

Travel Guard®

# 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America

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SPECIAL REPORT



# Executive Summary

Canada, Mexico and the U.S. will jointly host the 2026 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup international soccer tournament. Events will take place from June 11 to July 19, 2026, with teams representing 48 countries, and matches held across all three countries. Matches will be held in Canada in Toronto and Vancouver cities; in Mexico in Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey cities; and in the U.S. in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle. The 2026 World Cup is an expansion from previous events as it is the first to be hosted by three countries, the team numbers are expanded from the previous 32-team format, and the event length is considerably longer than previous years.

As a major sporting event, the World Cup is expected to bring millions of international visitors to Canada, Mexico and the U.S.. While cities hosting events will be most affected by the influx of travelers, many travelers tend to visit additional areas, where impacts will also be felt. The high-profile nature of the events and large number of visitors are expected to strain the security, tourism and transportation sectors. While the host countries have made significant investments to accommodate the events, the scale of 2026 World Cup is likely to result in disruptions.





# Canada

## Entry Requirements

Canada has not enacted specific entry requirements for the FIFA World Cup, though standard entry requirements will be in effect. Visitors wishing to enter Canada to attend World Cup games will enter Canada as a tourist. Entry requirements vary by nationality and method of arrival. Possession of a FIFA World Cup ticket does not guarantee that an individual's visa or electronic travel authorization (eTA) application will be approved. As entry requirements vary by nationality and are subject to change, travelers should consult their nearest Canadian diplomatic representation for the most current information. Citizens of certain countries, including the U.S., Mexico, Japan and EU member states, do not need visas to travel to Canada if their stays are less than six months. Travelers of other nationalities must carry both a passport and a visa. Apart from U.S. nationals, almost all foreign travelers must obtain an eTA in advance if entering Canada by air, including to transit to a third country. Individuals can obtain an eTA by visiting the Canadian government's website to complete and pay for the application online, which may take up to several days to process. Individuals may be asked to present proof of sufficient funds to cover their stay in the form of bank statements or pay slips. Travelers should note that Canada maintains strict inadmissibility rules regarding criminal records, including misdemeanor and driving-related offenses, which may be grounds for denial of entry even for short visits related to World Cup events. Processing delays at land border crossings and airports are also possible during peak tournament travel periods, particularly for travelers requiring additional screening or documentation review.

# Security and Safety Issues

## CRIME

Both violent and nonviolent crime rates are generally moderate throughout Canada. Petty street crime and opportunistic incidents such as pick-pocketing, bag-snatching and theft of unattended items are the most common risks to travelers visiting Canada. Opportunistic crimes are most prevalent in major cities, including host cities Toronto and Vancouver, and are most often reported in and near high-trafficked areas such as shopping centers, popular tourist areas, hotels and public transportation hubs. Opportunistic offenders are likely to exploit the increased visitor presence surrounding the World Cup through ticket fraud, accommodation scams, pick-pocketing and distraction theft, particularly near stadiums, fan zones, nightlife districts, transportation hubs and tourist areas. Fraudulent resale platforms, fake short-term rental listings and unofficial transportation providers may target international travelers unfamiliar with local systems. Cyber-related fraud, including phishing attempts and fake event-related applications or websites, may also increase during the tournament period.

Vehicle break-ins, car theft and property crime have risen in recent years, particularly in Toronto and Vancouver, where World Cup games and associated events will be held. An increased number of car thefts have involved criminals cloning a vehicle's electronic key fob to gain access. Criminals sometimes target rental vehicles or cars that have foreign license plates.

Violent crime has also risen in recent years, most notably in larger cities, although rates continue to occur below global averages. Canada has extensive regulations on firearm ownership, but firearm use in violent crime is increasingly a concern throughout the country. Violent crime has become more commonplace, including on public transportation and during daylight hours. Hate-based crime as a subset of overall violent crime is also a growing trend, with victims targeted for perceived personal characteristics. Gangs are present in most major cities. These groups engage in criminal activity, particularly drug trafficking and violent crime. Violent crime is most often committed in downtown areas as well as more economically depressed neighborhoods, especially after dark.

Alcohol-related disturbances, assaults and disorderly conduct may increase around entertainment districts, bars and fan gathering areas before and after matches, particularly during high-profile matches involving rival national teams. While large-scale sports-related unrest is uncommon in Canada, isolated clashes between supporters or confrontations with police remain possible.

## CIVIL UNREST

Protests occur intermittently, particularly in major cities such as Toronto and Vancouver. Protests typically remain peaceful and are generally related to local, national and international political developments or environmental and social issues. Demonstrations outside foreign embassies and consulates also commonly occur in country and are usually directly related to a political or social development in the respective country. Demonstrators and activists may seek to capitalize on the prominence of the World Cup to protest current global and domestic issues. Demonstrations regarding events in Israel and the Gaza Strip, tensions between the U.S., Israel and Iran, Indigenous rights and environmental justice occur regularly in country. Violence at these events is uncommon, although some instances of small-scale clashes may occur. Police tend to enact more stringent security measures ahead of announced protests, particularly in urban centers, which can cause localized disruptions. Security forces have also, on rare occasions, used water cannons and tear gas to disperse crowds; however, few injuries have been reported.

Major strikes are uncommon. Unions threaten work stoppages on occasion, but government bodies and private employers are typically quick to resolve issues and almost always avert large-scale strikes. Such actions are almost exclusively announced well in advance, allowing individuals to enact contingency plans.

## TERRORISM

The threat of terrorism in Canada is generally low, although isolated attacks take place infrequently. Small domestic extremist groups are active and motivated by a range of ideologies. More high-profile attacks that take place are generally isolated incidents committed by lone-wolf attackers. In recent years, authorities have identified religious extremism and right-wing extremism as the primary ideologies motivating terrorism. Shootings are the most common form of attack, although attackers have also used other tactics such as vehicle ramming. Law

enforcement and intelligence services typically intervene before potential attacks occur. Due to the high profile of the World Cup, there is a heightened risk of incidents of terrorism surrounding the events.

