

**OFFICIAL
LEINSTER
SUPPORTERS
CLUB**



GUIDE TO BILBAO

Leinster Rugby v Racing 92
Saturday May 12th 2018
Estadio San Mamés
KO: 17:45pm (local)



FINAL

Bank of Ireland 

Come On You Boys in Bilbao

from all at Bank of Ireland



#BOIrugby

Bank of Ireland 

Introduction



Leinster – Champions Cup 2017/2018: Played 8: Won 8. We head into this game on the back of our continued unbeaten run in Europe this season, playing and winning six in the pool stages to take overall top seed with 27 points. Victories against both the 2016/17 European champions Saracens (QF) as well as 2016/17 Pro12 champions Scarlets (SF) have led Leinster to the cusp of a fourth title in nine years. Playing in Spain will be a new experience for the boys in blue, while our opposition have previously tasted victory on Spanish soil when they defeated RC Toulon 29-21 to

win the TOP 14 Final in Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium in 2016. Their previous outing in the current format of the Champions Cup Final has seen them reach the final once (also in 2016) where they succumbed to Saracens 21-9.

Bilbao is the setting for this Champions Cup Final between Leinster Rugby and Racing 92 and the first Champions Cup Final to be held in Spain. Playing host to the fixture is the magnificent San Mamés Stadium which was inaugurated in 2013. The stadium was designed by renowned Spanish/ Swiss architect Santiago Calatrava who also designed the Samuel Beckett Bridge beside the Convention Centre in Dublin.

Located in the north of Spain, Bilbao is the largest city in the province of Biscay and indeed in the Basque Country as a whole. Situated in the north-central part of Spain, some 16 kilometres south of the Bay of Biscay, its main urban core is surrounded by two small mountain ranges with an average elevation of 400 metres.

With impressive architecture, a top notch dining scene and stunning landscapes just outside the city centre, Bilbao is one of the great treasures of the Basque Country. Jam-packed with so much to see and do that if you do get the chance to see more of the city than just the stadium (and the airport) we encourage you to do so.

Leinster and Racing last clashed horns way back in the old-format Heineken Cup in the 2010/11 season, with Leinster the victors on both occasions. A 38-22 victory in front of a packed crowd of 17,936 in round 1 of the competition in the RDS in October '10 was followed by a 36-11 win in January '11 in round 6 in front of a crowd of 8,326 in Stade Yves du Manoir, Paris. We all know our form in this competition since then, going on to two more Heineken Cups, but we cannot and must not rule out the style, pace and panache of Racing who have dominated this competition and indeed French rugby also during this time.

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 or blue zones by using 'OLSCCFINAL18' 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!

Arriving in Bilbao

Bilbao Airport is located approximately 9km north of the city. If you are booked on one of the many charters your transfers are normally included. If not, the quickest and cheapest way to get into the city is via the Bizkaibus Line service. The A3247 runs from the airport to the city. It connects the terminus with stops in Gran Vía 79, Plaza Moyua and Alameda Recalde 11. On the arrivals floor there is a customer services desk and ticket office.

A single ticket costs €1.45 and buses leave from the airport every 20 minutes from 06.20 to 00.00 and from Bilbao every 20 minutes from 05.20 to 22.00. The stadium is also on the bus route so is handy if you need to make a quick escape to catch a flight. Taxis are also available and will cost €21-26 each way to the city centre.

Arriving in Santander

The quickest way to get to Bilbao is via bus, the 90-minute journey is priced at between €23-€35 return and can be booked at www.alsa.com or www.goeuro.com

Getting to Bilbao from elsewhere in Spain

At the time of writing, special services are available from Travel Divertis with buses to Bilbao operating from San Sebastián, Santander, Pamplona & Vitoria priced from €25. Details can be found at <http://viajesdivertis.es/63-finales-bilbao-2018>

An increased frequency of services will be in operation to deal with the crowds, contrary to some rumours at the time of writing, there are no free buses being run.

