

City Report
FIFA World Cup 2026

Boston

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Boston (Foxborough)

Overview

Country	United States of America
Host stadium	Gillette Stadium (FIFA tournament-time name: Boston Stadium), Foxborough, MA
Distance to Downtown	About 28 miles (45 km) southwest of Downtown Boston
Stadium capacity	63,815
Roof / cover type	Open-air; no roof
Altitude	About 88 m (289 ft)
Timezone (June-July 2026)	Eastern Daylight Time (UTC-4)
Official language(s)	English (Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole widely spoken in metro)
Match count & dates	7 matches: 5 Group Stage (13th–26th June), 1 R32 (29th June), 1 Quarterfinal (9th July)
Primary airport(s)	BOS (Boston Logan) is the primary airport; PVD (Providence) and MHT (Manchester-Boston Regional) serve as secondary options
Population (metro)	~4.9 million (Boston-Cambridge-Newton metro)

Risk ratings

Security	LOW
Travel Disruption	MODERATE
Medical Infrastructure	LOW
Natural Disasters	LOW
Storms/Hurricanes	LOW
Heat	LOW

Boston has one of the lowest-risk environments among the US host cities, with congestion as the primary risk, as Gillette Stadium is in Foxborough, about 28 miles (45 km) southwest of downtown Boston, while the FIFA Fan Festival will remain in Boston. Disruption is also likely to be elevated during the 4th of July weekend, which commemorates

the 250th Anniversary of the US, though no games will be hosted in the city during this period. The MBTA Foxborough Line commuter rail is the recommended public transit option to the stadium, and Route 1 is the primary driving corridor. The quarterfinal on 9th July is the city's largest match and the day most likely to see significant disruption.

Arrival, departure and transportation

Airports and public transport

BOS (Boston Logan) is the city's primary airport, about 3 miles (5 km) from downtown, connected to the city by the MBTA Silver Line bus and the Blue Line, as well as the Sumner and Callahan tunnels. Travellers are advised to allow three hours for international departures during the tournament window; Massport advises three to three-and-a-half hours at peak. PVD (Providence T.F. Green) and MHT (Manchester-Boston Regional) are practical secondary options, particularly for visitors driving directly to Foxborough; both add roughly 60 minutes compared to BOS but materially reduce congestion.

Recommended accommodation zones

Downtown Boston (Back Bay and the Financial District) is among the lowest-risk environments in the city, but it is one to two hours from Foxborough on match days. Cambridge and Kendall Square sit across the Charles River near MIT and Harvard, about 75 minutes from the venue. Foxborough, Mansfield and Norwood offer suburban hotels within half an hour of the stadium and are the most convenient option for fans attending multiple matches. Providence, Rhode Island, is about 40 minutes from Foxborough by commuter rail and is a more affordable option than downtown Boston.



Security and medical risks

Crime

Boston consistently ranks among the safer large US cities, but tourist-relevant incidents, including violent crime, robbery, larceny, and vehicle break-ins, are concentrated sharply in Downtown, Back Bay, and the South End on a per-square-mile basis. Violent crime, in absolute terms, is concentrated in parts of Roxbury, Mattapan, and Dorchester, which generally do not lie along tourist routes. Tourist-zone exposure is dominated by petty theft and pickpocketing at Faneuil Hall, Downtown Crossing, Copley Square, and around Fenway Park on Red Sox match days. Crime on the MBTA system is relatively low, and the network is well-monitored. Foxborough itself is a low-crime suburban environment with heavy policing on event days.

Terrorism

Boston maintains an elevated baseline counterterrorism posture following the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. Boston PD, Massachusetts State Police, the FBI Boston Field Office and the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) coordinate regional security. Visitors should expect visible security at BOS, South Station, the Foxborough perimeter, and Boston Common during Fan Festival operations. Travellers and local residents should use standard situational-awareness measures throughout the tournament window.

Unrest

Protests are common in Boston, and are generally concentrated around Boston Common, the State House on Beacon Hill, and the Harvard and MIT campuses located in Cambridge. The tournament window's large unrest risk is low, and Foxborough itself rarely sees civil unrest.