## NATURAL DISASTERS

Wildfires occur sporadically from May to September, especially in the central and western areas of the country. Rural and heavily forested areas, including national parks, face an increased risk. Wildfires can start without warning and spread rapidly. Canada is prone to tornadoes from May to September, with the peak season for such events occurring in June and July. The most severely affected areas have been Alberta, Manitoba, southern Ontario, southeastern Quebec and southern Saskatchewan provinces; however, tornadoes can also occur elsewhere.

Portions of eastern Canada, particularly Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador provinces, are vulnerable to the annual North Atlantic hurricane season from June to November. The severe weather that accompanies hurricanes – including large amounts of rain, high winds and storm surges – can result in flooding, landslides, infrastructural damage, utility outages and travel delays and disruptions. Earthquakes occasionally occur but are generally small and in remote areas. Most earthquakes occur in British Columbia province, followed by Quebec province and the Yukon territory; these earthquakes are generally small, with limited, if any, damage.

## Accommodations

Accommodations in Canadian cities generally include a variety of hotels, hostels and other forms of accommodation. Accommodations may be more limited near World Cup stadiums, and use of public or private transportation may be required to reach certain match venues. Demand for accommodations in host cities is also expected to increase significantly during the tournament period, particularly in Toronto and Vancouver, potentially resulting in elevated prices, reduced availability and stricter booking conditions. Travelers may face minimum-stay requirements, non-refundable reservations and limited lodging options near stadiums and fan zones during high-profile matches. Accommodations may be impacted by crime in nearby areas or directly on the premises. Fraudulent accommodation listings and booking scams may also increase during the World Cup period, particularly through unofficial rental platforms, resale groups and social media advertisements.

When assessing potential accommodations, travelers should consider onsite security features. At a minimum, travelers should stay in accommodations with a private room or building with key-controlled access. Key-controlled access to the site's lobby outside of standard check-in times is also preferable. Travelers should also consider choosing accommodations with 24/7 front desk and on-site security, closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems on premises, private parking or valet services, ample exterior lighting and proximity to police facilities and hospitals. Beyond door-locking systems, features to consider within rooms include safes for storing valuables as well as whether the interior of the room is visible or accessible from the outside.

## Transportation

Public transportation is widely available in larger, densely populated cities, such as Toronto and Vancouver, but may be more limited outside of urban areas and in other cities that are less densely populated or have smaller populations. Areas with limited public transportation may only have these services within a certain part of the city. Incidents of petty crime occur on all forms of public transportation, which can also become overcrowded during rush hours. Increased demand and congestion are likely on match days. Traffic disruptions and other delays such as road closures may also impact certain forms of transportation, particularly intercity taxes, buses and rideshares.

Canada has an extensive road network – particularly in southern areas of the country. Roads are generally in a good state of repair, well-lit and well-marked. Street and road signage is widely present. Signs may be only in English, only in French or multilingual depending on the area, with Indigenous languages also used in some areas. Drivers should be aware of wildlife in the roads, particularly in rural areas. Most provinces require headlights to be on at all times. There is a national ban on the use of cell phones while operating a vehicle. Traffic in Canada drives on the right.

Traffic congestion and concerns around stadiums are likely to be elevated around matches. Stadiums typically offer parking on-site, though this can be expensive and, in some cases, may require cash payment. Parking elsewhere in the city often also leads to additional costs, though the exact amount varies. Travelers are advised to allocate sufficient time to arrive at and exit the venue area.

Temporary road closures, security perimeters and traffic control measures are likely near stadiums, fan zones and official event locations on match days, particularly in downtown Toronto and Vancouver. Authorities may also implement modified transit schedules and pedestrian-only access zones in some areas.

## AIR

Travel between host cities in Canada can be done through air travel; domestic flights are generally widely available between most major cities. Airports can be found in all major and most secondary cities, with some cities like Calgary, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver having multiple airports. Heightened security measures are possible at airports surrounding the World Cup, and travelers are advised to arrive early at airports – at least two or three hours prior to departure for domestic or international flights, respectively – to ensure that they have enough time to clear security. Security standards at airports are generally good and no major security incidents have been reported at major Canadian airports in recent years. Opportunistic crime does occur on occasion and may include thefts of wallets, laptops, briefcases and handbags.

Transportation to and from airports in Canada generally includes buses, vehicle rentals, rideshare and taxis, though in some cities metro and rail options are also available. Toronto Pearson International Airport (CYYZ/YYZ) is accessible by the Union Pearson Express train and Vancouver International Airport (CYVR/YVR) is accessible via the TransLink SkyTrain system on the Canada Line. Security concerns on these services include risks from petty crime and inconsistent vetting of rideshare services. Bus services may be less frequent in smaller cities, and taxis and other rideshare methods may become expensive depending on the airport's location. Those using vehicle rentals to and from airports may be impacted by local erratic driving habits and traffic congestion.

## BUS

Bus services are generally comprehensive within larger cities, including Toronto and Vancouver. Intercity bus networks are extensive and links thousands of domestic destinations as well as dozens of U.S. cities. Use of inter- and intra-city buses may be impacted by their availability in smaller cities, as well as more general disruptions such as traffic congestion. Intercity buses may need reservations ahead of time and can take a longer period of time to arrive at the destination.

## RAIL

Canada's passenger rail system is not comprehensive, though long-distance rail lines connect most major cities as well as international destinations in the U.S. states of Michigan, New York and Washington. Due to the large size of the country, one-way trips between western and eastern Canada can take up to several days. Many urban areas also offer commuter rail service through various railway providers.

Metro/rapid transit systems operate in Toronto and Vancouver. Such services generally provide reliable coverage in city centers at regular intervals. Security incidents occur occasionally, and petty crime is a heightened risk. Weather-related disruptions may occasionally suspend metro services in country.