Should you wish to take a taxi between the two cities you can expect to pay between €140-€170

The last public transport options at the time of writing on match day are as follows: (all times local)

- Vitoria – 2200 (60 minutes from €9 each way)
- San Sebastian – 2035 (70 mins from €9 each way)
- Santander – 2230 (90 minutes from €9 each way)
- Zaragoza – 2230 (3.5 hrs from €24 each way)
- Barcelona – 2230 (8hrs 15min from 52 each way)

French Rail Strikes

Given the difficulties and cost of flying into Spain for the game, we know that some supporters are flying to France and then making their way to Bilbao. At the time of writing there was a national rail strike this weekend so please factor this into your journey planning.

OLSC Supporters HQ



We normally have a base assigned for each of our away European Champions Cup fixtures however given how busy the city will be and pubs being smaller than in other rugby locations, the Club recommends supporters head down to the Champions Rugby Village located in the Arenal area of Bilbao City – this is down on the riverside. The village will have lots of activities, live music, bars, food and a chance to mingle with the entire European rugby community. Remember many supporters from the various teams travel to the final regardless of who is playing.

The Champions Rugby Village will be open from 10am – midnight on both Friday for the Challenge Cup final as well as 10am – midnight on Saturday for our Champions Cup final.

Top 5 things to see and do during your stay

1. Leinster Rugby v Racing 92 – 5.45pm (local time) Saturday
2. The Champions Rugby Village – mingle with supporters from other clubs also in Bilbao for the finals
3. The Guggenheim Museum – sitting on the banks of the River Nervion
4. Siete Calles (Seven Streets) in the old town. Full of little old shops and bars/café
5. The Plaza Nueva is the main square full of bars, restaurants and cafe.

Some Basque phrases that might be of use

1. Hello – Kaixo / Goodbye – Agur/ Thank You – Eskerrik asko
2. Yes – Bai / No – Ez
3. Where is xxxxxx? – Non dago xxxxxx?
4. Can I have two beers, please? Bi garagardo, mesede
5. Cheers – Topa!

The Basque language as you may see is very different to Spanish but fear not as everybody speaks Spanish and most will speak English also to quite a good level.

Wining, dining and getting around

Eating is a real treat here, the local pintxos bars will charge between €1-€5 for most dishes, if you're looking for a bargain try El Figon which serves dishes for a Euro.

Local beers will set you back just €2.75 and if you want to avoid a small glass of beer, be sure to ask for large when ordering.

Taxis are plentiful with prices similar to Dublin, you should be able to walk around if you are staying in town but if you do need one, simply hail from the curb as you would at home.

Weather watch

Don't be fooled by rumours about a hot and sunny Spain, you should pack for temperatures of 15-20 degrees, it could even drop as low as 10 (but hopefully not). Even if on a day trip we'd recommend packing something light in case of rain.

