

Rugby World Cup France 2023



Ireland's four pool matches
Provisional Tour Itinerary
31 Day / 30 Nights

Friday 8th September

Depart Dublin for Bordeaux. On arrival coach transfer to your hotel. That evening we have booked dinner in a local restaurant, making it an ideal opportunity to meet the rest of the group.

Saturday 9th September

Morning at leisure in Bordeaux. In the afternoon, return private coach transfer to Stade de Bordeaux for Ireland's first Rugby World Cup pool game. Ireland V Europe 2. Kick off at 15:30



Sunday 10th September

Today we will spend some quality time visiting one of the best wine appellations in Bordeaux: Saint-Emilion. It is the first vineyard to have earned UNESCO status in the world! So, without exaggeration or bias, we can honestly say that this is the chance to taste some of the world's most respected wine. Enjoy a typical lunch while tasting the very best wines! Saint-Emilion is one of the most beautiful and fascinating villages in the Southwest of France. Visit the village and enjoy a guided stroll. Then, private coach transfer back to Bordeaux.



Monday 11th September

On your way to La Rochelle today, embark on a visit to learn all there is to know about cognac, the 'Eau-de-Vie' or 'Water of Life', as you will visit a historic distillery, sample the unique spirit at family-run cellar. We will enjoy a typical lunch in a local restaurant enroute. We will then travel onto La Rochelle, a beautiful harbour town with fortress and the new home to Ronan "Rog" O'Gara! This is a great rugby town with a great atmosphere in the many bars and restaurants a short stroll from your hotel.



Tuesday 12th September

Today we will take a return coach to Ile de Ré, a popular holiday destination off the west coast of France near La Rochelle. The island is made up of 10 charming little villages with their traditional white houses and green shutters. We will visit La Flotte, with its many restaurants, markets, and shops. If walking is your passion, there is no better place to indulge than Ile de Ré, if not we have included a shuttle pass to get you around for the day.



Wednesday 13th September

Today enjoy a day of leisure in La Rochelle. Visit the Towers of La Rochelle, take a stroll through Port stopping for lunch in a local restaurant or catch up on some shopping.

Thursday 14th September

This morning we will leave La Rochelle for Nantes. On the way, we will stop at Le Marais Poitevin Regional Park. This gives us the opportunity to visit one of the several Regional Park in France. Marais Poitevin is a protected area arranged several century ago, it is now a maze of islets crisscrossed by picturesque canals, primarily now a destination for boating. It is called The Green Venice. Enjoy a cruise and a lunch there. Then we continue to the Muscadet's region! Between Loire and farmland, a green and nuanced landscape through the seasons is revealed in the detours of plateaus and hills. From these vines come the Muscadet, emblematic of the vineyards of Nantes. Enjoy a wine tasting. Located in the heart of the vineyard of Nantes, at the junction of the Loire-Atlantique, Vendée and Anjou, you will admire Clisson and its castle. The city is well known for its medieval air and Tuscan influence, the remains of the castle, which is a former fortress flanked by towers.



Friday 15th September

Embark on a sightseeing tour including a visit to the Palace of the Dukes of Brittany and the Machines of the Isle of Nantes! The Palace of the Dukes of Brittany is an immense castle, located right in the centre of town. You will also head over to the city's old shipyards, where the city's famous Machines of the Isle of Nantes "live"! This unique collection of mechanical animal machines includes a merry-go-round made of sea creatures and a giant elephant that you can ride, among others that are housed in the Hangar à bananes, a space formerly used to treat imported bananas.



Saturday 16th September

Enjoy a free day in Nantes or join our Optional Guided Tour to the Palace of the Dukes of Brittany. In the evening return coach transfer to Stade la Beaujoire for Irelands second pool game against Asia/Pacific1. Kick off at 21:00.



Sunday 17th September

Morning private coach transfer from Nantes to Saint-Malo. Check-in and then rest of the day at leisure.

Monday 18th September

Enjoy a day trip to Mont Saint-Michel, one of the most visited places in France that is located outside of Paris. Take a tour with a local guide. Mont Saint-Michel alternates between island and mainland. You will also visit the abbey (at your own expense), a splendid example of medieval architecture in the area perched atop the mount that gives spectacular views of the bay that surrounds the mount. Enjoy a lunch on your own in the area before heading to Caen.



Tuesday 19th September

We will spend the day visiting the Mémorial de Caen Museum and the D-Day Landing Beaches. These sites are an incredible opportunity to see first-hand the sites that played a key role in ending World War II. You will learn about the events of D-Day as well as how they fit into a larger historical context, the details of the arrival of the Allied troops, the sacrifices made by the Norman people, and much more. There will be a lunch break during the visit before returning to your hotel in Caen.