In Toronto, Toronto Stadium (BMO Field) is accessible using the GO Train and can be accessed via the Exhibition Station on the Lakeshore Line. The stadium can also be reached by metro using Union Station located on the Yonge-University Line or Bathurst Station located on the Bloor Line; however, both these options will require use of streetcar and bus services to access the stadium. In Vancouver, BC Place Stadium is directly connected by the SkyTrain rapid transit rail system and can be accessed using Stadium-Chinatown station on the Expo Line.

## TAXI AND RIDESHARE

Taxis and rideshare services are common throughout Canadian cities, though taxi services in less densely populated or smaller cities, as well as suburban areas, are more limited. Taxis are generally metered, though some services may have set prices for trips to prominent locations such as the airport. Taxis can be hailed off the street in areas where they are more common or reserved via phone; rideshare services are available through an appropriate mobile app and are more prominent in areas where taxi services are more limited. Booking a taxi ahead of time is advisable for longer trips, such as intercity destinations. Security concerns include petty and violent crime, both of which are uncommon but have occurred on both taxis and rideshare services.

## VEHICLE RENTAL

Vehicle rental facilities are common across Canada, including at airports and in most major cities. The minimum age to rent a car in most jurisdictions is 21. Foreign nationals can use their valid national driver's



license for short-term stays, though the specifics may depend on the rental company and the province the traveler is in. Some provinces may require an international driver's permit (IDP), particularly for individuals whose license is in a language other than English or French. Canada has relatively low levels of traffic fatalities, although traffic-related fatalities have slightly risen in recent years. Failure to adhere to road rules can be met with harsh penalties.

## Health Information and Concerns

Healthcare quality for both private and public medical facilities in Canada are generally considered modern, particularly in and near major cities. However, some doctors and medical centers expect immediate payment for services regardless of health insurance. Pharmacies are widely available, particularly in urban areas, and are generally well stocked. Most healthcare workers speak English, though medical personnel in Quebec province may speak only French, and a translator may be required. The number for an ambulance in Canada is 911. Emergency response services are of a high standard across most of the country, though response times may be impacted by heavy traffic in larger cities such as Toronto and Vancouver. Response times and access to adequate facilities are also an issue in some remote areas of the country.

Vaccinations against COVID-19, hepatitis A and hepatitis B are recommended for travelers to Canada. Travelers should also ensure that their routine vaccinations are up to date for influenza, chickenpox (or varicella), shingles, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. Individuals should visit a doctor or clinic that specializes in travel-related medicine at least four to six weeks prior to their intended departure. This timeframe should allow any prescribed vaccinations to take effect. Travelers should visit a medical professional even if their departure is within four weeks. Travelers should bring with them an appropriate supply of any prescription medication accompanied by written doctor's instructions that explain the purpose and justify the quantities.

## Host Cities and Stadiums

### TORONTO, ONTARIO

MATCH	DATE
Canada v. Bosnia and Herzegovina	Friday, 12 June
Ghana v. Panama	Wednesday, 17 June
Germany v. Cote d'Ivoire	Saturday, 20 June
Panama v. Croatia	Tuesday, 23 June
Senegal v. Iraq	Friday, 26 June
<i>Match 83 – Round of 32</i>	Thursday, 2 July

### VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

MATCH	DATE
Australia v. Turkey	Saturday, 13 June
Canada v. Qatar	Thursday, 18 June
New Zealand v. Egypt	Sunday, 21 June
Switzerland v. Canada	Wednesday, 24 June
New Zealand v. Belgium	Friday, 26 June
<i>Match 85 – Round of 32</i>	Thursday, 2 July
<i>Match 96 – Round of 16</i>	Tuesday, 7 July



# Mexico

## Entry Requirements

Mexico has not enacted World Cup specific entry requirements. All travelers entering Mexico for the World Cup require a passport with validity for the entirety of their stay in country. Citizens of some countries, including Canada, Japan, the U.S. and EU member states, do not require visas for tourist purposes. Media and other professionals attending World Cup matches may require specific work-related visas. Mexican officials may require proof of accommodations to be shown at the point of entry. An exit tax is charged when leaving the country; however, many airlines and other transportation providers have included this fee within the fare.

## Security and Safety Issues

Mexico has elevated risks associated with violent and petty crime and poses generally increased risks to travelers as compared to host cities in the U.S. and Canada. The U.S. Department of State advises travelers to Mexico to Exercise Increased Caution due to terrorism, crime and kidnapping risks; the U.S. Department of State maintains an elevated level of advice for Jalisco state – where the host city Guadalajara is located – advising individuals to Reconsider Travel to the state. Organized criminal groups drive the security environment in country and have historically wielded a large amount of control in various areas, including in Guadalajara. These groups engage in illicit trafficking operations, and associated violence occasionally impacts unaffiliated individuals, including travelers and foreign nationals, particularly following security operations by Mexican law enforcement and military forces. Other violent crime risks include

homicide, carjacking, armed robbery and assault. Petty crime, including bag-snatching and pickpocketing, is also prevalent and risks may be elevated near crowds and in areas frequented by tourists, including near World Cup events and match venues. Security measures are expected to be robust surrounding the World Cup; officials will deploy approximately 100,000 security personnel – mainly in the three host cities – and will deploy military vehicles, aircraft and drones to monitor the events. Strict security perimeters are also expected to be established near match venues and airports in the host cities for the duration of the tournament.

### CRIME

Nonviolent and violent crime are significant concerns across Mexico. One of the more common types of crime is pick-pocketing or bag-snatching; these risks are heightened in urban areas, including the host cities of Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey. Car theft,

scams, insurance fraud and credit card theft are also common forms of crime. Mexico faces an elevated risk for organized crime across most states; gangs and drug cartels perpetrate armed robberies, kidnapping and extortion. Homicides also occur at an elevated rate, and much of this activity is related to organized crime activity; shootings and armed clashes between rival criminal groups and the government do occur. Concerns are especially elevated in Guadalajara, located in Jalisco state, which saw a major outbreak of cartel violence following a law enforcement operation targeting a prominent cartel leader in February 2026. The government will increase its security presence around the match sites to limit the effects of organized crime. Petty crime and theft will be an increased risk during the World Cup, as concentrations of tourists and foreign travelers are popular targets of theft.

