



CANADA – UNITED STATES – MEXICO

2026 FOOTBALL WORLD CUP

11 JUNE TO 19 JULY

28.05.2026

Security situation and travel advice

The logistical challenges of hosting a three-nation World Cup

The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be the first to feature **48 teams** and to be **hosted by three countries** – **Canada, Mexico** and the **United States** – across 16 cities, from **11 June to 19 July 2026**.

This situation presents a host of **logistical challenges**: high visitor numbers and pressure on infrastructure, the risk of mobile networks becoming overloaded in crowded areas, long distances between venues, coordination between different legal systems, harmonisation of security measures, and the management of travel and cross-border movements involving millions of people, etc.

The World Cup is not only a major sporting and media event, but also a **focal point for global tensions**, raising **significant security challenges** for both the authorities and businesses. With this in mind, identifying and anticipating the **key risk factors likely to affect travel and activities** will enable appropriate preparation and proactive risk management throughout the duration of the event.

Entry conditions

Entry requirements and the influx of travellers can cause congestion at airports and borders. Since 2025, the United States has tightened its **entry restrictions** for nationals of dozens of countries, citing security concerns. A **bond requirement** was **waived** in May for teams playing matches in the United States, as well as for supporters holding an official ticket registered with the "FIFA Pass", which grants access to a fast-track visa procedure. The countries concerned include Algeria, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Tunisia. **Haiti** and **Iran** remain subject to near-total bans.

Geographical constraints

The geographical scope of the tournament involves **significant transport and organisational constraints** for both teams and supporters, with **considerable distances** between certain cities (around 5,000 km between Vancouver and Boston, for example), **time differences** across different time zones, and the expected heavy pressure on airport and hotel infrastructure all needing to be taken into account. Intercity travel involves a large number of sensitive checkpoints, with a **level of security that is difficult to consistently maintain**.

Although the **stadiums** will be subject to maximum security, particular attention will also be paid to **surrounding areas** (transport, fan zones, public areas, hotels).

High cost

Some observers have **criticised the high ticket prices**, rising transport fees and the soaring price of accommodation. Since March, the International Football Federation has been the subject of a complaint to the European Commission for having "abused its monopoly position" in setting prices. In May, an investigation was also launched in the United States into FIFA's ticketing practices, focusing in particular on allegations of a lack of transparency, artificial price inflation and potentially misleading terms and conditions of sale.



Tournament host countries and cities

Canada (2 host cities – 13 matches)