Wednesday 20th September

Morning private coach transfer to Tours. On your way, make a stop to see the city of Le Mans, known for its motor racing culture and specifically the 24 Hours of Le Mans race! You will catch a glimpse of the city's racetrack on your way to the beautiful old town, which, unlike most of France's old towns, is separate from the rest of the city. It is perched high above the rest of Le Mans and is the home of the awe-inspiring Saint-Julien cathedral. During your visit, you will have the opportunity to sample the specialty of Le Mans: rillettes, with a glass of wine! Enjoy a typical Breton lunch on the way to Tours.

Thursday 21st September

Today is dedicated to Loire Valley Castles. You will visit the famous castles of Chenonceau and Chambord. Exceptional by their design, richness of collections and their history, both Chenonceau and Chambord castle will amaze you. Crown property and royal residence, they were the symbol of power and richness of kings during this wealthy period. A true legacy of French History listed on Unesco's world heritage list! Lunch included in a local restaurant.



Friday 22nd September

Coach transfer to Paris. On the way, you will make a stop first in Orléans. Located on the banks of the Loire, Orléans is one of the oldest cities in France and offers real tourism! The city secured its place in history in 1429 when Joan of Arc rallied the armies of Charles VII and brought about a spectacular rout against the besieging English forces, a key turning point in the Hundred Years War.



Saturday 23rd September

Free day to enjoy Paris. In the evening head to Saint-Denis's stadium for the South Africa V Ireland game. Kick off at 21:00.



Sunday 24th September

Day at leisure in Paris.



Monday 25th September

Private Coach transfer to Dijon. On the way we will stop in Auxerre, a city built along the Yonne and renowned for its timbered houses. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. Arrival in Dijon, rest of the day at leisure.

Tuesday 26th September

Spend the morning exploring Dijon, including a visit to the Palace of the Dukes of Burgundy. The Palace is enormous and today houses Dijon's City Hall and Musée des Beaux Arts. The Tour de Philippe le Bon gives an impressive view of Dijon, the Saone River, and the nearby vineyards. Start the afternoon with lunch in a typical Burgundy restaurant, where many of France's most well-known specialties come from: the wine-simmered beef bourguignon or coq au vin, or Burgundy-style snails or fondue, among many other delights. In any case, prepare for a flavourful feast! The rest of the day will be spent on the Côte de Nuits vineyard, including in the Nuits-Saint-Georges and Gevrey Chambertin wine regions, before heading back to Dijon.



Wednesday 27th September

Head to Beaune, where the Dukes of Burgundy lived! Upon arrival, take a city tour and see the Hospices de Beaune, founded in the 1400s as a hospital for the poor and is today Beaune's main attraction; its geometrically patterned rooftops and criss-cross façades are must-see. Then continue with a cellar visit and a tasting! The quality of Burgundy wines is arguably as good as - or better than - that of the famous Bordeaux wines on the other side of the country. Eat lunch on your own in Beaune before participating in a mustard workshop! Producers of France's truly traditional mustard are few and far between, and this is your chance to try traditional recipes and even make your own! Head to another wine estate in Côte de Beaune for a final tasting of the day, and then head back to Dijon for the night.

Thursday 28th September

Private Coach transfer from Dijon to Strasbourg. On your way, we will make a few stops and enjoy lunch.

Spend the rest of the day visiting Strasbourg, located in Alsace region next to the German border. It is one of the European capitals and a typical Alsatian city. Strasbourg is most of all well known for its "Petite France" area: The Ill River is everywhere here, which is why this district is sometimes compared to a little Venice. The district is spread across an amazing river delta, formed by the five arms of the river. Seen from the sky, they look uncannily like the fingers of a hand trying to grab the whole city. Both peaceful and impetuous, the River Ill irrigates the whole district with its charm. Take a leisurely stroll along its quays and admire the reflection of the colourful facades of the old houses.



Friday 29th September

This morning, visit to the Haut-Koenigsbourg castle, one of the symbols of Alsatian heritage and a witness to the course of European history. The moment you step over the threshold of the great door at Haut-Koenigsbourg Castle, you find yourself in a whole new world: the Middle Ages. Get lost in this prestigious fortress! Enjoy lunch in Colmar, and then make a stop in the Riesling and Muscat vineyards, two of the many Alsatian region's finest, for a tasting with a winemaker!



Saturday 30th September

Morning free to relax in Strasbourg and enjoy Lunch on your own. In the afternoon we will take a tour of the Alsace vineyards with wine tasting.

Sunday 1st October

Coach transfer to Reims with lunch stop on the way. Guided tour of Reims then tasting of some Champagne in a "Grande maison de Champagne".