## CIVIL UNREST

Demonstrations are a frequent and ongoing feature across Mexico, particularly in major urban centers such as Mexico City. Protests occur regularly, often daily in the capital, and are typically concentrated in central areas and along major transport routes, where they can prompt road closures, traffic congestion and heightened security deployments. While most gatherings remain peaceful, some have escalated into localized clashes with security forces or involved disruptive actions such as highway blockades. Protest activity is driven by a range of domestic political, economic, and social issues, with labor unions and advocacy groups periodically organizing large-scale or sustained demonstrations. Migrant-related gatherings also occur in transit hubs and near border regions and may result in sporadic disruptions. The impacts of civil unrest primarily relate to localized travel disruptions, rather than widespread violence or instability. Civil society groups and labor unions may use the prominence of the World Cup to hold demonstrations and advocate for various issues and causes, particularly in Mexico City.

## TERRORISM

Terrorism concerns are low in Mexico, as no known transnational terror organizations operate in country, and Mexico is not a high-profile target for attacks. However, domestic organizations related to the illegal drug trade have extensive operations throughout the country, and these organizations sometimes carry out attacks similar to terror attacks against rival groups, business owners, government buildings and security personnel. Moreover, the U.S. government has designated

various cartel groups as foreign terrorist organizations. The Mexican government has made a concerted effort in recent years to reduce the presence of drug cartels throughout the country, conducting arrests of high-profile leaders. Despite a general weakening, these groups continue to operate and carry out operations in various states, including Baja California, Chihuahua, Durango, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacan, Nuevo Leon, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tamaulipas and Zacatecas.

## NATURAL DISASTERS

Mexico is susceptible to the North Atlantic and Eastern Pacific hurricane seasons, which run from June to November every year. During hurricane season, Mexico is often hit by several named storms. Local authorities have a series of precautions in place to issue early warnings for storms. While early warning and response procedures are robust, in more rural regions storms can lead to lasting disruptions. Mexico is seismically active with most earthquakes occurring on the Pacific coast. In the past 10 years, dozens of earthquakes have been reported in Guadalajara, Monterrey and Mexico City. Most reported earthquakes were of magnitude five or lower; however, higher magnitude earthquakes have occurred. Mexico is also home to several volcanoes, the most active being Popocatepetl, located southeast of Mexico City. Popocatepetl has previously prompted nearby residents to be evacuated and has caused delays at local airports due to ashfall. The government maintains a system to monitor volcanic activity and provide timely warnings of potential eruptions.

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## Accommodations

Accommodations in cities hosting World Cup events – including the capital Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey – feature a variety of options including international hotel chains, local boutique hotels and vacation rentals. Demand is expected to be significantly escalated in advance in cities hosting events, as well as in other cities nationwide. Availability of accommodations will likely be an issue and prices will be increased. Travelers should also note that fraudulent accommodation listings are an issue in country and such activity may increase surrounding the events. Criminals may use well-known websites for booking hotels and vacation rentals, luring victims with fake accommodation listings. Travelers should take extra care to verify accommodations and listings.

Travelers should consider several security features when assessing accommodations. Such features include, but are not limited to, a 24/7 front desk, on-site security, closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems on site, private parking, exterior lighting, key-controlled access, proximity to police and hospital services, rooms with safes and reinforced locks on doors. Travelers should also consider the security concerns in the neighborhood where the accommodation is located. Depending on the neighborhood, crime may be a substantial issue, and foreign visitors may be targeted due to perceived affluence. While ample lighting outside hotel facilities can help deter crime, concerns are still particularly elevated at night. Travelers should exercise caution at night and avoid walking alone. Accommodations in areas with many bars and nightlife venues may also be a concern due to elevated crime rates associated with the consumption of alcohol. As a general rule, visitors should ask the concierge, reception desk staff or host about security concerns in the immediate area and strongly consider their advice.

## Transportation

Public transportation is available throughout most major cities, including the capital Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey. On public transportation, incidents of crime are a particular concern. Petty crime is an issue throughout the day, especially during crowded conditions. If public transportation options are heavily crowded, incidents of petty crime often increase. Such incidents will likely be an issue due to crowding associated with World Cup matches. Increased demand and congestion are also likely to disrupt overland transportation surrounding matches. Impacts to availability and prices of air travel may also be impacted due to the large number of travelers arriving in and transiting through Mexico.

### AIR

Mexico's primary international gateway is Benito Juarez International Airport (MMMX/MEX) in Mexico City. Host cities Guadalajara and Monterrey both have international airports, including Guadalajara's Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla International Airport (MMGL/GDL) and Monterrey's General Mariano Escobedo International Airport (MMMY/MTY). All three airports host numerous facilities including banks, foreign exchange, restaurants, duty-free shopping and internet. Numerous other international airports exist throughout Mexico, particularly near urban centers. These airports generally contain a variety of services, although

those in smaller markets may have limited options for connecting flights and international destinations.

Petty, opportunistic crime including pickpocketing, bag-snatching and theft of unattended items is common in Mexican airports and other transportation hubs. Officials have also reported individuals posing as immigration officers to offer help. Travelers should decline offers and only receive help from employees in clearly marked immigration uniforms. Mexican airports comply with international safety standards. Airports have temporarily suspended flight operations in response to instances of internal unrest and associated security operations; operations typically resume once conditions have stabilized.

Transportation options vary by airport, with most offering rental vehicles. Benito Juarez International Airport (MMMX/MEX) in Mexico City is connected to the city via Line 4 of Mexico City metro. Line 6 of the Monterrey metro system, known locally as Metrorrey, is scheduled to begin operations in early June 2026 prior to the commencement of the World Cup, connecting Mariano Escobedo International Airport (MMMY/MTY) to the city.