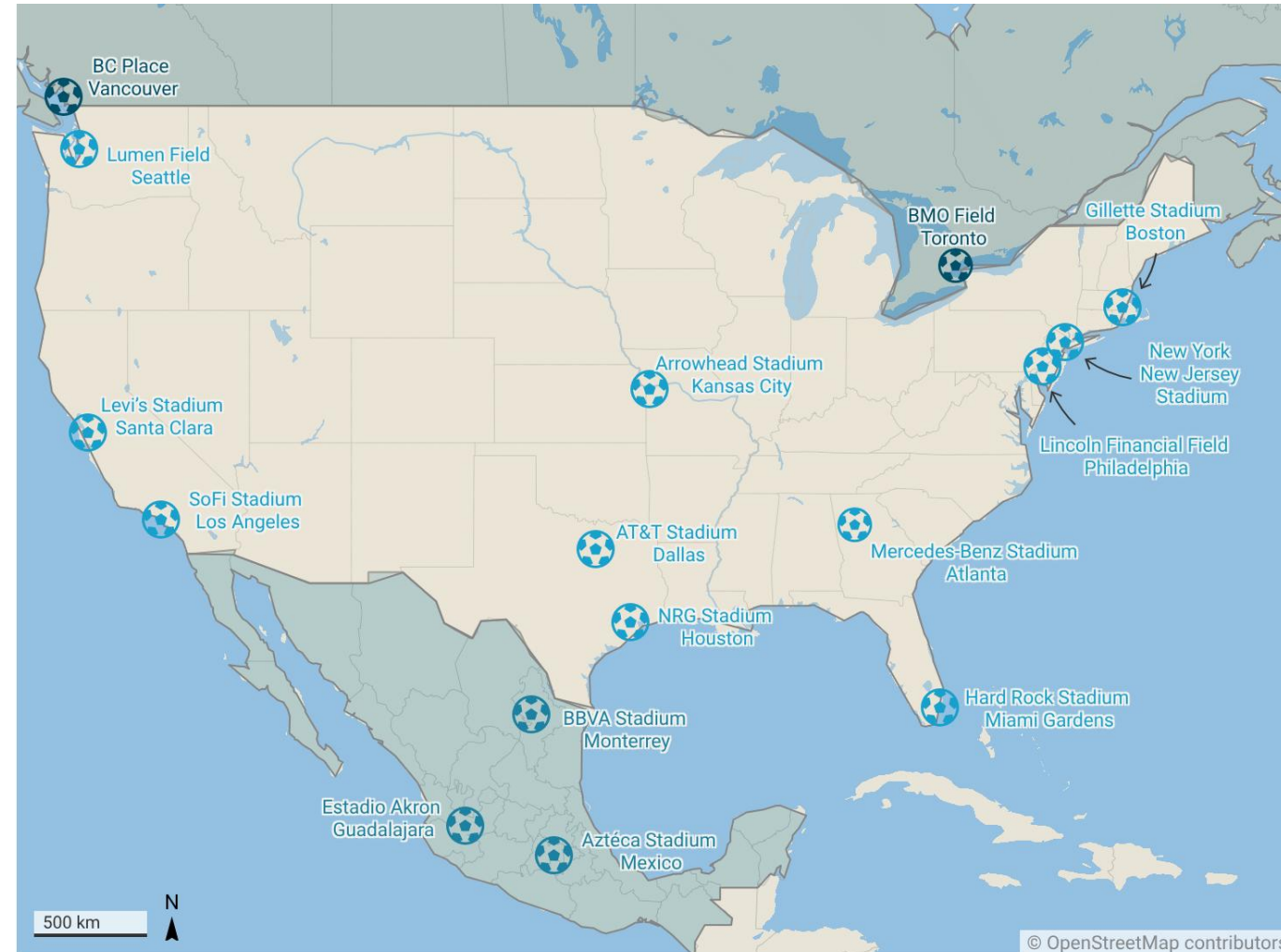
- **Toronto** – BMO Field: 6 matches
- **Vancouver** – BC Place: 7 matches


United States (11 host cities – 78 matches)


- **Atlanta** – Mercedes-Benz Stadium: 8 matches (1 semi-final)
- **Boston** (Foxborough) – Gillette Stadium: 7 matches (1 quarter-final)
- **Dallas** (Arlington) – AT&T Stadium: 9 matches (1 semi-final)
- **Houston** – NRG Stadium: 7 matches
- **Kansas City** – Arrowhead Stadium: 6 matches (1 quarter-final)
- **Los Angeles** (Inglewood) – SoFi Stadium: 8 matches (1 quarter-final)
- **Miami** (Miami Gardens) – Hard Rock Stadium: 7 matches (1 quarter-final, third-place game)
- **New York New Jersey** (East Rutherford) – MetLife Stadium: 8 matches (**final 19 July**)
- **Philadelphia** – Lincoln Financial Field: 6 matches
- **San Francisco Bay Area** (Santa Clara) – Levi's Stadium: 6 matches
- **Seattle** – Lumen Field: 6 matches


Mexico (3 host cities – 13 matches)

- **Guadalajara** (Zapopan) – Estadio Akron: 4 matches
- **Mexico City** – Estadio Azteca: 5 matches (**opening match 11 June**)
- **Monterrey** (Guadalupe) – Estadio BBVA: 4 matches



 Venues in the United States

 Venues in Mexico

 Venues in Canada

Map: SSF • Created with Datawrapper

To date, the French Foreign Ministry has placed all host cities in the United States and Canada on a **green alert level for normal precautions**, and the three host cities in Mexico on a **yellow alert level for heightened precautions**.

Security risks and the geopolitical environment

The unique nature of a diverse security landscape

Hosting the 2026 World Cup across three countries means dealing with different security situations, requiring coordination regarding the **increased deployment of security forces**.

In **Canada**, the federal government announced a funding package of \$145 million in April 2026 to support public safety operations involving the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and provincial and municipal police forces.