Flags and caps



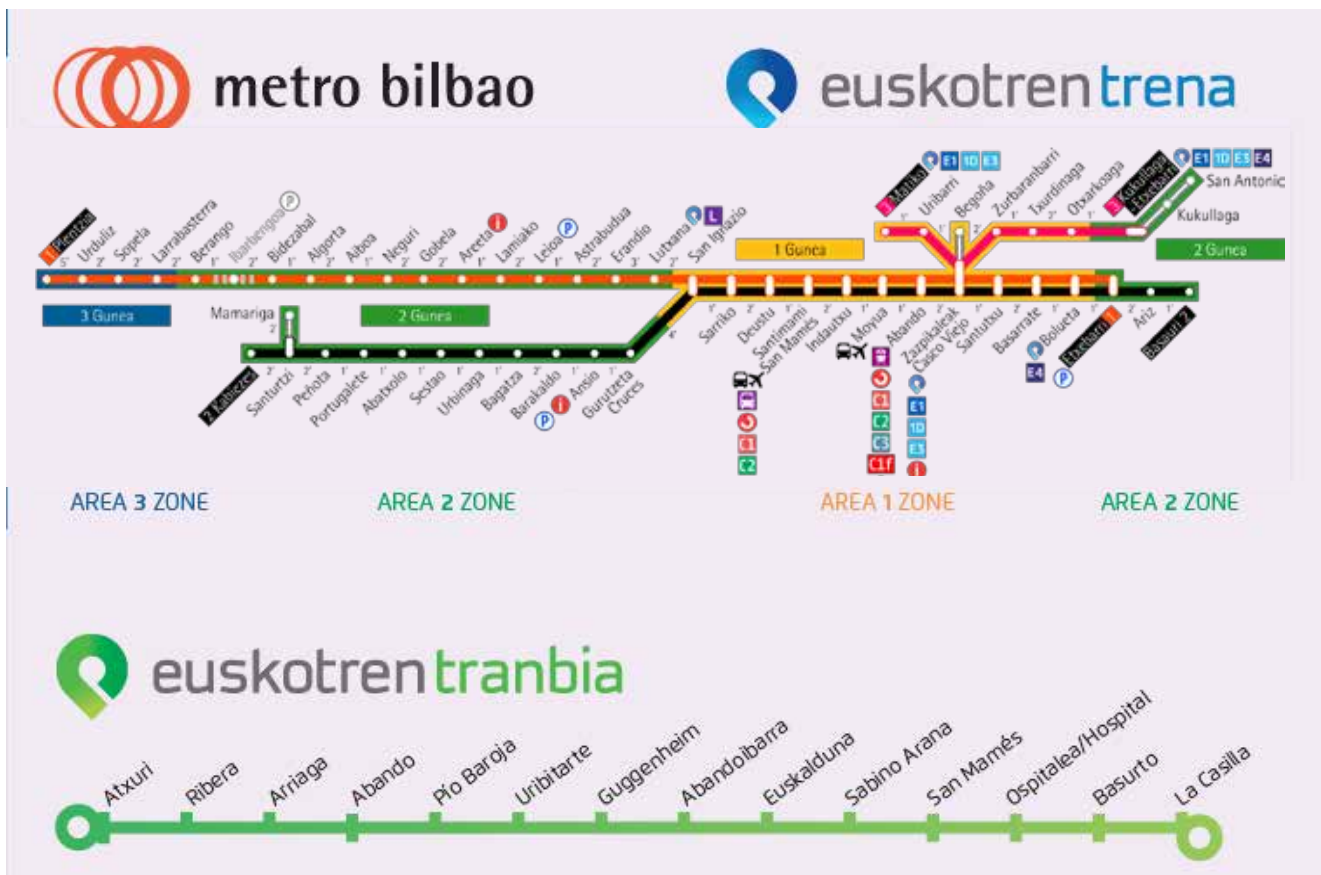
A very limited number of flags with white poles as given away in the RDS, Aviva Stadium and on the road as well as our OLSC embroidered souvenir baseball caps in association with Bank of Ireland will be available at the ground from the OLSC volunteers (numbers are limited so get there early to claim yours!).

The flags are cleared as hand luggage for flights departing Dublin so please bring what you can from home.

Getting to the Ground

Unlike most modern stadiums the Estadio San Mamés (home of Athletic Bilbao) is located quite close to the city centre. Just 2km east of the old centre and roughly a 20 minute walk from the Guggenheim, it can be easily reached on foot. See full details on how to get to the ground later in the guide.

Outside the stadium there will be bars and a DJ, gates will open at 3.45pm and we encourage supporters to get in early to soak up the atmosphere and help lubricate the vocal cords.



Rucksacks / large bags

There is no storage available at the stadium so for those on charter who will be leaving after the game for the airport, leave any rucksacks on the coach. For those staying over please leave any bags at your hotel as you won't be allowed to take them in.

The stadium is located at:

San Mamés
Rafael Moreno Pitxitxi, s/n, 48013
Bilbo
Bizkaia
Spain

Our Allocated Area in the Ground

As match tickets were on sale for 11 months the blue army will be spread around the ground. For those who bought from the finalist allocation, we were allocated sections 310-314 and 108-113.

RECOMMENDED ITINERARIES FOR ARRIVING AT SAN MAMÉS STADIUM ON MATCH DAYS

FROM THE OLD QUARTER

ON FOOT: San Nicolás, Bilbao City Hall, Buenos Aires, Plaza Circular, Gran Vía, Plaza Moyúa, Sagrado Corazón, Sabino Arana, Felipe Serrate, San Mamés Stadium.
BY METRO: get on at Unamuno (towards Kabiezes or Plentzia) – Get off at San Mamés (Terribus). Avda. Juan Antonio Zunzunegui, Plaza Torres Quevedo – San Mamés Stadium.
BY TRAM: From the Arriaga Theatre stop (towards La Castilla) to the San Mamés stop.

