



RACING 92 V LEINSTER

10/12 KO @ 14:00 STADE OCEANE, LE HAVRE



Introduction

Welcome to our first away trip of the 2022/23 Heineken Champions Cup season where we once again face Racing 92. Due to a concert in their La Defense Arena in Paris, our pool game has moved to the Stade Oceane in Le Havre. So, a trip to the Disco Arena will have to remain on your To Do List!

Standing at mouth of the Seine Estuary, Normandy's largest city, Le Havre or "LH" as the locals say, is the second-largest port in France, and may surprise you to know, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It's not a typical French town, with its post-war architecture, so you won't see many old churches and buildings. Le Havre was bombed almost out of existence in September 1944 during WWII. The city centre was then rebuilt between 1946 and 1965 from the plans of one single architect, Auguste Perret, and in 2005, the centre was inscribed by UNESCO on the World Heritage List.

Stade Oceane, the home ground of Le Havre AC, is the largest venue in Normandy with a capacity of 25,000 seats. It replaced the Stade Jules Deschaseaux as the club's home stadium and was opened in July 2012. In 2019, the stadium was chosen to host matches up to the quarterfinals of the FIFA Women's World Cup. Le Havre has a long sporting tradition. Founded in 1872, Le Havre Athletic Club (HAC) was the first French sports club. It was on its land that the first "combination" matches, a mixture of football and rugby, were given.

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 - www.aircoach.ie

OLSC AIRPORT TRANSFER BUS

An OLSC transfer Bus will run from Paris Beauvais Airport direct to Le Havre City Centre on the following dates & times:

Paris Beauvais Airport to Le Havre: Saturday 10th December - 9.30 am pick up

Le Havre to Paris Beauvais Airport: Sunday 11th December - 12.00 pm pick up

Tickets for the bus can be bought [here](#).

#OLSCOUTOUR FLAGS

The flags issued in the RDS (with a white plastic pole) have been cleared by the Dublin Airport Authority for hand luggage and should also be acceptable to pass through French airports. The OLSC team will have some flags to distribute outside the stadium however please bring flags from home if you can.

Getting to Le Havre - TRAVEL BY TRAIN

From Central Paris, direct NOMAD trains run every hour from Gare St Lazare in Paris to Le Havre (2hrs). Le Havre train station is 15/20 minutes from the city centre by foot or easily accessible by tram.

Trains depart Sat morning Returning with Return train cost approx €60.00 & available from the national train network Oui SNCF

Getting to Le Havre - TRAVEL BY BUS

Flixbus -Paris La Defense (Terminal Jules Verne) direct to Le Havre (2h 15min)

BlaBlacar Bus – Paris Bercy-Seine Bus Station direct to Le Havre (3h 30min)

Getting to Le Havre - TRAVEL BY CAR

For those on other flights into Paris Beauvais & CDG, Car hire is still relatively cheap. Alternatively, for small numbers of supporters, we have found a taxi/ airport transfer service, that offers reasonable value - [HERE](#)



[Click the map above to view a higher quality version](#)

GETTING AROUND Le Havre

Le Havre was rebuilt on a grid pattern, so it's easy to navigate your way around the streets. The train station, ferry dock, and cruise ports are all within walking distance from the historic city centre, while the Le Havre beach, right within the city limits, is about a 30-minute walk. A two-line tram system goes through the city centre and terminates right at Le Havre Beach for easy coastal access..

O' BROTHER

David Pelfresne and his team in O' Brother are looking forward to welcoming Leinster Rugby Supporters to their bar this weekend. Centrally located on 23 Rue Racine, opposite The Volcan and near the Bassin du

Commerce. Open until to 2.00am, they will also be open on Saturday morning.



Stadium Oceane is approx. 35 mins from the Bar by bus. Take the C2 bus from Richelieu LE HAVRE stop on Rue de Paris Take the bus in the direction of Soquence and get off at stop Dr Lamaze

STADIUM BAR & GRILL STADE OCEANE

We are encouraging fans to get out early to the Stadium, create a #SEAOFBBLUE

and soak up the atmosphere. Located at the corner of the "East" and "North" stands, between gates B & C, The Stadium Bar & Grill will open at 12.00 pm on Saturday and is outside the ticketing zone of the stadium.

With nearly 600m² available, the "SBG" has full bar facilities, food & 17 screens,

<http://www.hac-foot.com/news/stadium-bar-grill.html>



BARS

Normandy is the apple region of France, and the fruit is used extensively in Norman cuisine. Try a locally produced beverage such as ciders and Calvados in one of the Bars.

Mc Daid's - 97 Rue Paul Doumer

L'Eau Tarie - 86 rue Victor Hugo, Le Havre

Black Café - 135 rue louis brindeau

Le Havre Beer, The Tap Room - 1 Rue de Paris

Le Trappist - 23 Rue Racine

La Colombe - 8 Place Oscar Niemeyer 76600

RESTAURANTS

Le Havre has emerged as a foodie city, boasting traditional Norman dishes and modern fare. Being a coastal town, fresh-caught seafood in Le Havre is second to none. Fresh oysters are hugely popular, and you'll find them at bistros across town, but you can also order them cooked in breadcrumbs and served with the signature creamy cider sauce.

Marmite Dieppoise, or fish stew, is the Normandy version of bouillabaisse stew from the south of France.

