season ticket holder pack and/or the season ticket holder letter that came with your card.

Toulouse Blagnac Airport is located approximately 7km northwest of the city. The quickest and cheapest way to get into the city is via the T2 tramway line (see map on page 8).

For the centre, change for the metro at Arenes for Capitole, tram tickets are approximately €2. Try to have coins as not all machines accept notes or foreign debit/credit cards. To Arenes from the airport, it will take about 21 minutes.

Airport shuttle bus service

The special bus will take you to Toulouse Matabiau train station every 20 minutes, priced at €8 one way and €15 return. You can buy from the booth outside arrivals at the airport or at the train station.

Charter Passengers

Follow your itinerary with door to door transfers to your hotel, to the ground and back to the airport afterwards.

Arriving in Carcassonne



For supporters who may be using the nearby airport of Carcassonne to get to Toulouse, the distance between the two is roughly 95 kms. Weekend rail fares are between €15 - €20pp return and the journey takes approximately 45 minutes.

Accommodation Tip

A word of warning, if you are staying in one of the IBIS hotels, be aware there is more than one in Toulouse, make sure you have the address saved on your phone etc. prior to heading out for a few drinks, it could save confusion in the early hours...

OLSC Supporters HQ

The Melting Pot located at 26 Boulevard de Strasbourg in the centre, a familiar spot to those who have visited Toulouse before no doubt, will serve as our Supporter HQ this weekend. Dave and his team will be welcoming supporters with a loyalty card system that gives 10% off over the weekend.

Our Supporter HQ will be open 12 noon to 3am Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2am on Sunday for those staying after the game. 'The Pot' has been refurbished since our last visit and also has free wifi and screens that will be playing other European action over the weekend.

Like many bars in France they do not serve food, but being in the city centre there's plenty of options within walking distance. Bars in France are also small so their sister pub The Thirsty Monk nearby at 33 Allée Jean Jaurès, will also honour the loyalty discount for our supporters.

Wining and dining



Like most of France, you'll be spoilt for choice with a wide range of restaurants and within those, wines served. From the well know Toulouse sausage, along with foie gras and the many other dishes of the South-West. Those who take pleasure in a glass or two of vino, will no doubt appreciate the best wines of the region (Gaillac, Fronton, Madiran & Cahors to name a few), either to accompany the food or simply while chilling out and soaking up the atmosphere before the big game.

It is also recommended to round a meal off with an Armagnac.

Very near The Melting Pot our base, we can recommend a reasonably priced restaurant where the menu is very simple – steak and chips. A popular with locals and with some of our supporters who have been to other French away games.

There are two sittings each day, 12-2pm and 7.15-10.45pm and it is priced at €19pp – be warned there are often queues on the street to get in.

Flags



A very limited number of flags with white poles as given away in the RDS, Aviva Stadium and on the road will be available at the ground from the OLSC volunteers (numbers are limited so get there early to claim yours!) The flags are cleared as hand luggage so please bring what you can from home.

Things to see and do during your stay

1. Toulouse v Leinster – 4.15pm Sunday
2. Toulouse 70-minute City Tour by Open-Top bus (from Allée Jean-Jaurès, Place d'Arménie), €16pp
3. Le Capitole, which houses both the Town Hall and the Théâtre du Capitole
4. The basilica of Saint-Sernin (a listed UNESCO heritage site)
5. The banks of the River Garonne, has quite simply one of the most beautiful views of the city as it features the Pont Neuf, the Hôtel-Dieu Saint-Jacques and the dome of La Grave

Toulouse Marathon

We're sharing Toulouse this weekend with their Marathon so be aware that street cordons are likely to be in place, at the time of writing we were unable to confirm if these would affect the journey to/from the ground. Stay turned to our social media for updates.

Getting to the ground

The Stade Ernest-Wallon is located about 4km northwest of the city centre and a walk from Capitole to the stadium would take around 45mins. With a 4.15pm (local) kick-off, gates are expected to open at 2.00pm. Get there early to soak up the pre match atmosphere (it will be noisy!) and see the boys in blue arrive (timings to be confirmed via social media).

