

THREAT, RISK & TRAVEL GUIDE

Risk Mitigations for Personnel
Attending the FIFA WORLD CUP 2026™

United States · Canada · Mexico | 11 June – 19 July 2026



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FIFA WORLD CUP 2026™

Threat, Risk & Travel Guide

United States · Canada · Mexico | 11 June – 19 July 2026

For International Travellers From Outside The Host Nations

Tournament Dates 11 June – 19 July 2026 39 days · 104 matches	Host Nations USA (11 cities) · Mexico (3 cities) · Canada (2 cities)
Scale 48 nations · 5–6 million international visitors expected	Overall Risk Rating MEDIUM-HIGH Mexico: HIGH · USA: MED-HIGH · Canada: MEDIUM



General guidance only. Always verify official advisories, visa requirements, and local laws immediately before travel. Classification: UNCLASSIFIED · For General Distribution · v3.0 Combined Edition · June 2026

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1. Executive Summary

The 2026 FIFA World Cup (11 June – 19 July) is the largest sporting event in human history: 48 nations, 104 matches across 16 cities, three countries, and two time zones, with over five million international visitors expected.

The geographic scale, political climate, elevated terrorism environment, immigration enforcement context, accommodation pressure, and fast-moving fraud environment make this a uniquely complex risk landscape for international travellers.

This guide consolidates threat intelligence, travel risk assessments, transport guidance, accommodation advice, digital safety, local laws, health risks, and pre-departure actions into a single reference document. It is aligned with **ISO 31000:2018** (Risk Management) and **ISO 31030:2021** (Travel Risk Management), and is intended to support individual travellers, duty-of-care officers, and corporate travel teams attending any or all of the three host nations.

Headline Assessment: Travellers should treat the tournament as a **MEDIUM-HIGH risk travel environment**. Mexico presents the highest organised crime exposure; the United States carries elevated terrorism, firearms, immigration enforcement, and legal-compliance risks; Canada is lower risk overall but faces accommodation pressure, petty crime, and seasonal wildfire smoke exposure.



Mexico

HIGH

Organised crime, cartel activity, kidnapping, violent crime



United States

MEDIUM-HIGH

Terrorism, gun violence, ICE enforcement, alcohol/drug law violations



Canada

MEDIUM

Petty crime, accommodation shortage, wildfire smoke in Vancouver

Overall Threat Matrix — High Priority Risks

The following threats are assessed as **HIGH** priority for international travellers attending the 2026 FIFA World Cup across all or any of the three host nations.

Threat Category	Rating	Primary Exposure
Terrorism / mass casualty attack	HIGH	USA primary exposure; lone actors, IS-linked, Iran/Russia-aligned actors; CSIS May 2026
Organised crime / cartel violence	HIGH	Mexico; CJNG presence in Jalisco and cartel rivalry in Nuevo León
Opportunistic crime / theft	HIGH	All 16 cities; stadiums, fan zones, transport hubs, tourist areas
ICE / immigration enforcement	HIGH	USA host cities; diaspora and ethnic minority fans may face elevated questioning or detention risk
Accommodation / booking fraud	HIGH	All host nations; data breach exposure, reservation hijacking, AI-generated fake listings

⊗ **Planning implication:** The highest-risk exposures are not limited to stadiums. Travellers should pay close attention to hotels, fan zones, transit hubs, rideshare zones, public gatherings, booking channels, and digital payment links.

Overall Threat Matrix — Medium Priority Risks

Threat Category	Rating	Primary Exposure
Civil unrest / protest activity	MEDIUM	All three nations; anti-ICE, anti-World Cup, indigenous rights, and anti-gentrification activity
Kidnapping / express kidnap	MEDIUM	Mexico City and Monterrey; virtual kidnap scams by phone also reported
Cyber / ticket fraud	MEDIUM	All host nations; fake QR codes, phishing, ticketing platforms, state-aligned cyber actors
Extreme weather / heat	MEDIUM	Dallas, Houston, Miami, Kansas City and other southern host cities in June/July
Visa / entry denial	MEDIUM	USA travel bans and border discretion; multi-country travel requires separate entry compliance
Transport disruption	MEDIUM	Vast distances, airport pressure, rideshare surge, limited stadium transit at some venues
Alcohol / drug law violations	MEDIUM	USA drinking age 21, cannabis federal law, Texas/Georgia zero tolerance

Mexico — HIGH

Organised crime, cartel activity, kidnapping, violent crime

United States — MED-HIGH

Terrorism, gun violence, ICE enforcement, alcohol/drug law violations

Canada — MEDIUM

Petty crime, accommodation shortage, wildfire smoke in Vancouver

2. Host Nation & City-by-City Risk Profiles — Mexico

Risk profiles are based on FCDO, Smartraveller, US State Department, and Global Affairs Canada advisories current as of June 2026. Tournament-period security enhancements may reduce near-venue risks, but baseline urban risks remain.

⊗ **Mexico overall risk: HIGH** — Smartraveller: Level 2 — High Degree of Caution
· FCDO: Exercise Caution

City / Stadium	Risk	Key Threats	Advisory Status
Mexico City Estadio Azteca	MED- HIGH	Petty crime, express kidnap, protest activity	US State Dept Level 2. FCDO: exercise a high degree of caution. Opening match 11 June.
Guadalajara Estadio Akron	HIGH	CJNG cartel, nightlife drugging, violent crime	US State Dept Level 2 for Jalisco. Post-EI Mencho killing instability remains a concern.
Monterrey Estadio BBVA	HIGH	Cartel rivalry, kidnapping, violent crime	US State Dept Level 3: Reconsider Travel for Nuevo León. Highest Mexican host-city risk.

⚠ **Planning implication:** Use vetted transport, stay in well-policed tourist areas, avoid night travel outside known zones, and avoid unmarked taxis.