### BUS

Mexico has an expansive bus network; there are a substantial number of intracity and intercity bus systems. Many intercity bus routes can be tracked on mobile apps; larger bus companies require tickets to be purchased online or through mobile apps. During busier travel periods or if the trip is shorter than two hours, passengers are required to purchase bus tickets at the departing bus station. Traveling by bus poses various concerns due to crime, as well as risks over vehicle maintenance and safety. Traffic accidents and petty theft of valuables are notable concerns. Crime concerns on bus transportation are notably elevated during nighttime hours.

### TAXI AND RIDESHARE

Mexico has widespread access to taxi and rideshare services across urban portions of the country. Rideshare services have a significant presence in Guadalajara and Mexico City. Taxi services frequent airports, train stations and areas with a large foreign national presence. There have been instances of crime wherein individuals were robbed or kidnapped by a criminal posing as a taxi driver. Taxi stands, known as "sitios" or pre-paid taxi kiosks are generally reliable. Concerns regarding driver and vehicle vetting procedures are present with the use of both taxis

and rideshare services, and passengers should only enter a vehicle upon positively confirming driver and vehicle details.

## VEHICLE RENTAL

Vehicle rental stands are common near airports and across major cities. Renting a vehicle requires the renter to be at least 25 years of age; the renter must present a valid driver's license, passport and credit card; the renter must also present third-party liability insurance. Travelers should exercise caution when renting a vehicle and use a reliable, well-known vendor to minimize the potential risk of scams.

## Health Information and Concerns

Basic healthcare in Mexico is generally adequate. Medical facilities in major cities, including Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey, are generally of a higher standard than those in rural areas, where the quality of medical care varies greatly. Although private clinics are widely available in larger cities, they reportedly charge high prices. Emergency medical treatment may be below international standards. Proof of insurance and an upfront cash payment are often needed prior to receiving treatment at private facilities; comprehensive medical insurance is essential. Most hospital personnel speak Spanish, but some doctors and nurses at private clinics have a relatively good knowledge of English. Pharmacies with an adequate supply of medication are widely available in larger cities and towns but limited in remote areas. Pharmacies may require that a prescription be translated into Spanish. The number for an ambulance is 911. Emergency response times may vary across the country, depending on the provider and availability. Private hospitals tend to have quicker response times and better-trained ambulance personnel. Emergency services are in short supply in the remote areas.

Vaccinations are recommended against COVID-19, hepatitis A and hepatitis B. Travelers should also ensure that their routine vaccinations are up to date for influenza, chickenpox (or varicella), shingles, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. Individuals should visit a doctor or clinic that specializes in travel-related medicine at least four to six weeks prior to their intended departure. This timeframe should allow any prescribed vaccinations to take effect.

Travelers should visit a medical professional even if their departure is within four weeks. Comprehensive medical insurance, including provision for medical repatriation or evacuation, is strongly recommended. Travelers should bring with them an appropriate supply of any prescription medication accompanied by written doctor's instructions that explain the purpose and justify the quantities.

Travelers have reported respiratory issues, particularly in Mexico City and the surrounding area, due to poor air quality. Individuals may also experience shortness of breath, headaches and lack of energy from altitude sickness in mountainous areas. Elderly individuals and those with respiratory or cardiac conditions may be particularly at risk of health complications connected with high altitude and air pollution. The government of Mexico City periodically issues health advisories directing residents to remain indoors when pollution levels are unusually elevated.

## Host Cities and Stadiums

### GUADALAJARA, JALISCO

MATCH	DATE
South Korea v. Czechia	Thursday, 11 June
Mexico v. South Korea	Thursday, 18 June
Colombia v. Democratic Republic of Congo	Tuesday, 23 June
Uruguay v. Spain	Friday, 26 June

### MEXICO CITY

MATCH	DATE
Mexico v. South Africa	Thursday, 11 June
Uzbekistan v. Colombia	Wednesday, 17 June
Mexico v. Czechia	Wednesday, 24 June
<i>Match 79 - Round of 32</i>	Tuesday, 30 June
<i>Match 92 - Round of 16</i>	Sunday, 5 July

### MONTERREY, NUEVO LEON

MATCH	DATE
Tunisia v. Sweden	Sunday, 14 June
Tunisia v. Japan	Saturday, 20 June
South Africa v. South Korea	Wednesday, 24 June
<i>Match 75 - Round of 32</i>	Monday, 29 June



# United States

## Entry Requirements

With a few narrow exceptions, all travelers require a passport valid for at least six months beyond their intended date of departure to enter the U.S.. Excluding citizens of certain locations – such as Bermuda, Canada, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau – foreign nationals require a visa or must be part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) to enter the U.S., including for transit to a third country. The VWP applies to citizens of Australia, Japan, the UK and most EU countries, among others. Travelers who have a visa waiver are required to present proof of a return or onward ticket to a destination not considered to be a contiguous territory or adjacent island. Locations considered to be contiguous or adjacent with the U.S. include Canada, Mexico and most Caribbean islands. Individuals from countries belonging to the VWP do not require a visa to enter the U.S. provided their passport is machine-readable, their stay does not exceed 90 days, and they have an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), which must be applied for online and approved no later than 72 hours before departure. As part of increased security measures at U.S. ports of entry, all visitors – including those traveling under the VWP – must have a photograph and fingerprints taken by a scanner upon arrival. U.S. border authorities may conduct targeted screenings of travelers' social media presence for security risks. As entry requirements vary by nationality and are subject to change, individuals should consult their nearest U.S. diplomatic representation for the most current information.

# Security and Safety Issues

## CRIME

Nonviolent and violent crime risks are a concern throughout the U.S. but vary significantly at the city, state and local levels. Forms of petty theft such as pickpocketing, bag-snatching and theft of unattended items are the most prevalent, particularly in urban areas. Such crime is particularly common in crowded areas, parks, shopping malls, markets, public transportation hubs and heavily transited tourist destinations. Incidents can escalate to violence if victims refuse to surrender their belongings, particularly as criminals are often armed. Additionally, parked and unattended vehicles are often targeted by criminals, particularly when valuable items are left inside in sight. Both vehicle break-ins and vehicle thefts are reported in large numbers annually and may be elevated in parking lots and streets surrounding World Cup venues.