In the **United States**, a federal task force coordinated by the FBI and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is set to strengthen security at borders and in high-traffic areas. The deployment of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers as part of the security operation could lead to friction or incidents with certain groups or communities, given the recent tensions surrounding immigration policies in the country.

In **Mexico**, around 100,000 members of the security forces (military, police and private security guards) will be deployed to ensure security at the matches. The significant increase in security comes in the wake of a surge in coordinated violence across the country, which erupted 22 February with the killing of the leader of the New Generation Jalisco Cartel (CJNG), Nemesio Oseguera, in a security operation in the state of Jalisco. The international airport in Guadalajara, a World Cup host city, was specifically targeted in an attempted armed attack.

Geopolitical tension

The competition will take place at a time of **significant diplomatic tension** on the international stage, linked to the **conflict in the Middle East involving Iran**. Furthermore, **relations between the three host countries** have become **strained** since 2025, particularly over trade disputes, migration issues and sovereignty concerns.

Such tension is likely to result in calls for **boycotts**, **protest** movements or **symbolic incidents** involving certain delegations.

Questions regarding the participation of certain teams and the hosting arrangements highlight the risk of geopolitical issues interfering with the running of the competition. As a result, the event could become a **focal point for protests** relating to human rights, immigration or other international issues, exposing host cities to potentially sensitive demonstrations.

Opportunistic crime

The competition is exposed to the risk of **opportunistic crime** and **public disorder**, particularly in crowded areas.

Terrorism

Given the tense international climate and the scale of the event, the **threat of terrorism cannot be ruled out**, with competition venues, tourist attractions and transport networks being particularly at risk.

Cybercrime

In addition to traditional threats, there are risks that could compromise the **IT security** of the event: the circulation of false information on social media, cyberattacks targeting ticketing systems or critical infrastructure, disinformation campaigns, or damage to the reputation of the organiser. For example, at least 79 phishing sites impersonating the FIFA website have been identified.

Environment & health conditions

The **extreme weather conditions expected in several cities** (high temperatures – risk of heatwaves, high humidity, thunderstorms) could affect safety procedures (people feeling unwell in crowds, evacuations, match interruptions). Given the high number of spectators, an increase in **infectious diseases** is also possible, amid a renewed outbreak of measles in the host countries. Health screening and control measures may be put in place.

Useful information

In the host cities, traffic disruption is to be expected (traffic jams, road closures, diversions, police checks, etc.), particularly near the stadiums and fan zones. Local transport to the stadiums is organised by each city.

Several airlines are adding additional flights to and between the host cities during the tournament.

- **Emergency number in all three host countries: 911**
- Official FIFA World Cup 2026 mobile app, available on the [Google Play Store](#) and the [App Store](#), official [FWC2026 Mobile Tickets](#) app (remember to keep your phone fully charged so you can show your digital ticket)
- Official competition website: <https://www.fifa.com/en/tournaments/mens/worldcup/canadamexicousa2026>
- [JustPark](#) official parking website (please note that you will need to plan ahead and book in advance, as parking spaces near the stadiums are limited)

Recommendations

Prior to departure

Check **entry requirements** (visa application deadlines, ESTA).

Please visit the travel advice sections on consular websites.

Please make sure your **vaccinations are up to date** and that you have suitable health.

Everyday safety & awareness

Plan your journeys in advance. Anticipate and keep up to date with **transport disruption** via reliable sources. .

Monitor local news and consular alerts regularly. Subscribe to official news outlets (embassies, consulates, reliable media sources, SSF alerts).

Be prepared for **heightened security measures during the period in question** (checks, increased patrols, traffic restrictions, etc.). Keep your passport and visa with you at all times.

Always be aware of your immediate surroundings and keep an eye on your belongings, especially in crowded places (fan zones, public transport, nightlife venues).

Identify **sensitive locations** (government buildings, diplomatic missions, etc.).

Keep well away from any gatherings – especially socio-political demonstrations – even when they are said to be peaceful.

Limit night-time movements in sensitive urban areas.

Follow best practice to **minimise the risks associated with cyber threats.**

Please remember to be **discreet and respectful.**

Remember to stay hydrated and avoid direct exposure to the sun.