FROM PLAZA MOYÚA:

ON FOOT: Plaza Moyúa, Gran Vía, Sagrado Corazón, Sabino Arana, Felipe Serrate, San Mamés Stadium.
BY METRO: get on at Plaza Moyúa (towards Kabiezes or Plentzia) – Get off at San Mamés (Terribus). Avda. Juan Antonio Zunzunegui, Plaza Torres Quevedo, San Mamés Stadium.
BY TRAM: From the Guggenheim stop (towards La Castilla) to the San Mamés stop.

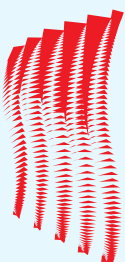
ITINÉRAIRES CONSEILLÉS POUR SE RENDRE À SAN MAMÉS LES JOURS DE MATCH

DEPUIS LA VIEILLE VILLE

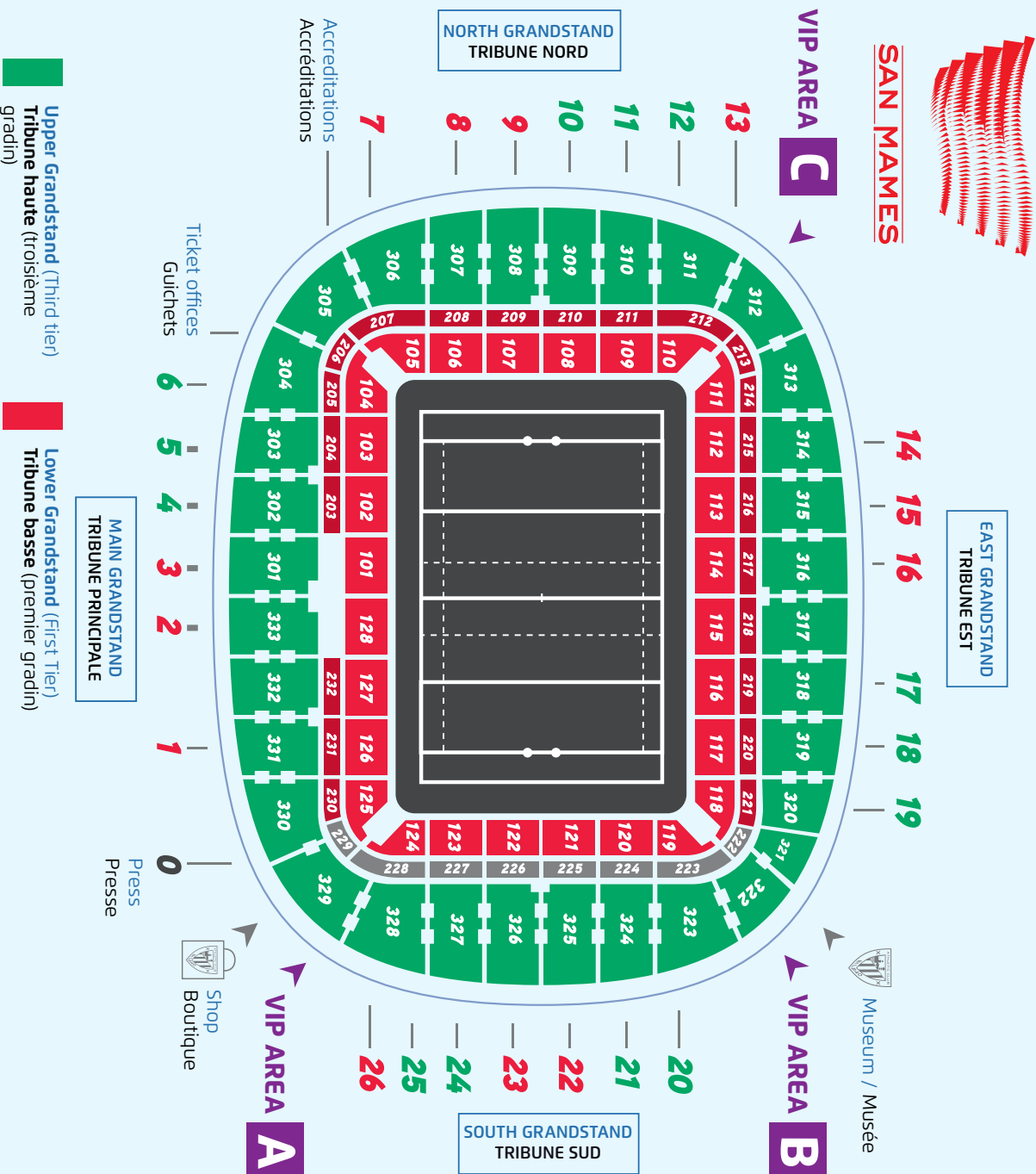
À PIED : San Nicolás, Mairie de Bilbao, Buenos Aires, Plaza Circular, Gran Vía, Plaza Moyúa, Sagrado Corazón, Sabino Arana, Felipe Serrate, Stade San Mamés.
EN MÉTRO : Entrée Plaza Unamuno (en direction de Kabiezes ou Plentzia) – Sortie San Mamés (Terribus). Avda. Juan Antonio Zunzunegui, Plaza Torres Quevedo – Stade San Mamés.
EN TRAMWAY : Depuis l'arrêt Teatro Arriaga (en direction de La Castilla) jusqu'à l'arrêt San Mamés.