Although major cities generally have elevated crime rates compared with those of other highly developed countries, the frequency of violent incidents, such as homicide and armed robbery, can differ dramatically between otherwise similar cities and towns. Major cities with particularly elevated levels of crime include Atlanta and Philadelphia. Incidents are mostly concentrated in a relatively small number of economically depressed neighborhoods, which exist in every major city. In these areas, armed robbery is a particularly notable concern at public transportation hubs and bus stops, especially after dark. Most instances of homicide either involve individuals with pre-existing relationships or gang activity.

While mass shootings – incidents in which one or more individuals indiscriminately fire into a crowd to inflict as many casualties as possible – do occur and are high-profile, they contribute to a relatively small number of homicide deaths. These cases tend to target a range of public places, including schools, places of worship, shopping centers, educational institutions and other gatherings. Mass shootings have been conducted as terror attacks but can be motivated by a range of issues, including gang-related issues, interpersonal disputes, mental illness and efforts to achieve notoriety.

## CIVIL UNREST

Demonstrations over a wide range of issues occur with some frequency in the U.S.. Many protests are sparked by controversial political issues – such as geopolitical matters, immigration reform, firearms regulations, environmental protection and healthcare policy, as well as social issues. Rallies and marches are most prevalent in large cities such as Los Angeles, New York City and other host cities. Protests are commonly held on prominent anniversaries and holidays near public monuments, parks and government buildings. Demonstrations are usually planned in advance, well-advertised and protected by authorities. Heightened security measures and planned road closures are common disruptions at such events. While most protest actions conclude without incident, violence – including clashes between police and protesters or rioting – can be a concern, particularly during prolonged periods of heightened political or social tensions. Although somewhat rare, local authorities have been known to temporarily withdraw police during periods of especially heightened unrest in an effort to deescalate the situation, resulting in spikes in protest-related crimes such as vandalism and looting.

Nationwide waves of protest activity occasionally take place, usually in response to prominent controversies, resulting in major demonstrations across several cities. In 2025 a series of semi-related demonstrations occurred in areas nationwide in response to federal policy. In Los Angeles, thousands of demonstrators gathered in downtown areas and along major roadways from June – July 2025 to protest law enforcement operations to enforce immigration policy. Related demonstrations have continued to occur intermittently in cities including Chicago, Los Angeles, Portland and Washington, DC, since that time. Demonstrations regarding the World Cup are possible at venue locations, particularly over issues such as the recent conflict in Iran. Additionally, President Donald Trump has stated that security forces belonging to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency will be stationed outside of venues to provide additional security, which may result in heightened tensions, demonstration activity and strikes by venue staff.

## TERRORISM

Terror attacks can occur in the U.S. and have targeted a variety of public areas, including large public events. Terror incidents in country generally involve shootings,

though small-scale bombings, stabbings and vehicle rammings have also occurred. Most incidents are lone-wolf style attacks, with the attacker not having significant organization or backing from established international terror groups. Both domestic and international terror concerns exist, with motivations ranging significantly. A recent incident includes a January 2025 vehicle ramming incident in New Orleans city, Louisiana state, where the attacker claimed allegiance to Islamic State (IS).

## NATURAL DISASTERS

Natural disasters can occur relatively frequently in country, including in areas along the eastern coastline during the annual Atlantic hurricane season, which lasts from June – November. The most impacted areas are those in the southeast. While the height of hurricane activity is between August – October, storms can occur at any time and prompt significant disruptions to areas near the coast such as Atlanta, Houston, Miami, New York and Philadelphia. Disruptions can include utility outages, overland transportation disruptions, road closures, flight disruptions, infrastructure damage, fallen trees and powerlines, as well as emergency response operations.

## Accommodations

Accommodations in major U.S. cities are widely accessible, with most hotels, hostels and other accommodations having modern amenities ranging from basic to upscale. Few stadiums hosting World Cup events are likely to be within close walking distance of accommodations, as many stadiums are encircled by major highways and large parking lots. The use of public or private transportation may be required to reach certain match venues. In general, travelers should book accommodations well in advance of travel to ensure that accommodations are available. Most bigger hotels within urban areas maintain adequate security measures and are serviced by quick police response times; however, vehicle break-ins do occur on occasion in parking garages in larger cities.

When assessing potential accommodations, travelers should consider onsite security features. At a minimum, travelers should stay in accommodations with a private room or building with key-controlled access. Key-controlled access to the site's lobby outside of standard check-in times is also preferable. Travelers should also consider choosing accommodations with 24/7 front desk and on-site security, closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems on premises, private parking or valet services,

ample exterior lighting and proximity to police facilities and hospitals. Private vehicles should be parked in reserved spaces or paid parking lots with controlled access, or otherwise near well-lit areas close to access points. Beyond door-locking systems, features to consider within rooms include safes for storing valuables as well as whether the interior of the room is visible or accessible from the outside.

## Transportation

Public transportation is widely available in larger urban areas, especially major cities in the Northeastern region such as Boston, New York and Philadelphia. However, public transportation may be nonexistent or limited to intercity buses outside of urban areas and cities with smaller populations. Areas with limited public transportation may only have these services within a certain part of the city, and the stadium may not fall within the serviced area. Suburban areas are generally unlikely to have significant public transportation options. Most Americans own personal vehicles that are utilized for overland transportation, and all stadiums are likely to maintain large-scale parking lots to accommodate private vehicles. However, following the conclusion of events, departure from a stadium parking lot can take an extended period due to congestion. Incidents of petty crime occur on all forms of public transportation, which can also become overcrowded during rush hours. Increased demand and congestion are also likely on match days. Traffic disruptions and other delays such as road closures may also impact certain forms of transportation, particularly taxis, buses and rideshares.