Host Nation Risk Profiles — United States: East & South



United States overall risk: MEDIUM-HIGH — FCDO: Normal Caution · CT threat context: Elevated, according to CSIS May 2026 assessment

City / Stadium	Risk	Key Threats	Advisory Status
New York / New Jersey MetLife Stadium (Final)	MED-HIGH	Terrorism, ICE, large protests, petty crime	Hosts World Cup Final on 19 July. Highest security deployment expected.
Atlanta Mercedes-Benz Stadium (Semi-Final)	MEDIUM	ICE documented, petty crime	MARTA rail direct from airport. ICE arrest documented June 2025.
Miami Hard Rock Stadium	MEDIUM	Heat, humidity, hurricane season, petty crime	Third Place match. Hurricane season runs 1 June – 30 November. No direct rail link.
Boston Gillette Stadium	MEDIUM	Strict alcohol laws, large crowd congestion	Supplying alcohol to under-21s can carry criminal penalties under Massachusetts law.
Philadelphia Lincoln Financial Field	MEDIUM	Gun violence in peripheral areas, petty crime	SEPTA Broad Street Line to Pattison station adjacent.

Host Nation Risk Profiles — United States: Central & West

City / Stadium	Risk	Key Threats	Advisory Status
Los Angeles SoFi Stadium	MED-HIG H	Gang proximity, ICE protests, rideshare surge	UNITE HERE strike threat if ICE deployed at SoFi. Stadium near higher-crime areas.
Kansas City Arrowhead Stadium	HIGH	Highest violent crime of US host cities	Westminster Security 2026 identifies highest violent crime rate. No public transit to stadium.
Dallas AT&T Stadium (Semi-Final)	MEDIUM	Extreme heat, no public transit, traffic	Semi-Final venue. 35–40°C+ in June/July. Largest stadium at approx. 94,000 capacity.
San Francisco Levi's Stadium	MEDIUM	Petty crime, car break-ins, cashless city	VTa Light Rail from SJC airport to Great America station adjacent.
Seattle Lumen Field	MEDIUM	Petty crime, protest history	Link Light Rail direct from SEA-TAC. Strong airport-stadium rail connection.
Houston NRG Stadium	MEDIUM	Extreme heat, flooding risk, petty crime	METRORail Red Line direct to NRG station at gates.

Host Nation Risk Profiles — Canada

 **Canada overall risk: MEDIUM** — FCDO and Smartraveller: Normal Precautions

City / Stadium	Risk	Key Threats	Advisory Status
Toronto BMO Field	MEDIUM	Petty crime, event congestion	GO Transit / TTC to Exhibition. Drinking age is 19 in Ontario.
Vancouver BC Place	MEDIUM	Accommodation shortage, wildfire smoke	SkyTrain to Stadium-Chinatown at the gates. Deloitte projects a 70,000-night accommodation shortfall.

 **Planning implication:** Canada has the lowest host-nation risk profile overall, but travellers should still plan accommodation early, monitor event congestion, guard against petty theft, and check air quality in Vancouver during wildfire season.

3. Terrorism, Political Violence & Security

The **CSIS May 2026 brief** identifies the 2026 World Cup as the largest sporting event ever staged and a magnet for a wide range of threat actors.



Domestic Threat Surge

Anti-government violence surged in the US in 2025, driven in part by immigration enforcement. Armed security deployments around tournament venues may redirect existing grievances toward World Cup targets.



Political Symbolism

The tournament may be perceived by some actors as politically symbolic. The March 2026 pro-Iran shooting at an Austin bar illustrates the lone-actor profile: accessible firearm, open public location, little or no warning.



No Confirmed Plots

Flashpoint analysts reported no specific, credible confirmed attack plots at the time of publication. Enhanced security, counter-terrorism patrols, and intelligence operations are expected across all host cities.



Cyber & State-Aligned Threats

Palo Alto Networks Unit 42 assesses that active geopolitical conflict and Russia-NATO tensions elevate cyber and state-aligned threat exposure.

Crowded Places & Civil Unrest Guidance

Soft-Target Risk

The guide identifies unsecured fan zones, transit hubs, hotel lobbies, city squares, and crowded public areas as potentially higher-risk environments than the stadium security perimeter.

Emergency: 911 in all three host nations.

FBI tip line (US): 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324)

Traveller Guidance

- Identify emergency exits when arriving at venues, hotels, restaurants, fan zones, and transit hubs.
- In an incident, follow **Run, Hide, Tell** guidance. In the USA, authorities may use **Run, Hide, Fight**.
- Do not stop to film an incident. Move to safety first.
- Report suspicious packages or behaviour to security staff immediately.
- Avoid all demonstrations regardless of cause or political position.
- If caught in a crowd or protest, move calmly to the periphery and leave the area.
- Monitor local news, host-city alerts, and government travel advisories.

4. Crime — Mexico Organised Crime & Cartel Threat

Mexico presents the highest organised-crime exposure of the three host nations.

CJNG Cartel — Guadalajara

CJNG maintains a dominant presence in Jalisco, including Guadalajara. The February 2026 killing of cartel leader "El Mencho" triggered reprisal violence, including roadblocks, vehicle burnings, and security-force clashes.

Monterrey — Level 3 Advisory

Monterrey, in Nuevo León, carries a US State Department Level 3: Reconsider Travel advisory because of inter-cartel rivalry.

Express Kidnapping

Express kidnapping is documented in tourist zones in Guadalajara and Mexico City. Victims may be forced at gunpoint to withdraw cash from ATMs. Virtual kidnapping scams by phone are also widely reported.

Drink Spiking

Drink spiking and drug-facilitated crime are documented risks in Guadalajara nightlife venues.