There is the option of public transport and there are routes via both bus and metro to assist you.

By Bus: It's 32 minutes from Capitole to the stadium using bus L1 (also from outside the Melting Pot)

By Metro: It takes around 40 minutes from Capitole to the stadium using Line B

Taxis can be scarce on Sundays so use public transport where you can.

Important Note:

If you take the option of a taxi, make sure you specify the stadium name exactly, as if you just ask for "Stadium", there might be a chance you'll end up at the football one!

Baggage Restrictions at the ground

We suggest leaving your bag(s) in the storage facilities at your hotel if you are on the late Aer Lingus flight home.

After the game, getting back to the airport

For those using Joe Walsh Tours, you should head back to your coach as soon as possible after the game so you can be taken back to the airport.

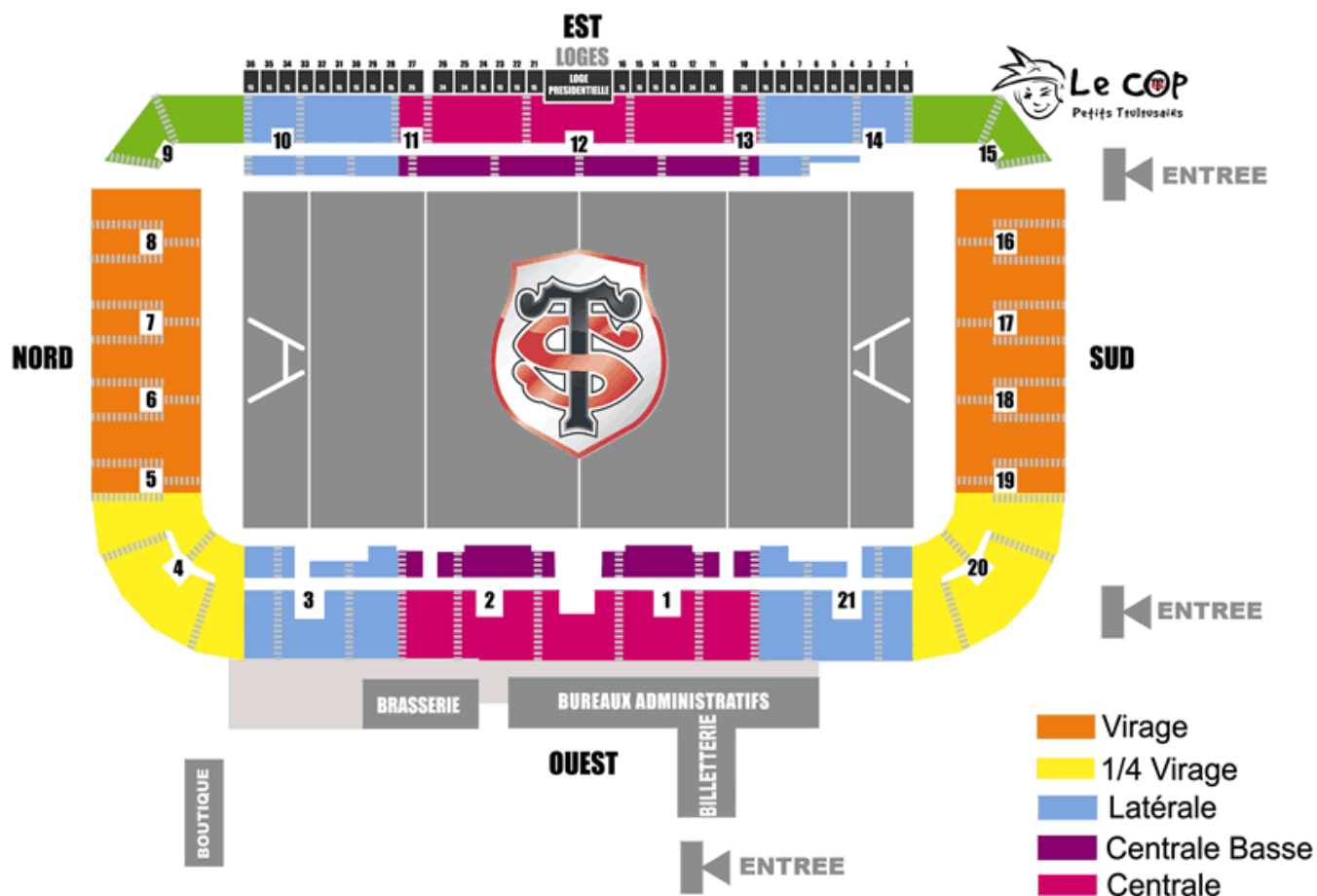
For those on the late Aer Lingus flight to Dublin, technically you can walk to the airport (would take an hour) although this is not advisable especially at night given it is surrounded by a motorway network.