## AIR

The U.S. has more airports than any other country worldwide, with more than 15,800 airports across the continental U.S. and overseas territories. Almost all large- and medium-sized cities in the U.S. are serviced by sizable, modern international airports with adequate amenities including ATMs, foreign currency exchanges, restaurants, post offices and duty-free shopping. Additionally, most airports have rental car capabilities, designated zones for rideshare pick-up, taxi services and passenger shuttles to and from nearby urban centers. Some airports, such as Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (KSEA/SEA), are directly connected to rail systems; however, many cities in the U.S. lack direct connectivity. Due to the size of the

continental U.S., flights are generally the primary form of long-distance travel, especially between host cities in different time zones.

Heightened security measures are possible at airports surrounding the World Cup, and travelers are advised to arrive early at airports – at least two or three hours prior to departure for domestic or international flights, respectively – to ensure that they have enough time to clear security. In particular, travelers should anticipate increased wait times at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (KATL/ATL) and Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (KDFW/DFW), as these airports are the first and fourth busiest airports worldwide, respectively.

## BUS

Passenger buses for both inter- and intracity travel are widely available in major cities nationwide, though the extent of their coverage and frequency varies depending on the size and population density of the city. Public buses utilized for intracity travel operate on pre-designated timetables and generally remain on time. Intercity buses are generally a cost-efficient method of overland transportation but will likely require reservations ahead of time and are significantly slower than other methods of transportation. Most passenger buses have air conditioning, mobile application tracking and are generally accessible to handicapped individuals. Vagrants or criminal actors may occupy bus stations and buses, particularly during hot daytime hours and late evening hours, which can occasionally expose travelers to interpersonal disputes that have injured or killed passersby.

## METRO AND RAIL

Most cities hosting World Cup venues maintain intracity rail and metro services, with the exception of Houston and Kansas City. However, most intracity rail systems are limited in scope, and are generally utilized for transportation into and out of the city for daily working commutes. Metro services can be both under- and above-ground and some systems, such as the Boston metro system, are directly connected to stadiums hosting World Cup events. Intercity rail is also available in most major cities and some smaller localities in between major cities; however, all intercity rail must be planned in advance. Intercity rail transportation can take an extended period due to limited routes and geographic distance. Some

high-speed rail services operate along the Northeast Corridor linking the major cities of Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, New York and the capital Washington, DC. Rail collisions and derailments are uncommon but can occur on occasion.

## TAXI AND RIDESHARE

Taxis are available in all major urban areas; however, taxi availability has significantly decreased in recent years in favor of local rideshare services, with the exception being New York City. Taxis are generally metered, though some services may have set prices for trips to prominent locations such as the airport. Travelers should ensure that the meter is working before departure. Taxis can be hailed off the street in urban areas or can be reserved via phone; rideshare services are available through an appropriate mobile app and are more prominent in areas where taxi services are more limited. Booking a taxi ahead of time is advisable for longer trips, such as intercity destinations. Security concerns include petty and violent crime, both of which are uncommon but have occurred on both taxis and rideshare services.

## VEHICLE RENTAL

Vehicle rental facilities are common throughout the U.S., including at airports and in most major cities. Foreign nationals can use their valid national driver's license for short-term stays, though the specifics may depend on the rental company and the state the traveler is in; some states require an international driver's permit (IDP). Additionally, the minimum age to rent a vehicle in most states is generally 21 years of age; however, all renters under the age of 25 may pay increase surcharges. The U.S. also has elevated rates of traffic fatalities, and local driving habits may be erratic. Houston consistently has been rated as the city with the most road rage incidents in the U.S., including those involving the use of firearms. Los Angeles comes at a close second due to high-density traffic. Traffic in the U.S. drives on the right.

Traffic concerns around stadiums are likely to be elevated around matches. Stadiums typically offer parking on-site, though this can be expensive and, in some cases, may require cash payment. Parking elsewhere in the city often also leads to additional costs, though the exact amount varies. Travelers are advised to allocate sufficient time to arrive at and exit the venue area due to expected traffic congestion.



## HEALTH INFORMATION AND CONCERNS

The standard of healthcare in the U.S. is high, but services are expensive. Both public and private hospitals can be found in most large cities and towns and offer a high level of medical care. However, some doctors and medical centers refuse service for all but extreme emergencies without proof of funds or comprehensive medical insurance. Pharmacies are abundantly available and well-stocked. Healthcare workers speak English, but services are also available in Spanish in some states. Most large- and medium-sized hospitals, clinics and pharmacies also offer phone translation services. The number for an ambulance in the U.S. is 911. Medical response services are of a high standard across most of the country.

Vaccinations are recommended against COVID-19, hepatitis A and hepatitis B. Travelers should also ensure that their routine vaccinations are up to date for influenza, chickenpox (or varicella), shingles, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. Individuals should visit a doctor or clinic that specializes in travel-related medicine at least four to six weeks prior to their intended departure. This timeframe should allow any prescribed vaccinations to take effect. Travelers should visit a medical professional even if their departure is within four weeks. Comprehensive medical insurance, including provision for medical repatriation or evacuation, is strongly recommended. Travelers should bring with them an appropriate supply of any prescription medication accompanied by written doctor's instructions that explain the purpose and justify the quantities.

However, it is generally illegal to import any medical drug or device not approved specifically by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA); travelers should consult the FDA for further information.