DEPUIS PLAZA MOYÚA

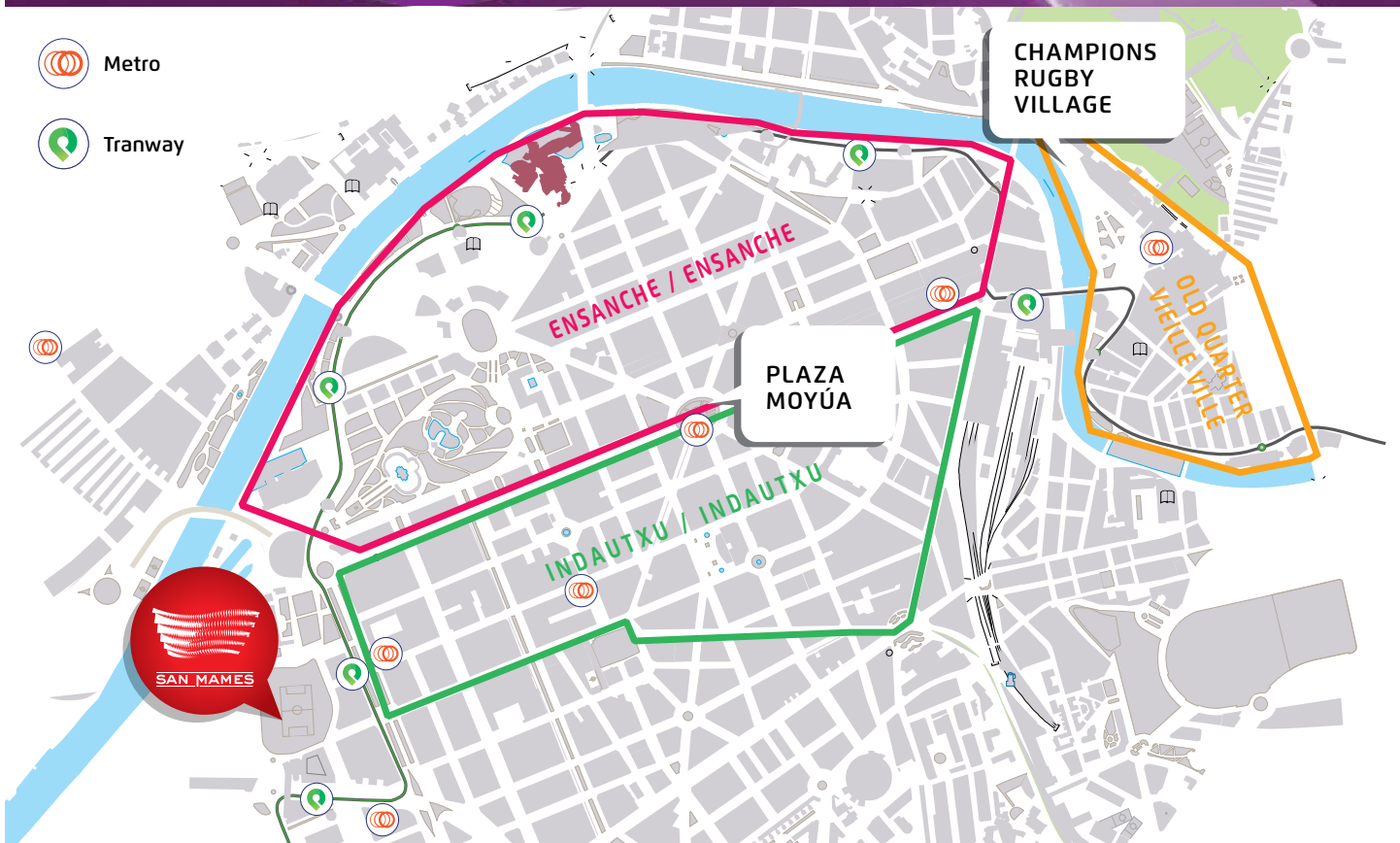
À PIED : Plaza Moyúa, Gran Vía, Sagrado Corazón, Sabino Arana, Felipe Serrate, Stade San Mamés.
EN MÉTRO : Entrée Plaza Moyúa (en direction de Kabiezes ou Plentzia) – Sortie San Mamés (Terribus). Avda. Juan Antonio Zunzunegui, Plaza Torres Quevedo – Stade San Mamés.
EN TRAMWAY : Depuis l'arrêt Guggenheim (en direction de La Castilla) jusqu'à l'arrêt San Mamés.