Traveller Actions

- Use only vetted hotel transport or app-based transport.
- Never hail unmarked street taxis.
- Avoid independent travel at night.
- Do not leave drinks unattended.
- Limit movement to stadium, hotel, fan zones, and well-policed areas.

Crime — United States & Opportunistic Crime at Events

The United States presents a different crime profile: firearms, neighbourhood-level risk, petty theft, and crowded-place vulnerability.

Key Risks

- Kansas City records the highest violent crime rate among all US host venues in Westminster Security's 2026 analysis.
- Philadelphia and Los Angeles present elevated neighbourhood-level risks.
- Gun violence incidents can occur with limited warning in any public space.
- Petty crime — pickpocketing, bag snatching, and phone theft — is elevated around stadiums, fan zones, public transport, and tourist areas.

All-Nation Guidance

- Do not display expensive cameras, jewellery, or mobile phones in crowded places.
- Use RFID-blocking wallets and carry only necessary cash.
- Keep bags closed and secured to your body.
- Purchase tickets only via official FIFA channels and the official FIFA World Cup 26 app.
- Use authorised transport only: app-based taxis in Mexico, regulated taxis or Uber/Lyft in the US and Canada.

5. Immigration Enforcement & Human Rights Risks (USA)

This section draws on Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and ACLU reporting. It addresses one of the more novel risk factors at any FIFA World Cup.

167,000+ Arrests

ICE arrested at least 167,000 people in and around the 11 US host cities between 20 January and 10 March 2025, according to HRW analysis of ICE FOIA data. Enforcement operations continue.

No ICE Truce

No "ICE Truce" had been secured from US federal authorities as at June 2026, despite requests from FIFA, HRW, the ACLU, and over 120 US civil rights organisations.

Appearance-Based Risk

Individuals perceived as immigrants based on appearance, spoken language, or place of work may face elevated risk of questioning or detention, regardless of actual immigration status.

SoFi Stadium Strike Threat

Workers at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles have threatened strike action if ICE is deployed at the venue.



Traveller action: Monitor local news before attending Los Angeles fixtures and carry proof of identity and lawful entry documentation.

USA Travel Bans, Digital Vetting & Practical Guidance

Active US Travel Bans — Affected Nationalities

Nationality	Restriction	Tournament Impact
Côte d'Ivoire	US travel ban; entry refused unless valid visa held pre-1 Jan 2026	Cannot enter USA to support their team
Haiti	Same conditions	Cannot enter USA to support their team
Iran	Same conditions	Cannot enter USA to support their team
Senegal	Same conditions	Cannot enter USA to support their team

Digital Vetting & Practical Guidance

- US authorities have proposed requiring visitors to make social media accounts available for vetting and screening for "anti-Americanism."
- Review your public digital footprint before entering the US.
- Carry your passport and all entry documentation physically at all times in the USA.
- If stopped by ICE or law enforcement, remain calm and cooperative.
- You are entitled to consular assistance. Contact your embassy or consulate immediately if detained.

6. Visa, Entry Requirements & Documentation

Each host nation operates an independent immigration system. Meeting the requirements of one country does not satisfy the requirements for another.

Traveller Group	USA	Canada	Mexico
UK / EU / Australia / Japan (VWP)	ESTA: \$21 online. Apply 72+ hours before travel.	eTA: CAD \$7 online. Usually instant.	Visa-free. FMM immigration form required on arrival; keep it for departure.
Travel ban nationals (CI, Haiti, Iran, Senegal)	Entry refused unless exception applies	Check individually at canada.ca	Generally visa-free or with third-country visa
Non-VWP travellers	B-2 Visitor Visa: \$185, interview required. Allow 3–6 months.	TRV: CAD \$100. Allow 4–8 weeks.	Often visa-free or with valid US/Schengen/UK/Japan visa
Canadian citizens	No ESTA required; passport only	Home nation	Visa-free
US citizens	Home nation	No eTA for land crossings; eTA for air travel	Visa-free. FMM required.

FIFA PASS & Key Entry Guidance

FIFA PASS — USA Priority Visa Scheduling

FIFA and the US State Department have introduced the FIFA Priority Appointment Scheduling System (FIFA PASS). FIFA PASS links confirmed ticket purchases to priority B-2 visa interview slots.

Important: FIFA PASS does not guarantee visa approval. All standard US immigration eligibility criteria still apply.

Access FIFA PASS via:
state.gov/fifa-world-cup-26-visas

Key Entry Guidance

- Biometric passports are required for UK travellers.
- Carry physical copies of ESTA, visa, or eTA alongside your passport.
- Local laws differ significantly across the US, Canada, and Mexico.
- In Mexico, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, and vaping solutions are prohibited from import.
- Passport validity: ensure your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your intended stay in the US and Canada.
- Multi-country travel: every border crossing is an independent immigration decision.
- Keep your Mexican FMM immigration card with you at all times.

7. Cyber Threats, Fraud & Digital Safety

The 2026 World Cup presents an unprecedented digital attack surface. Palo Alto Networks Unit 42 identifies confirmed pre-tournament activity by **Handala Hack Team**, **CyberAv3ngers**, **NoName057(16)**, **Muddled Libra**, and **ALPHV affiliates**.

Ticket & Financial Fraud

Fraudulent Ticketing Websites

1

Fraudulent ticketing websites are the highest-volume threat. Fake FIFA-themed platforms are already active, stealing payment credentials and personal data. **Only purchase via [fifa.com](https://www.fifa.com) and the official FIFA World Cup 26 app.**

QR Code Fraud

2

Tournament-specific QR code fraud is the fastest-growing variant. Fake shuttle passes, parking permits, and transport QR codes are already in circulation. Verify all QR codes via official sources before scanning.

Payment Fraud

3

Never pay invoices sent via WhatsApp, email links, unfamiliar bank transfers, Zelle, cryptocurrency, or non-platform payment links.