Peña – <https://www.facebook.com/penalehavre>

Bistrot Parisien – <https://www.lebistrotparisienlh.com/>

Le Grand Quai – <https://augrandquai.fr/>

Monsieur Auguste – <https://www.monsieurauguste.fr/> - French Modern Bistrot

La Taverne Paillette - Le Havre landmark Restaurant - La Taverne Paillette

The Lyonnais - <https://eater.space/le-lyonnais>

TOP 7 THINGS TO SEE AND DO THIS WEEKEND

-Visit the Giant Ferris Wheel & Christmas Market around Place de l'Hôtel de Ville -

<http://bit.ly/3EPlIK9>

-Visit the 'Catène De Containers' - Vincent Ganivet's modern arches, dubbed 'Le Havre's Eiffel Tower'. Located at the end of the Rue de Paris

-Grab a craft beer in Le Havre Beer's Tap Room facing the Catène de Containers -

<https://lhavraisbiere.fr/>

-Shopping in 'Les Halle's Centrales' right behind the volcano. A covered market where you can find a lot of cheeses, meats & French specialties - <http://bit.ly/3OLFIYY>

-Explore Le Volcan which is more than just an amazing building.

-Eat in La Taverne Paillette Restaurant. A Le Havre landmark, since it originally opened in 1596 - 22 Rue Georges Braque, 76600 Le Havre

-Racing 92 vs. Leinster Rugby – Saturday at 2 pm (local)

Getting to the Ground

Stade Oceane is located toward the east of the city of Le Havre, roughly 3.5 km from Le Havre's city centre and the main railway station, approx. 15 mins by car . The stadium lies adjacent to the RD6015, one of the main access roads that leads into the city from the A131 in the east.

From the city centre you can catch bus 2 to get to the stadium (e.g., from Cathédrale). Take the bus in the direction of Soquence and get off at stop Dr Lamaze, which is next to the old Stade Jules-Deschaseaux. Cross the RD6015 to get to the stadium.

From the main railway station, you can get bus 5 toward Graville. Get off at stop Champs Barêts, which is a short walk from Stade Oceane. Alternatives are bus 9 toward Gournay (stop Dr Lamaze) or bus 4 toward Graville (stop A. Blanqui)

We are waiting on confirmation in relation to possible free shuttle buses that run Le Havre to/from the stadium on Le Havre AC match days



#SEAOFBBLUE

We invite supporters to join us in welcoming the Boys in Blue to the stadium with a #SEAOFBBLUE on Saturday. We are encouraging fans to get out early to the Stadium and soak up the atmosphere

The team coach will arrive near the P1 Parking / Parking Nord at approx. 12.25pm - see plan above (Details correct at time of writing but please keep an eye on our social media)

At the stadium, "Stadium Bar & Grill" will open at 12.00 pm on Saturday. Located at the corner of the "East" and "North" stands, between gates B & C and is outside the ticketing zone of the stadium

The Stadium Gates open at 12.45 pm and there are a dozen bars inside the Stadium

Stadium Map



Match Tickets

If you have not bought your tickets yet, please buy your tickets from the following Leinster allocation here <https://bit.ly/3WqJeM4> in order to keep us all together in the stadium. We are recommending Blocks W6 Low, W7 Low & N2 Low.



NEVER STOP COMPETING

#NEVERSTOPCOMPETING



MESSAGE FROM THE COACH

A first away trip of the season in Europe and while many of you will have planned for Parisian nights and a bit of Christmas shopping, hopefully Le Havre will still hold your attention for the few days. On the rugby field it is certainly capturing our attention.

Unfortunately for us as players or coaches, experiencing a stadium or a city is not really on the agenda, so the stadium is in many ways irrelevant to us, but I think everyone was looking forward to at least experiencing a game under a roof in Paris.

As a result of the move to Le Havre, both teams are playing in an unfamiliar ground, so it's hard to know what to make of it but for us we will have to treat it like any other game in France. And that is, very difficult to win.

Racing 92 are also going very well of late. That perception of not traveling well doesn't stick with this group of players and coaches. They won well in Toulon last weekend and are now five wins in a row in the TOP14. They are second in the table and have scored the most points in the TOP14. Formidable opponents.

But that's the challenge that we love and that we relish, especially at this time of the year when everyone is taking those first steps into Europe. Nobody is quite sure what to expect!

Hopefully, what we can all expect is a Covid-free season and one that plays out successfully on and off the field for supporters, organisers and all the clubs involved.

This is a competition that we dearly love and like every season, the goal is simple, to add a fifth star.

However, like we saw last year that is incredibly difficult to do but all our efforts are trained on making it to a Dublin Final later in the season. First though, a trip to France and that is where all our efforts and focus are this week.

Safe travels and thank you all as ever for your support. And to Bank of Ireland for their contid support of these Away Guides produced by the OLSC and for their support of our big days at home and away.

See you all in Le Havre.

LEO CULLEN
HEAD COACH



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

“Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more”

The Road to Dublin Starts Here! Next May, Dublin will host the Heineken Champions Cup and Challenge Cup finals and already 60,000 tickets have been sold. We hope that our journey along that road will lead us to the promised land as we look make history with an unprecedented fifth title.

Hello and Welcome to the first of our European away trips in this season’s Heineken Champions Cup. 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.

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.

The absence of direct flights leaves the Leinster travelling faithful more than likely diluted, as we expect just a few hundred to be present in the Stade Ocenae. Racing 92 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

Outside of the game, if you can then be sure to get out on foot to explore Le Havre. 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!

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THE OLSC COMMITTEE