SAN MAMÉS



CITY MAP / CARTE VILLE



ENSANCHE

Architects such as Isozaki, Moneo, Siza, Pelli and Gehry have left their mark on this riverside location. The Bilbao Museum of Fine Arts, the Ria de Bilbao Maritime Museum, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and the best art galleries can all be found alongside prestigious shops, international brands and the most high-end of restaurants.

ENSANCHE

Des architectes tels qu'Isozaki, Moneo, Siza, Pelli ou Gehry ont laissé leur empreinte dans cet espace longeant la ria. Le musée de Beaux-arts de Bilbao, le musée maritime Ria de Bilbao, le musée Guggenheim Bilbao et les meilleures galeries d'art cohabitent avec des magasins luxueux, des marques internationales et les restaurants les plus sélects.

INDAUTXU

Azkena Zentroa, a former wine warehouse that has been redesigned into a state-of-the-art centre for leisure and culture. San Mamés, a five-star football stadium. Large stores with prestigious brands. Bars, restaurants and meeting points which are at the centre of the city's social life.

INDAUTXU

Azkena Zentroa, un vieil entrepôt de vins réaménagé en un centre culturel et de loisir d'avant-garde. San Mamés, un stade de football catégorie 5. De grands magasins avec des marques exclusives. Des bars, des restaurants et des points de rencontre où la vie se déroule dans notre ville.

OLD QUARTER

Bilbao's historical centre is a maze of streets. Don't forget to visit the Cathedral of Santiago, Plaza Nueva, the Church of San Antón, the Ribera Market and the exhibition "UNIVERSITARIO BILBAO RUGBY: 50 YEARS. A journey through the history of rugby in Bilbao Bizkaia" at the Basque Museum. Discover charming shops and sample the local cuisine.

VIEILLE VILLE

Un dédale de ruelles forme la vieille ville de Bilbao. N'oubliez pas de visiter la cathédrale de Santiago, la Plaza Nueva, l'église San Antón, le marché de la Ribera et l'exposition « UNIVERSITAIRE BILBAO RUGBY : 50 ANS. Une promenade à travers l'histoire du rugby à Bilbao, Biscaye » au Musée basque. Découvrez des boutiques charmantes et dégustez la gastronomie.

NOT TO BE MISSED / À NE PAS MANQUER

BISCAY

Biscay, a coastal region. Discover our beaches, the ports and the fishing towns. Visit delightful spots such as San Juan de Gaztelugatxe and unique natural spaces such as the Busturialdea area, a Biosphere Reserve in Urdaibai.