Booking Fraud & Traveller Digital Hygiene

Booking Fraud

- Booking.com suffered a confirmed data breach in April 2026 exposing customer reservation details.
- Criminals are using real booking data to impersonate hotels and redirect payment.
- Travel scams are up **500–900%** over 18 months due to AI-generated deepfakes.
- AI-generated fake listings and fraudulent communications can look highly convincing.
- Verify all accommodation through official platform messaging only.



Treat any off-platform payment request as a fraud signal until proven otherwise.

Digital Hygiene

- Use a reputable VPN on public Wi-Fi at airports, hotels, stadiums, and fan zones.
- Do not conduct banking or sensitive account access on unsecured networks.
- Enable two-factor authentication before travel.
- Keep devices fully updated.
- Back up important documents to encrypted cloud storage.
- Review public social media before US entry.

Useful resources:

ncsc.gov.uk/collection/travellers and cisa.gov

8. All 16 Host Stadiums — Mexico Venues

- ❏ Arrive at least 2–3 hours before kick-off on match days. Direct stadium drop-offs are prohibited at most venues; rideshare hubs may require a 15–30 minute walk to gates.

1

Mexico City • Estadio Azteca

Transport: MEX airport approx. 16 km. Metro Line 2 to Tasqueña, then Tren Ligero to Estadio Azteca station. Uber/app-based transport recommended.

Security: Generally safer in tourist zones. Avoid walking alone after dark. Use vetted transport. Keep FMM card on person.

2

Guadalajara • Estadio Akron

Transport: GDL airport approx. 20 km. Uber or InDriver strongly recommended. Public transit limited; pre-book shuttles.

Security: HIGH RISK: CJNG cartel presence in Jalisco. Stay in central Zapopan tourist zones. Drink spiking risk in nightlife venues.

3

Monterrey • Estadio BBVA

Transport: MTY airport approx. 25 km. Uber or vetted hotel taxi only. Metrorrey Line 2 to Exposición, then shuttle/taxi.

Security: Highest Mexican host-city risk. Limit movements to stadium, hotel, and fan zones. Avoid independent night travel.

Stadium Guide — USA Priority Venues

1

New York / New Jersey • MetLife Stadium (Final)

Transport: EWR 10 min; JFK 35 min; LGA 30 min. NJ Transit via Secaucus to Meadowlands Rail Line recommended.

Security: Plan 3–4 hours early on Final day. Book Manhattan/Newark hotels immediately. Tightest accommodation market.

2

Los Angeles • SoFi Stadium

Transport: LAX 2 miles. Uber/Lyft 10–15 min, but rideshare drop zones may require 20–30 min walk. Metro K Line + shuttle.

Security: Monitor strike risk if ICE deployed. Use well-lit routes around Inglewood.

3

Dallas / Arlington • AT&T Stadium (Semi-Final)

Transport: DFW 25 min; Love Field 35 min. No direct public transit. Shuttles and rideshare require planning.

Security: Heat warning: 35–40°C+ in June/July. Hydrate heavily. Cannabis possession is a criminal offence in Texas.

4

Atlanta • Mercedes-Benz Stadium (Semi-Final)

Transport: ATL airport 15 min via MARTA. MARTA Red/Gold Line to Vine City station adjacent.

Security: Carry ID. Cannabis fully illegal in Georgia. Monitor ICE-related developments.

Stadium Guide — USA Additional Venues

Miami • Hard Rock Stadium

1

Transport: MIA approx. 17 miles. No direct rail link. Rideshare/taxi primary; official shuttles may operate.

Security: Heat, humidity, and hurricane season. Open-air stadium with limited shade. Monitor [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov).

Boston / Foxborough • Gillette Stadium

2

Transport: BOS approx. 35 miles. MBTA Commuter Rail event trains from South Station to Foxboro on match days.

Security: Strict under-21 alcohol laws. International driving licences often not accepted for age verification.

San Francisco / Bay Area • Levi's Stadium

3

Transport: SJC 3 miles; SFO 30 miles. VTA Orange Line to Great America station. Cashless transactions common.

Security: Car break-ins and petty theft are common in SF; do not leave valuables visible.

Kansas City • Arrowhead Stadium

4

Transport: KCI approx. 30 min. No public transit to stadium; taxi, rideshare, or hotel shuttle only.

Security: Highest violent crime exposure among US host cities. Avoid isolated areas, especially after dark.

Stadium Guide — USA & Canada Venues

Seattle · Lumen Field

Transport: SEA-TAC 25 min via Link Light Rail. Stadium/SODO station approx. 5 min walk.

Security: Pioneer Square adjacent to stadium has elevated petty crime and homelessness-related incidents. Stay on main routes.

Philadelphia · Lincoln Financial Field

Transport: PHL approx. 5 miles. SEPTA Broad Street Line to NRG/Pattison station adjacent.

Security: Peripheral neighbourhoods near the stadium have elevated crime. Stay in groups after dark.

Houston · NRG Stadium

Transport: IAH 35 miles; HOU 12 miles. METRORail Red Line direct to NRG Park station.

Security: Heat, humidity, thunderstorms, and Texas cannabis restrictions. Stay hydrated.

Toronto · BMO Field

Transport: YYZ approx. 25 km; Billy Bishop 15 min. GO Transit to Exhibition or TTC 509 streetcar.

Security: Generally safe. Watch for petty theft at busy transit stations. Drinking age 19 in Ontario.

Vancouver · BC Place

Transport: YVR approx. 30 min by SkyTrain. Stadium-Chinatown station at gates.

Security: Accommodation critical. Wildfire smoke risk in June/July; monitor air quality.

