



GRAY DAWES
SPORTS

SUPER LEAGUE

TRAVEL TO PERPIGNAN



***SPORTS
TRAVEL
SIMPLIFIED***

01. THE OBJECTIVE

The Catalan Dragons are the only Super League team outside of England. Every Super League team must travel down to Perpignan in France to play them as part of the regular season of fixtures. This need cuts across normal match day preparations and adds costs to travel budgets.

Teams need to keep their costs to a minimum while ensuring players are as comfortable as possible prior to the game, which takes some specialist expertise.

Thankfully, Gray Dawes Sports has been organising travel for Super League teams for the last 15 years and in August 2023 we arranged travel for not one but two Super League teams down to Perpignan to play the leaders of Super League 2023, Catalan Dragons.



02. THE APPROACH

Gray Dawes Sports worked directly with the airlines involved to ensure we had the best possible fares with the added ability for names to be amended if required.

Whilst there's usually a fee for name changes, group fares have this added flexibility which is important for sports groups due to the likelihood of injuries and the selection process. We also advised the teams of any passport or visa requirements; essential when dealing with numerous nationalities of the playing squads.

Both teams flew from Manchester and stayed at the the Dali Hotel and Flamont Rose hotels which have been favourites over the years. Teams have also taken flights to cities such as Barcelona, Toulouse and Carcassonne and utilised private chartered aircraft which can include offering some lucky supporters the option to fly with the teams.

For the Perpignan trips, we arranged all coach transfers as required, including airport to hotel on arrival, to a local ground for training sessions, return match day transfers and on departure.

We also included coach options for those staying in the town to travel down to the beach for rest and relaxation. We liaised with the club nutritionist about required meals and requested these with the hotels. We also arranged all necessary meeting rooms for team talks, tactics, physiotherapy, team building and recreation.

Our expert knowledge and experience on teams travel with medical equipment also came into play. Precision is needed when transporting this

type of additional baggage which, as an example, could involve clearing the defibrillators which most teams need to take onboard aircraft. Batteries are handled and considered with specialist attention.

Oxygen for specific passengers can be cleared for airline clearance but regulations are based on the size of the cylinder. The Gray Dawes Sports team is experienced in obtaining special clearance from airlines for this. This also requires a formal letter, on headed paper, which is signed by a doctor to confirm that the passenger requires this.

Likewise, a full list of all medicines being administered must be provided by way of a formal letter on headed paper, signed by a relevant doctor before transportation. Thankfully our awareness of these necessities negates any issues before they happen.

Many teams use GPS on players for the purpose of monitoring their speed, positioning, and distances travelled. The team are experienced in managing this requirement and are knowledgeable in ensuring that the full details of these (such as battery type, wattage, etc) are proactively recorded, so that space can be cleared with the airline and security.

03. THE RESULTS

The teams we worked with enjoyed hassle-free travel to and from Perpignan, giving them the greatest opportunity to focus on the task in hand – playing world class rugby.

We continue to work with the Super League, providing our specialist, tailored expertise that ensures flexibility, saves money and removes the stress of travel management from the team.





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THANK YOU

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