BISCAYE

Biscaye, région côtière. Découvrez nos plages, nos ports et nos villages maritimes. En plus de lieux plein de charme tels que San Juan de Gaztelugatxe et d'espaces naturels uniques tels que la contrée de Busturialdea, réserve de biosphère d'Urdaibai.

INLAND BISCAY

Basque mythology now lives in our mountains: Gorbeia, Anboto... The past goes hand in hand with the present in our medieval towns: Elorrio, Durango, Balmaseda... The heart of Basque culture is rooted in our forests, in the streets of our towns and villages and in the beauty of our natural parks.

ARRIÈRE-PAYS BISCAYE

La mythologie basque est toujours vivante dans nos montagnes : Gorbeia, Anboto... la passé et le présent coexistent dans nos villages médiévaux : Elorrio, Durango, Balmaseda... l'essence de la culture basque a ses racines dans nos forêts, dans les rues de nos villages et dans la beauté de nos parcs naturels.

VISCAYA BRIDGE

The first metal structure transporter bridge is celebrating its 125th anniversary. A visit to the legendary "Hanging Bridge" which joins Las Arenas with Portugalete, declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO, is a must. "Portugalete" and "Areta" metro stations.

PONT DE BISCAYE

Le premier pont transbordeur à structure métallique fête ses 125 ans. Le mythique pont suspendu qui relie Las Arenas et Portugalete, classé au Patrimoine de l'Humanité de l'UNESCO, est un endroit à visiter obligatoirement. Stations de métro « Portugalete » et « Areta ».



El Arenal – Bilbao




 Rugby Stage
Scène Rugby

 Giant screen
Ecran géant

 WC

 Shop
Boutique

 Food and drinks
Aliments et boissons

 Rugby Activities
Activités Rugby

 First aid
Premiers secours

 Exhibition
Exposition

CHAMPIONS

— RUGBY VILLAGE —



CHAMPIONS RUGBY VILLAGE CONCERTS

AKATZ, mini big band from Bilbao with Jamaican flavours. Authentic rhythm!

– Thursday 10 May - 20:00 –

KORRONITZI, folk group from Mungia (Biscay). Discover age-old sounds and traditions from the Basque Country!

– Friday 11 May - 19:00 –

TABERNA IBILTARIA, music parade to the beat of Basque songs. Party atmosphere guaranteed!

– Saturday 12 May - *during the morning* –

FATTY FARMERS, Toledo group comprising 8 “farmers” who adapt traditional Irish tunes to punk rock country... Energy and good vibes!

– Saturday 12 May - 21:00 –

OPENING HOURS / HORAIRES

10 May / Mai : 16:00-22:00
11 May / Mai : 10:00-00:00
12 May / Mai : 10:00-00:00
13 May / Mai : 11:00-16:00

Entertainment & Activities

10/05/2018 - THURSDAY - 16:00-22:00

16:00	Opening	■ ■
17:00 - 18:00	Official inauguration of the Fan Zone	■ ■
18:00 - 20:00	Rugby Videos	■
20:00 - 22:00	AKATZ	■ ■ ■

11/05/2018 - FRIDAY - 11:00-00:00

11:30 - 13:30	Basque activities - FARDO + JUEGOS	■ ■ ■
14:00 - 16:00	CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINALS REVIEW	■ ■
16:00 - 17:30	Basque activities	■ ■
17:30 - 19:00	Rugby clinics	■ ■ ■
19:00 - 20:30	KORRONTZI	■ ■ ■
20:30 - 21:00	PREVIEW OF THE CHALLENGE CUP FINAL	■ ■
21:00 - 23:00	CHALLENGE CUP FINAL	■ ■
23:00 - 23:30	Award ceremony	■ ■

12/05/2018 - SATURDAY - 10:00-00:00

11:00 - 12:30	Rugby clinics	■ ■ ■
12:30 - 14:00	Basque activities	■ ■ ■
14:00 - 16:00	CHAMPIONS CUP SEMI-FINALS REVIEW	■
17:00 - 17:45	PREVIEW OF THE CHAMPIONS CUP FINAL	■ ■
17:45 - 19:45	CHAMPIONS CUP FINAL	■ ■
19:45 - 20:15	Award ceremony	■ ■
21:00 - 23:00	FATTY FARMERS	■ ■ ■

12/05/2018 - SUNDAY - 11:00-16:00

11:00 - 12:30	Rugby clinics	■ ■ ■
12:30 - 14:00	Basque activities	■ ■ ■
14:00 - 16:00	Champions Cup Final Repetition	■ ■

■	Screen
■	Stage
■	Pitch

Message from the Coach



A very warm welcome to Bilbao and the European Rugby Champions Cup Final 2018.