9. Ground Transport — Taxis & Rideshare

Country	Safe Taxi Options	Apps	Key Warnings
 Mexico	Hotel-arranged taxis only. Licensed sitio rank taxis from airports. Never hail from the street.	Uber, InDriver, DiDi Mexico	Unmarked street taxis are linked to express kidnapping across all three host cities. This is the #1 tourist safety rule in Mexico.
 USA	Yellow cabs in NYC. Regulated airport taxis. Uber and Lyft widely available.	Uber, Lyft	Surge pricing on match days can be 3x–5x normal. Rideshare hubs may be 15–30 min walk from gates.
 Canada	Beck Taxi in Toronto; Yellow Cab in Vancouver. Metered and regulated.	Uber, Lyft	Generally safe. Surge pricing likely on match days. Pre-book airport transfers for match-day travel.

 **Traveller action:** Pre-book critical journeys, build in extra time, and have a backup route before leaving the hotel.

Match-Day Transport & Inter-City Movement

Match-Day Transport Rules

- Pre-load transit cards before match day: TAP (LA), Breeze (Atlanta), myORCA (Seattle), Presto (Toronto), Compass (Vancouver), SEPTA Key (Philadelphia), METRO Q (Houston).
- Direct stadium drop-offs are prohibited at many major venues.
- Rideshare hubs can require a 15–30 minute walk to gates.
- Stadium shuttles run from designated hubs in Dallas, Boston, Kansas City, and Houston. Confirm pick-up points in advance.
- FlixBus is operating intercity services linking US, Canadian, and Mexican host cities.

Inter-City Rail

- **USA:** New York to Philadelphia by Amtrak is one of the best rail connections. New York to Boston is approx. 3.5–4 hours. Other US routes may be better by flight or car.
- **Mexico:** ETN/Primera Plus coaches connect Mexico City with Guadalajara and Monterrey and can be cheaper than flights.
- **Canada:** Toronto to Vancouver by rail takes approx. 4 days; domestic flight is approx. 5 hours.

10. Domestic Flights — Key Route Guidance

Given the continental scale of the tournament, domestic flights are essential for fans attending multiple fixtures.

Route	Flight Time	Key Airlines	Notes
New York (EWR/JFK) to Miami (MIA)	approx. 3 hrs	American, Delta, United, Spirit	Multiple daily. Book early due to high demand.
Los Angeles (LAX) to Seattle (SEA-TAC)	approx. 2.5 hrs	Alaska, Delta, Southwest	Alaska Airlines strong on this route.
Dallas (DFW) to Houston (IAH/HOU)	approx. 1 hr	American, United, Southwest	Driving may be cheaper depending on timing.
LA (LAX) to San Francisco (SFO/SJC)	approx. 1.5 hrs	Southwest, Alaska, United	Southwest frequent. BART from SFO to stadium area.
Mexico City (MEX) to Guadalajara (GDL)	approx. 1 hr	Volaris, Aeromexico, VivaAerobus	ETN bus is approx. 6 hrs and may be cheaper.
Mexico City (MEX) to Monterrey (MTY)	approx. 1.5 hrs	Aeromexico, Volaris, VivaAerobus	Luxury coach is a comfortable alternative.
Toronto (YYZ) to Vancouver (YVR)	approx. 5 hrs	Air Canada, WestJet, Flair	One of the longest domestic routes in the world.
Any US city to Mexican host city	3–5 hrs	Aeromexico, American, United, Volaris	Full customs and passport control on every crossing.

Airport Security Tips for UK & European Travellers

1 USA — TSA Rules

- Shoes off, laptops out of bag, liquids in 100ml containers in a clear bag.
- TSA PreCheck and Global Entry generally do not apply to international visitors unless specifically enrolled.
- Use standard lanes unless you have a valid trusted-traveller status.
- US airports such as ATL, LAX, JFK, and DFW can be highly congested. Arrive at least **3 hours** before international departures and **2.5 hours** before domestic flights.

2 Canada — CBSA Rules

- Complete electronic customs declaration via ArriveCAN or paper forms on arrival.
- All passengers must complete customs declaration requirements.

3 Cannabis — The Golden Rule

- ⊗ Never carry cannabis through any airport in the US or across any international border. Airports are federal jurisdiction regardless of state law. Carrying cannabis across borders can constitute drug trafficking and may result in arrest, detention, prosecution, and future entry restrictions.

11. Hotels, Apartments & Accommodation Safety

Average nightly rates in US and Canadian host cities are running **90% above typical summer rates**. Vacation rentals average \$300–\$554 per night in US/Canadian cities. Mexico remains the most affordable option.

City	Supply	Avg. Nightly	Key Notes
New York / NJ	CRITICAL	\$350–600+	Tightest market of all 16 venues. Newark / NJ suburbs may offer better value.
Vancouver	CRITICAL	\$350–500+	70,000-night shortfall forecast. UBC/York University dorms are alternatives.
Boston	VERY LIMITED	\$300–500	Second tightest US market. Consider Providence RI as overflow.
Los Angeles	VERY LIMITED	\$300–600	Book near Inglewood/LAX or with Metro K Line access.
Mexico City	AVAILABLE	\$80–200	Most affordable host city. Book in Polanco, Roma Norte, or Condesa.
Guadalajara	AVAILABLE	\$60–180	Stay in central Zapopan tourist zone. Verify security before booking.
Other US cities	LIMITED	\$250–450	Atlanta, Dallas, Miami, Seattle, Philadelphia all high demand.

Accommodation Booking Fraud Warnings



Critical Reading Before You Pay

Data Breach Risk

Booking.com data breach exposure in April 2026 created risk from reservation hijacking scams. Criminals may impersonate hotels using real booking details such as names, emails, travel dates, and accommodation specifics.

AI-Generated Fakes

AI-generated fake listings are highly convincing. Travel scams are up 500–900% due to generative AI. FTC reporting shows rental scam losses reached \$65 million from 2020–2025.