The OLSC recommends you head back to the city centre and take the tram/airport bus from there.

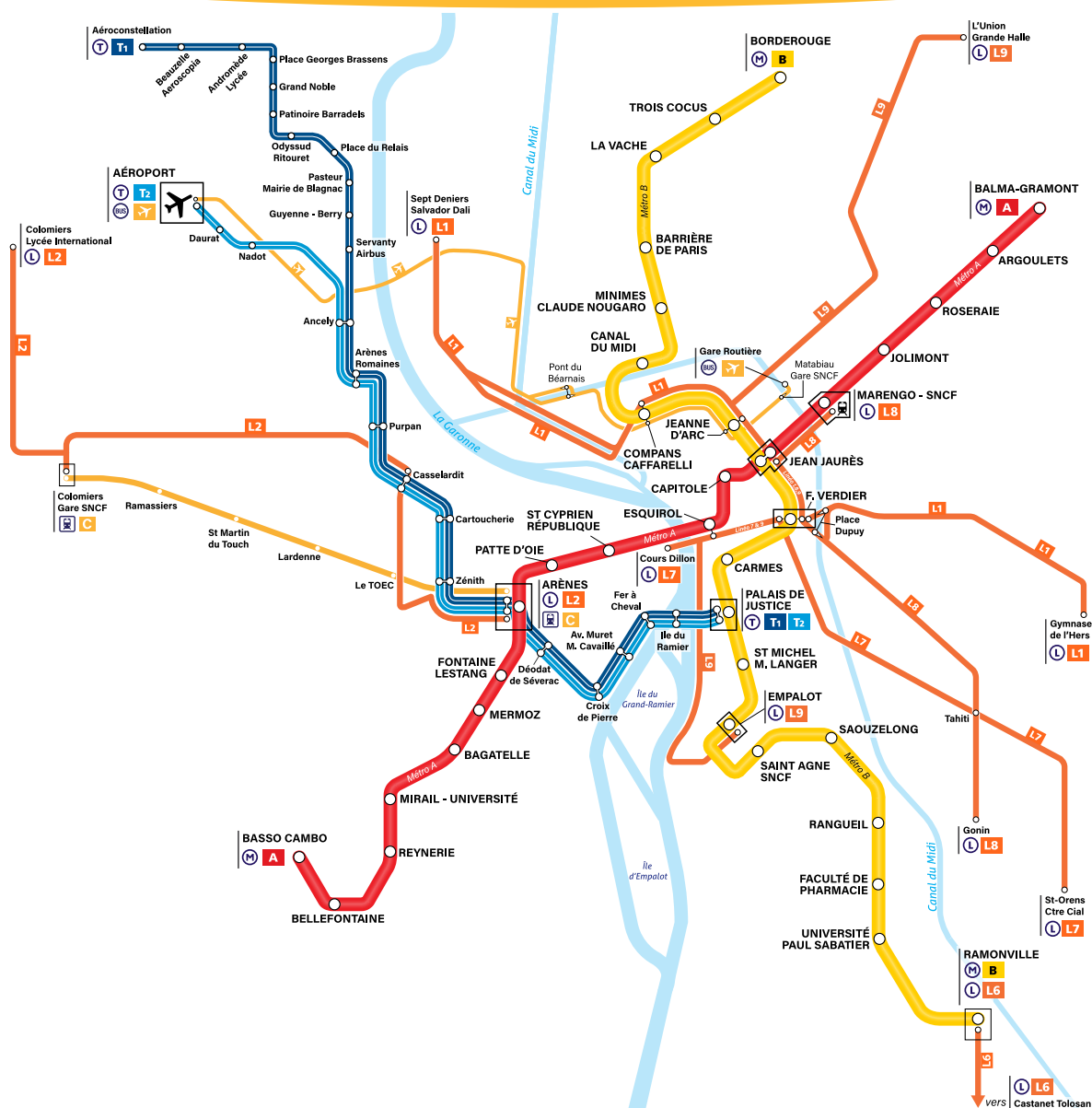
You should have plenty of time as the game should be wrapped up by 7.30pm and the flight is not scheduled to depart until 11pm.