It has been a very rewarding journey to this point in both the Guinness PRO14 and in the Champions Cup. 55 players used in total across both competitions and it is great that we are in contention at this point in the season in both tournaments.

The role that you the supporters have played this season has been superb.

Key moments away in Glasgow, in particular in Exeter, and in Montpellier but also in the RDS Arena and in the Aviva Stadium. The colour on the way to the Scarlets game still sticks out in my mind. Blue everywhere and a brilliant atmosphere when we got to the stadium.

These little details make a difference.

I know the OLSC and Bank of Ireland have arranged flags and caps and it is great to hear of all the work that is going on behind the scenes to make the occasion that little bit more special for the players.

Because believe me when you arrive on the bus and you see the supporters and you hear the noise, it sets the scene perfectly. And when you run out and you see that blue, it lifts you for the game ahead.

We are all very aware of what and who we represent and that visual element, seeing the faces and what it means to you all, is so important for us on match days.

It would be remiss of me at this stage not to acknowledge a few key people that embody everything that is great about our supporters and have again this season gone above and beyond for the cause.

To Sharon, Jarrod and Rebecca in particular and I'm sure there are countless others, thank you for everything you do for the team and indeed the supporters through your tireless work with the OLSC.

To sponsors and partners like Bank of Ireland, again contributing to this final Away Guide of the season, thank you.

The challenge that we now face against Racing 92 is a big one but one that we are all energised by and looking forward to hugely.

I hope that everyone has a great time in Bilbao and that the game itself is a memorable one for us all.

Leo
Head Coach

Live Your Life. Get Cashback Rewards.

Register your BOI Visa Debit card, get cashback rewards from well-known brands.



Register Now

Search: BOI Live Life Rewards



Bank of Ireland 

Brought to you by Visa in partnership with Bank of Ireland. Terms and conditions apply. To avail of Live Life Rewards you must be a personal Debit card customer, over the age of 16 years and a resident of Republic of Ireland. Bank of Ireland is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Message from the Committee



The support for the team in this season's campaign has been fantastic both at home and, as always, abroad with the vociferous support we have seen on the road. Quite simply though, matches don't come any bigger than a Champions Cup Final and we are looking to make it four from four at this stage of the competition (following 2009, 2011 and 2012).

While the venue is neutral, and certainly one that is by no means easy to get to, we must treat it as an 'away' match and make sure the support is seen and heard for every one of those 80 minutes. It is crucial we once again

become the 16th man and give energy to the team throughout the match and especially in the closing stages. We know that when the backs are to the wall these players won't be leaving anything on the pitch so we, the supporters, must do the same

We suffered defeat at the semi-final stage last year to old foes Clermont which was a tough pill to swallow. We also know what getting to this stage of the competition means to Racing 92 and that they will be as determined as we are to win. We know in our heart of hearts, that we can rise to the occasion and put in a display once again worthy of champions. The players have put in Trojan work for both Leinster and Ireland this season and we've seen the rewards as Ireland took this year's Natwest Six Nations, becoming Grand Slam champions for only the third time. So let's do what we can to help the team continue that run and not stop cheering them on until the final whistle.

We know it has been a struggle by land, sea, air and who knows by what other means of transport for you to get to Bilbao and we know that the team and all involved will be eternally grateful for the travelling faithful once again making the effort to support the team. They have always appreciated the support and whether it's 100 or 1,000 who travel we know they'll be grateful for each and every one who makes the journey.

So let's continue with our travelling tradition and roar on the boys in blue! Think what it would once again mean to them to run out into the stadium in Bilbao and be greeted with a wall of Leinster blue. It gives you goosebumps even thinking about it.

Bring your hats, scarves and flags, paint your face and dye your hair. Do whatever you need to do to make yourself seen and heard.

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

C'MON LEINSTER!
The OLSC Committee