Fake QR Codes

Fake QR codes for parking passes, shuttle access, and fan transport are already in circulation. Verify all QR codes via official sources before scanning.

Safe Payment Channels

Only book and pay through verified platforms such as Airbnb, VRBO, Hotels.com, or Booking.com in-app systems. Do not pay via WhatsApp, email links, Zelle, or cryptocurrency.



Traveller action: Treat any off-platform payment request as a fraud signal until proven otherwise.

Short-Term Rentals & Hotel Safety

Short-Term Rentals

- Airbnb and VRBO can offer better value for groups of three or more.
- Hosts in World Cup cities are projected to earn an average of \$3,000–\$5,700 during the tournament.
- City-specific short-term rental rules matter. Los Angeles limits unhosted stays; Kansas City, Philadelphia, and Vancouver have licensing requirements.
- Verify the host is compliant. An unlicensed rental can be shut down during your stay.
- Toronto and Vancouver alternatives include UBC and York University summer dormitory bookings at under \$150/night.

Mexico Hotel Safety

Mexico City: Polanco, Roma Norte, Condesa.

Guadalajara: Central Zapopan, Providencia.

Monterrey: San Pedro Garza García, Barrio Antiguo.

- Store passports and valuables in in-room safes.
- Verify unexpected hotel calls by hanging up and calling the front desk directly.
- Do not leave electronics or cash visible.

12. Drug Laws & Alcohol Regulations

The three host nations have significantly different laws from the UK and Europe regarding alcohol and drugs. **Ignorance of local law is not a defence.**

Country	Legal Age	Difference vs UK (18)	Penalty for Breach
USA — all 11 host cities	21	+3 years	Arrest, fines, deportation risk. Supplying a minor may lead to criminal penalties and visa consequences.
Canada — Ontario, BC	19	+1 year	Provincial offence. Fines or community service for supplying minors.
Canada — Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec	18	Same as UK	Same penalties apply. Note: Toronto and Vancouver are 19.
Mexico — all 3 host cities	18	Same as UK	Fines or short detention for public intoxication. Photo ID required.

USA Alcohol Rules — Critical Differences

1

Drinking Age is 21

The US drinking age of 21 is one of the highest in the world. A 20-year-old who can legally drink in the UK cannot legally purchase or consume alcohol anywhere in the USA.

2

ID Requirements

Photo ID is required when purchasing alcohol. International driving licences are often not accepted for age verification. Carry your passport. Buying alcohol for anyone under 21 is a criminal offence regardless of your home country's laws.

3

Open Container Laws

Consuming alcohol in public streets, parks, or parking lots is illegal in most US states and cities. Tailgating may be an exception at some host venues, but check venue-specific rules. Drunk and disorderly behaviour can result in arrest.

4

Stadium Prices & Cashless

US stadium beer prices may be \$14–18 USD per beer, and most venues are cashless. A US criminal conviction can affect future visa applications.

Cannabis & Drug Laws

Country / Location	Recreational Status	Possession Limit	Key Risks
USA — CA, WA, NJ, MA, NV (legal states)	Legal at state level	approx. 1 oz / 28g per transaction	Cannabis remains illegal at airports, national parks, and federal property. Do not carry through airports.
USA — TX, GA, MO, PA (restricted states)	Illegal / restricted	Texas/Georgia: any amount can be criminal	Arrest, charges, deportation risk, and future entry risk.
Canada — all provinces	Fully legal nationwide	Up to 30g in public	Purchase from licensed retailers only. Never carry across any international border.
Mexico	Grey zone	No regulated purchase system	Police may detain individuals and demand bribes. Cartel links to street dealers. Strongly avoid all drug activity.

The Golden Rule: Never Cross Any Border With Cannabis

Even travelling from Canada, where cannabis is legal, to a US state where cannabis is legal, carrying any cannabis across the border is **drug trafficking under international law**. This applies to THC products, CBD products with any THC content, and edibles. The penalty can include arrest, detention, criminal prosecution, and a **permanent ban from the United States**.

Public Behaviour Differences

Behaviour	UK / Europe	USA	Mexico & Canada
Drinking in public	Often tolerated, subject to local bylaws	Illegal in most cities; open container rules can lead to arrest	Mexico: prohibited in most states. Canada: prohibited except licensed areas.
Cannabis in public	Illegal in UK	Illegal in public even in legal states	Canada: prohibited in many public spaces. Mexico: illegal.
Jaywalking	Often not an offence	Illegal and enforced in many cities	Technically illegal in Canada and Mexico, but enforcement varies.
ID on person	Not mandatory	Expected for alcohol purchases; passport recommended	Passport copy recommended in Mexico; ID recommended for alcohol in Canada.

13. Health, Weather & Environmental Risks

Medical & Health

Travel Insurance — Essential

1

US healthcare costs are among the highest in the world. Comprehensive travel insurance with a minimum of **USD \$100,000–250,000** medical cover and emergency medical evacuation is essential. Foreign insurance is rarely directly accepted by US providers.

Policy Coverage

2

Confirm your policy covers planned activities, pre-existing conditions, cancellation, missed matches, evacuation, and tournament-period disruption.

Medication

3

Carry prescription medication in original packaging with supporting medical documentation. Check whether any medication is restricted in each host country. Some common UK over-the-counter medicines, including certain codeine-based painkillers and antihistamines, may require prescription or be prohibited in the US.

Pre-Travel Health

4

Consult a travel health clinic at least six weeks before departure. Useful resources: travelhealthpro.org.uk and smartraveller.gov.au/before-you-go/health

Extreme Weather, Food & Water Safety

Extreme Weather Risks

Heat: 13 of 16 host cities recorded temperatures above 30°C during the equivalent June–July 2025 window.

Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, and Miami are most exposed. Maintain hydration, wear sunscreen, and identify air-conditioned rest areas.

Hurricane: Miami falls within Atlantic hurricane season, 1 June – 30 November. Monitor [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) and know evacuation routes.

Wildfire: Vancouver carries seasonal wildfire smoke risk. Monitor Environment Canada or use AirNow.

Altitude: Mexico City sits at 2,240 metres. Acclimatise for 24–48 hours, limit alcohol, and stay hydrated.

Food & Water Safety

Mexico

Drink bottled water only. Avoid ice unless made from purified water. Be cautious with street food; choose visibly busy, well-cooked options.

USA &



Canada

Tap water is safe in host cities and food safety standards are high.

14. Personal Security & Pre-Departure Checklist



Verify Visa & Entry Requirements

Each host nation has a separate immigration system. Apply immediately if a B-2 or TRV is required — US visa interviews may require 3–6 months.



Register With Government Travel Alert Service

FCDO LOCATE, STEP, Smartraveller, or Global Affairs Canada Registration.



Purchase Comprehensive Travel Insurance

Include medical, evacuation, and trip cancellation cover.



Ensure Passport Validity

Six months beyond return date recommended for US and Canada.



Download the Official FIFA World Cup 26 App

All tickets must be held digitally in the official app.



Review Public Social Media Before US Entry

Digital vetting may be part of screening.



Consult a Travel Health Clinic

Six or more weeks before departure is recommended.

Traveller Checklist — Final Actions & At-Venue Guidance

Final Actions Before Departure

- ☐ Share your itinerary, accommodation, and emergency contacts with someone not travelling.
- ☐ Identify the nearest embassy or consulate for your nationality in each host city.
- ☐ Brief travelling companions on Run-Hide-Tell / Run-Hide-Fight active incident protocols.
- ☐ Pre-load transit cards.
- ☐ Carry a backup payment card separate from your main wallet.
- ☐ Save emergency numbers and embassy 24-hour lines offline.

At-Venue & In-Country Guidance

- Follow instructions from tournament security and law enforcement immediately.
- Stay aware in crowded areas.
- Keep bags closed and secured.
- Never leave bags unattended.
- Avoid protests and demonstrations.
- Do not accept drinks from strangers.
- In Mexico, avoid night travel outside well-policed tourist areas.
- Do not publicise travel plans or live locations on social media.

Corporate & Group Travel — Duty of Care

For companies sending executives, staff, clients, sponsors, or VIP guests to World Cup 2026, travel risk should be handled as part of duty of care and business continuity.



Pre-Travel Briefings

Develop pre-travel briefings aligned with ISO 31000:2018 and ISO 31030:2021. Create traveller profiles, itinerary tracking, emergency contact mapping, and escalation protocols.



City-Specific Movement Plans

Prepare city-specific movement plans for high-risk host cities. Use professional travel risk management providers for high-risk locations when appropriate.



Communication Protocols

Establish communication check-ins before and after matches. Review cyber hygiene for all travellers, especially executives and anyone carrying corporate devices.



Contingency Planning

Build contingency plans for transport disruption, weather events, civil unrest, airport congestion, and accommodation failure. Apply supply chain due diligence for organisations with contractor operations in Mexico.

15. Key Contacts, Resources & Official Links

Official Government Travel Advisories

Resource	Official URL	Covers
FCDO — FIFA World Cup 2026	gov.uk/guidance/world-cup-2026	UK-specific World Cup guidance hub
FCDO — Mexico Travel Advice	gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/mexico	UK FCDO Mexico advice
FCDO — USA Travel Advice	gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa	UK FCDO USA advice
FCDO — Canada Travel Advice	gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/canada	UK FCDO Canada advice
Smartraveller — FIFA WC 2026	smartraveller.gov.au — FIFA WC 2026	Australian World Cup guidance page
Smartraveller — Mexico	smartraveller.gov.au/mexico	Australian Mexico advice
US State Dept — FIFA Visa Info	state.gov/fifa-world-cup-26-visas	FIFA PASS and US B-2 visa guidance

Official Links & Emergency Numbers

Resource	Official URL	Covers
US Travel Advisories	travel.state.gov	Country advisories
US ESTA Application	esta.cbp.dhs.gov	Official ESTA portal
Canada eTA Application	canada.ca — eTA portal	Official eTA portal
US STEP Registration	step.state.gov	US citizens register for security alerts
FIFA Official WC 2026	fifa.com — WC 2026	Tickets, fixtures, official app
NCSC Traveller Cyber Security	ncsc.gov.uk/collection/travellers	UK cyber guidance for travellers
NHS Travel Health Pro	travelhealthpro.org.uk	UK travel vaccinations and health

Emergency Numbers

Mexico

Emergency services: **911**
 Tourist Police CDMX: 55 5533 5532
 British Embassy Mexico City: +52 55 1670 3200
 Australian Embassy CDMX: +52 55 1101 2200
 US Embassy CDMX: +52 55 5080 2000

United States

Emergency services: **911**
 FBI Tip Line: 1-800-225-5324
 British Embassy Washington DC: +1 202 588 7800
 Australian Embassy DC: +1 202 797 3000
 FCDO emergency: +44 20 7008 5000

Canada

Emergency services: **911**
 British High Commission Ottawa: +1 613 237 1530
 Australian High Commission Ottawa: +1 613 236 0841
 US Embassy Ottawa: +1 613 688 5335

ISO Standards & Compliance References

This guide is aligned with the following international standards and professional frameworks.