Monday 2nd October

This will be a day dedicated to champagne and wine. Visits to vineyards are of course on the agenda, and there will be tastings and a lunch along the way. Finish the day in the company of a super-fan of rugby who doubles as an estate owner, who will be hosting you for a final tasting before your transfer back to Reims.

Tuesday 3rd October

Head to Lille in the morning and enjoy lunch in an estaminet, a type of restaurant that emerged in industrial Lille! Originally a kind of café-bar where industrial workers in the 1800s could enjoy coffee or other drinks and a cigarette after work, today they are cosy jovial restaurants that welcome all kinds of guests. They are iconic of not only Lille, but the Flemish culture in general; this is supported by the fact that guests can often find traditional Flemish games to play in estaminets! After lunch, take in the sights of the city with a local guide. Lille is known for its belfry tower with 400 steps to the top, and for its colourful building façades with golden trim, which were heavily influenced by baroque and neoclassical styles. With that in mind, we recommend a pair of runners and a camera for this part of the programme!



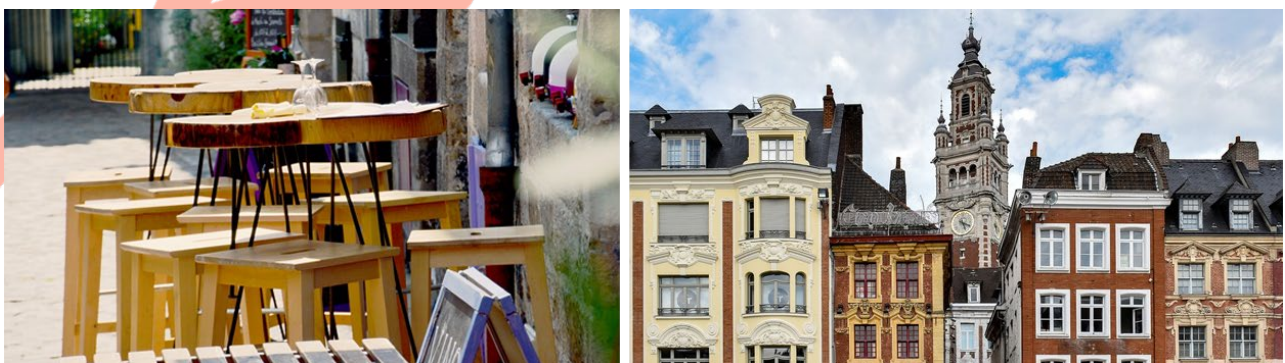
Wednesday 4th October

Today we will cross the border into Belgium for a day trip to Bruges! With a local guide you will enjoy a tour of the “the Venice of the North”, and after enjoying a lunch on your own, you will explore the numerous canals that wind through the town on a canal cruise. Do not forget to look up though – the towering Gothic architecture will impress you just as much as the waterways! We recommend that at one point during the day, while you are admiring the water and the architecture, try a gauffre (waffle) with whipped cream and chocolate! And now, the biggest decision of all: should your waffle be Liege-style or Brussels-style? While both are delicious, the Liege version is dense and topped with sugar crystals, whereas its Brussels cousin is airier with powdered sugar. On that sweet note, head back to Lille at the end of the day



Thursday 5th October

Enjoy a free day at leisure in Lille exploring the sights or catching up on some shopping.



Friday 6th October

We will return to Paris today and once you are all checked in we will head out for our farewell dinner with the group.

Saturday 7th October

Free day to enjoy Paris. In the evening head to Saint- Denis's stadium for the Ireland V Scotland game. Kick off at 21:00.



Sunday 8th October

After checking out we will transfer by private coach to Paris airport for our return flight to Dublin.



PACKAGE INCLUDES:

Flights
(Dublin to Bordeaux & Paris to Dublin)
Airport Hotel and match transfers (where mentioned)
30 Nights Hotel accommodation
(3 Bordeaux / 3 La Rochelle / 3 Nantes / 2 Tours / 1 Saint-Malo /
2 Caen / 3 Dijon / 3 Strasbourg / 2 Reims / 3 Lille / 5 Paris)
Breakfast Each Morning
Services of Killester Travel Tour Leader & Local Guide
Wine Tastings as listed
3 Dinners
13 Lunches
Excursions listed in Itinerary
Official Match tickets - Cat 4 (upgrades available)
RWC Souvenir

Not Included:

Travel Insurance (quote on request).
Ticket Upgrades
(Prices – subject to availability).
Other meals not mentioned

Terms and conditions can be viewed here:

<https://www.rugbytravel.ie/rugby-world-cup-2023-booking-terms-and-conditions/>