## Host Cities and Stadiums

### ATLANTA, GEORGIA

MATCH	DATE
Spain v. Cabo Verde	Monday, 15 June
South Africa v. Czechia	Thursday, 18 June
Spain v. Saudi Arabia	Sunday, 21 June
Morocco v. Haiti	Wednesday, 24 June
Uzbekistan v. Democratic Republic of Congo	Saturday, 27 June
<i>Match 80 – Round of 32</i>	Wednesday, 1 July
<i>Match 95 – Round of 16</i>	Tuesday, 7 July
<i>Match 102 – Semi-final</i>	Wednesday, 15 July

### BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MATCH	DATE
Haiti v. Scotland	Saturday, 13 June
Norway v. Iraq	Tuesday, 16 June
Scotland v. Morocco	Friday, 19 June
England v. Ghana	Tuesday, 23 June
Norway v. France	Friday, 26 June
<i>Match 74 – Round of 32</i>	Monday, 29 June
<i>Match 97 – Quarterfinal</i>	Thursday, 9 July

### DALLAS, TEXAS

MATCH	DATE
Netherlands v. Japan	Sunday, 14 June
England v. Croatia	Wednesday, 17 June
Argentina v. Austria	Monday, 22 June
Japan v. Sweden	Thursday, 25 June
Jordan v. Argentina	Saturday, 27 June
<i>Match 78 – Round of 32</i>	Tuesday, 30 June
<i>Match 88 – Round of 32</i>	Friday, 3 July
<i>Match 93 – Round of 16</i>	Monday, 6 July
<i>Match 101 – Semi-final</i>	Tuesday, 14 July

## HOUSTON, TEXAS

MATCH	DATE
Germany v. Curacao	Sunday, 14 June
Portugal v. Democratic Republic of Congo	Wednesday, 17 June
Netherlands v. Sweden	Saturday, 20 June
Portugal v. Uzbekistan	Tuesday, 23 June
Cabo Verde v. Saudi Arabia	Friday, 26 June
<i>Match 76 – Round of 32</i>	Monday, 29 June
<i>Match 90 – Round of 16</i>	Saturday, 4 July

## KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

MATCH	DATE
Argentina v. Algeria	Tuesday, 16 June
Ecuador v. Curacao	Saturday, 20 June
Tunisia v. Netherlands	Thursday, 25 June
Algeria v. Austria	Saturday, 27 June
<i>Match 87 – Round of 32</i>	Friday, 3 July
<i>Match 100 – Quarterfinal</i>	Saturday, 11 July

## LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MATCH	DATE
U.S. v. Paraguay	Friday, 12 June
Iran v. New Zealand	Monday, 15 June
Switzerland v. Bosnia and Herzegovina	Thursday, 18 June
Belgium v. Iran	Sunday, 21 June
U.S. v. Turkey	Thursday, 25 June
<i>Match 73 – Round of 32</i>	Saturday, 28 June
<i>Match 84 – Round of 32</i>	Thursday, 2 July
<i>Match 98 – Quarterfinal</i>	Friday, 10 July

## MIAMI, FLORIDA

MATCH	DATE
Saudi Arabia v. Uruguay	Monday, 15 June
Uruguay v. Cabo Verde	Sunday, 21 June
Scotland v. Brazil	Wednesday, 24 June
Colombia v. Portugal	Saturday, 27 June
<i>Match 86 – Round of 32</i>	Friday, 3 July
<i>Match 99 – Quarterfinal</i>	Saturday, 11 July
<i>Match 103 – Bronze final</i>	Saturday, 18 July

## NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK/ EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY

MATCH	DATE
Brazil v. Morocco	Saturday, 13 June
France v. Senegal	Tuesday, 16 June
Norway v. Senegal	Monday, 22 June
Ecuador v. Germany	Thursday, 25 June
Panama v. England	Saturday, 27 June
<i>Match 77 – Round of 32</i>	Tuesday, 30 June
<i>Match 91 – Round of 16</i>	Sunday, 5 July
<i>FIFA World Cup Final Match</i>	Sunday, 19 July

## PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

MATCH	DATE
Cote d'Ivoire v. Ecuador	Sunday, 14 June
Brazil v. Haiti	Friday, 19 June
France v. Iraq	Monday, 22 June
Curacao v. Cote d'Ivoire	Thursday, 25 June
Croatia v. Ghana	Saturday, 27 June
<i>Match 89 – Round of 16</i>	Saturday, 4 July

## SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

MATCH	DATE
Belgium v. Egypt	Monday, 15 June
Australia v. U.S.	Friday, 19 June
Qatar v. Bosnia and Herzegovina	Wednesday, 24 June
Egypt v. Iran	Friday, 26 June
<i>Match 82 – Round of 32</i>	Wednesday, 1 July
<i>Match 94 – Round of 16</i>	Monday, 6 July

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, CALIFORNIA

MATCH	DATE
Qatar v. Switzerland	Saturday, 13 June
Austria v. Jordan	Tuesday, 16 June
Paraguay v. Turkey	Friday, 19 June
Jordan v. Algeria	Monday, 22 June
Paraguay v. Australia	Thursday, 25 June
<i>Match 81 – Round of 32</i>	Wednesday, 1 July

# Security and Safety Recommendations

- Individuals should consult their respective diplomatic mission to confirm entry and exit requirements and other travel recommendations.
- If traveling into Canada, the U.S. or Mexico from another country, visitors should allow for additional time at customs and border control.
- Individuals using ground transportation in host cities should allow extra time for travel due to traffic congestion.
- Individuals should avoid leaving personal belongings unattended and maintain heightened vigilance at airports, transportation hubs and other crowded areas.
- Individuals should exercise increased caution in high-traffic areas – including transportation hubs, tourist areas and stadiums – as pick-pocketing and theft of valuables present a significant risk to event attendees.
- Travelers should only use ATMs associated with major banks in well-lit, central areas. Individuals should monitor their financial transactions while traveling and should also check ATMs for card skimmers or other signs of tampering.
- Travelers should only use private, secured internet and Wi-Fi networks due to concerns about cybercrime. Individuals should avoid giving out personal information and use a virtual private network (VPN) service, if possible.
- Individuals should avoid all demonstrations and discussions of potentially sensitive political, religious and/or cultural issues.
- Spectators will be subject to security screenings – including bag checks and metal detectors – upon entry into stadiums. Individuals who fail to comply with searches may be subject to additional searches or denial of entry into the venue. Venue officials note that attendees should arrive early, only bring essential items and avoid carrying large bags. Some items, including fireworks, laser pointers, umbrellas, weapons and large cameras or video recorders, are prohibited at the venues. Some venues may limit attendees to only carrying clear bags.
- Travelers should comply with all directives from security personnel and members of law enforcement.



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