Standard	Application to This Guide
ISO 31000:2018	Risk Management — principles and guidelines for risk identification, assessment, and treatment.
ISO 31030:2021	Travel Risk Management — organisational duty-of-care obligations for managing traveller risk.
ISO 22301:2019	Business Continuity Management — organisational resilience and incident response planning.
ISO 22320:2018	Emergency Management — incident command system principles for event security operations.
ISO 27001:2022	Information Security Management — cyber threat assessment and traveller data protection.
ISO 28000:2022	Supply Chain Security — due diligence for corporate operations and logistics in Mexico.
NPSA (UK)	National Protective Security Authority — crowded places and venue security guidance.
ASIS CPP/PSP	Physical security threat assessment methodology frameworks.
NCSC (UK)	National Cyber Security Centre — traveller cyber security and threat intelligence.
SIA	Security Industry Authority — contractor vetting and licensing standards.

Disclaimer — Important

This guide is produced for general guidance purposes only and does not constitute legal, immigration, or professional security consultancy advice.

Risk Environments Change Rapidly

Travellers must consult current official government travel advisories immediately prior to and during travel.

Verify All Entry Requirements

Verify all visa and entry requirements against official government portals for your specific nationality.

No Liability Accepted

Neither the authors nor any associated organisation accept liability for decisions made based solely on this document.

Seek Professional Advice

Always seek qualified professional advice for complex, high-risk, or corporate travel requirements.

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· June 2026 · UNCLASSIFIED

Appendix A — All 16 Host Stadiums

Colour-coded by nation: Mexico (red), USA (gold), Canada (teal). Badge labels indicate Final, Semi-Final, Third Place, and Opening Match fixtures.



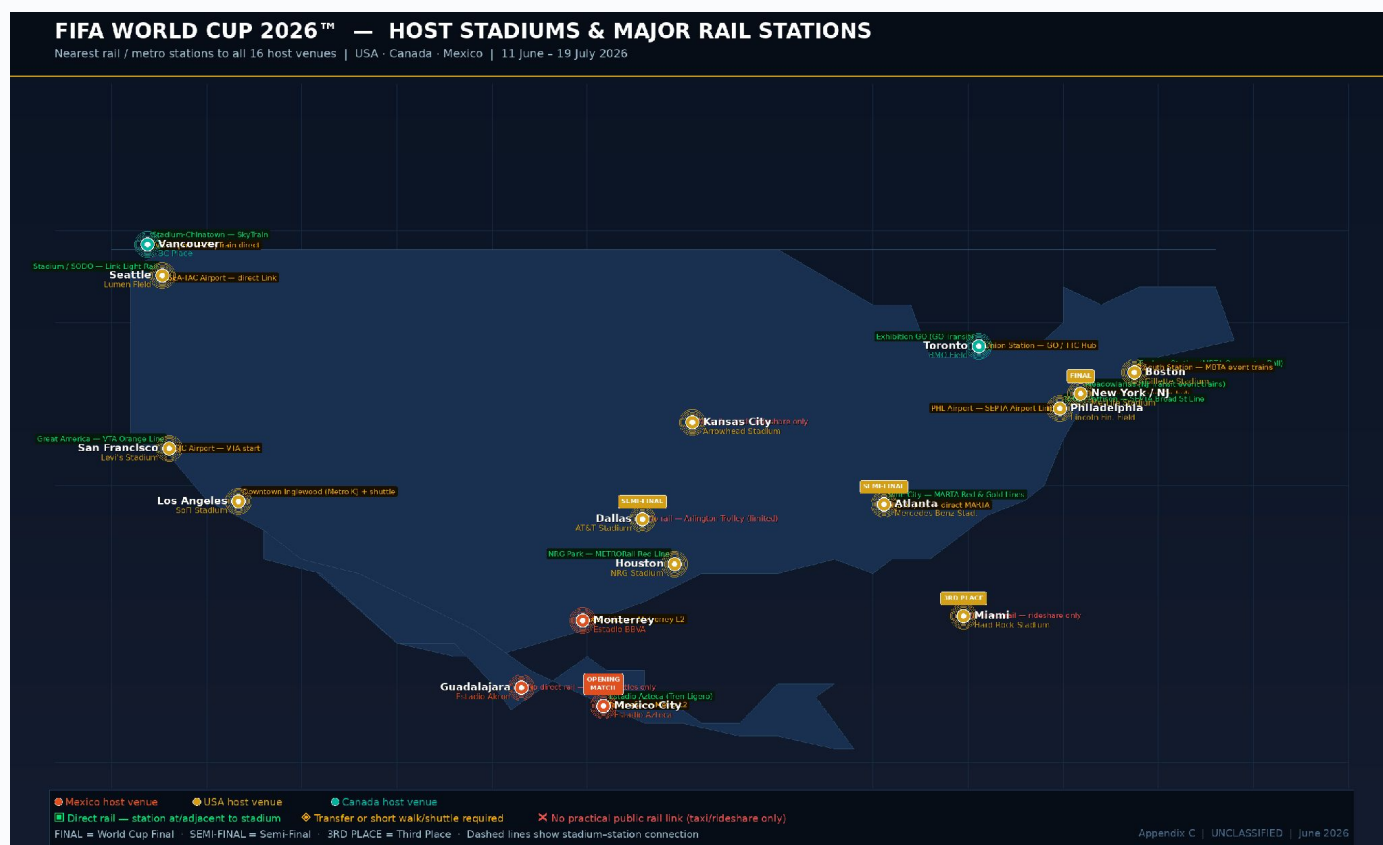
Appendix B — Host Stadiums & Nearest Major Airports

All 16 stadiums paired with their nearest international airport. IATA codes are shown. Connector lines indicate the stadium-airport relationship. Diamond markers indicate airports.



Appendix C — Host Stadiums & Major Rail Stations

Green square indicates direct rail at or adjacent to the stadium. Amber diamond indicates transfer or shuttle required. Red cross indicates no practical public rail link. Dashed lines show stadium-station connections.



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