Taxis can be scarce on Sundays so these are not a reliable option.

STADE ERNEST WALLON



tisséo



Message from the Coach



Another season of European rugby is upon us and again I would like to thank the thousands of supporters that followed us on our journey not only last year but over the last number of years that I have been involved with Leinster as a player and as a coach.

The players of course get a huge high out of playing at home in the RDS Arena or in the Aviva Stadium, but just as important for them is hearing the cheers and seeing the blue when you are in unfamiliar territory.

This season as we travel to Toulouse, Bath and to Wasps, we will again need your support and I know that again you will answer that call. Thank you.

First on the itinerary is the trip to Toulouse a place that some of you will be familiar with from previous trips to France.

Our history with Toulouse goes back a long way in the pools and in the knock outs. We go back to 2001 and then to a Quarter-Final meeting in 2006, the pool stages a year later in 2007/08, a Semi-Final in 2010 that ended in heart break but then the joyous scenes in 2011 when we turned those tables around in the Aviva.

They are a team steeped in history and with a proud record in this competition. Having missed out on it last season, now that they are back they will want to make amends for the season away and leave a mark on Pool 1 and on the tournament as a whole.

It is a unique challenge for this group though, the majority of whom haven't played Toulouse before but I know it's one they are relishing.

I would like to thank Bank of Ireland and all our sponsors for their support again this year but in particular Francesca McDonagh and her team in Bank of Ireland for all they do to help our supporters, including supporting this away guide, and in helping to turn the RDS, the Aviva and pockets of stadiums all over Europe, blue.

It means a lot to us all and without us all pitching in together none of it would be possible.

Safe travels and enjoy the game,

Leo
Head Coach

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Message from the Committee



"Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more"

Hello and Welcome. Whether this is your first Leinster away trip or you've been to that many that if your passport was still stamped upon entry into a country, you need extra pages, a big hello from the OLSC Committee. This is the first of our European away trips but the second round of fixtures in this season's Heineken Champions Cup, as we look to build on the success of last season and make history with an unprecedented fifth title. This is it; this is The drive for five!

The first round of fixtures last week saw the visit of Wasps to the RDS while our opponents for this weekend were away to Bath, so this is their first fixture at home and we're sure they'll be looking to ensure that the Stade Ernest-Wallon remains a fortress for them throughout the season. After all they too have tasted the glory four times and no doubt this, along with Leinster's recent form will be somewhere in their minds come kick-off. The support for the team throughout last season's campaign, both home and away, and especially the final in Bilbao was fantastic and was as always evident to see by the wall of blue that greeted opposition players and supporters alike whatever direction they turned. The sale of season tickets continues to increase and with the proposed revamp of the RDS also on the upcoming cards, it's a testament to players, supporters and Leinster Rugby as a whole that we continue to grow in both size and stature to firstly where we are today, but also to where to aspire to be.

If you're a newbie to an away Leinster fixture then we're warning you to be prepared. The seasoned veterans will tell you that these fixtures will leave you racked with nerves, jagged finger nails and most likely hoarse from shouting encouragement from the moment you enter the stadium to the final whistle and in most cases even after that has been blown. Make sure the support is both seen and heard for every one of those 80 minutes. It is crucial we once again become the 16th man and let the players know that we're there for them.

Toulouse is a lovely city any time of the year but let's look to take the victory to make the memories of our trip even sweeter.

Be seen, be heard, be loud, be proud and most importantly be blue!

C'MON LEINSTER!
The OLSC Committee