Natural disaster

Boston experiences moderate heat, severe thunderstorms, and tornadoes, which are very rare but have been documented. Hurricane and tropical-storm exposure is possible in late June and early July as remnants, but direct impacts during the tournament window are highly unlikely. The earthquake risk is low; the New England seismic zone produces small events, none of which are operationally significant. Coastal flooding driven by nor'easter-pattern rainfall is possible but not seasonal during the tournament.

Heat

Boston's June and July baseline is mild, with average highs of 75–82°F (24–28°C), but heat waves can push daytime temperatures above 90°F (32°C), and perceived temperatures can amplify discomfort. While Boston's heat-related risks are lower than in other US cities, Gillette Stadium's open-air layout increases heat exposure, particularly during daytime matches.



Stadium and matchday

Match schedule

Date	Match	Stage	Kickoff (local)
13 th June	Haiti - Scotland	Group C	21h00
16 th June	Iraq - Norway	Group I	18h00
19 th June	Scotland - Morocco	Group C	18h00
23 rd June	England - Ghana	Group L	16h00
26 th June	Norway - France	Group I	15h00
29 th June	Winner of Group E - 3rd A/B/C/D/F	Round of 32	16h30
9 th July	Winner of Match 89 - Winner of Match 90	Quarterfinal	16h00

Public transport and transportation to the stadium

Gillette Stadium sits in Foxborough, about 28 miles (45 km) south-west of downtown Boston, and is not on the regular MBTA 'T' network. The MBTA Foxborough Event Service commuter rail runs dedicated match-day service

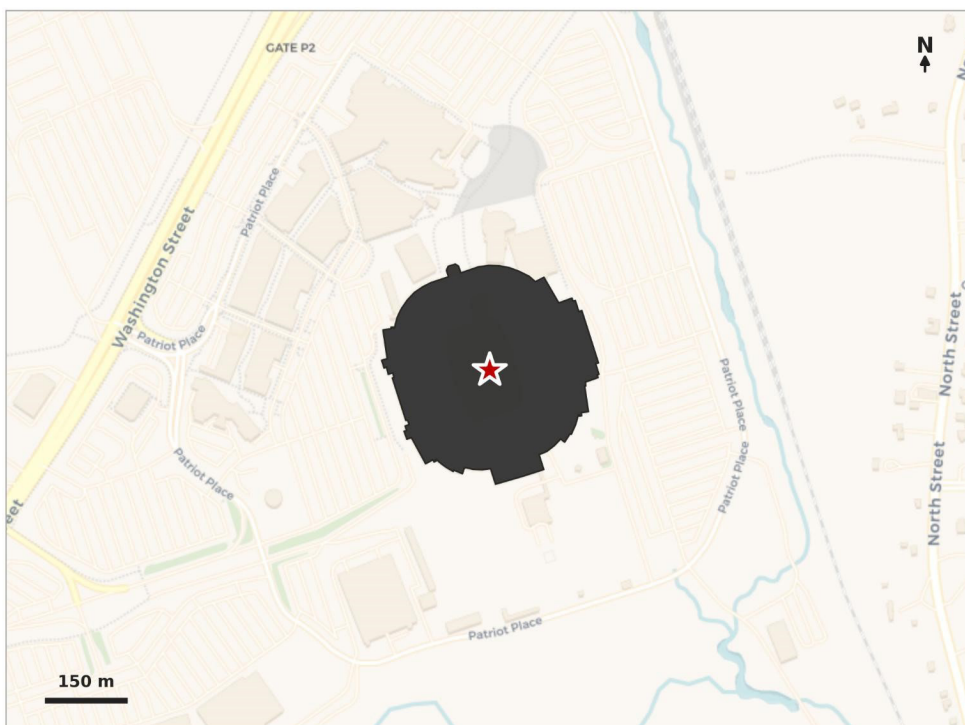
only from South Station, with 4 stops and about one hour end-to-end; this is the recommended public transit option. Driving routes converge on Route 1, the Foxborough corridor, with one to two-hour approaches highly likely on match days. Stadium parking is plentiful by NFL standards, but pre-purchase is required for tournament

fixtures; tailgating is permitted for games. Rideshare drop-off and pickup operate from designated lots with controlled re-entry. The quarterfinal on 9th July will run the largest perimeter footprint of any Boston match.



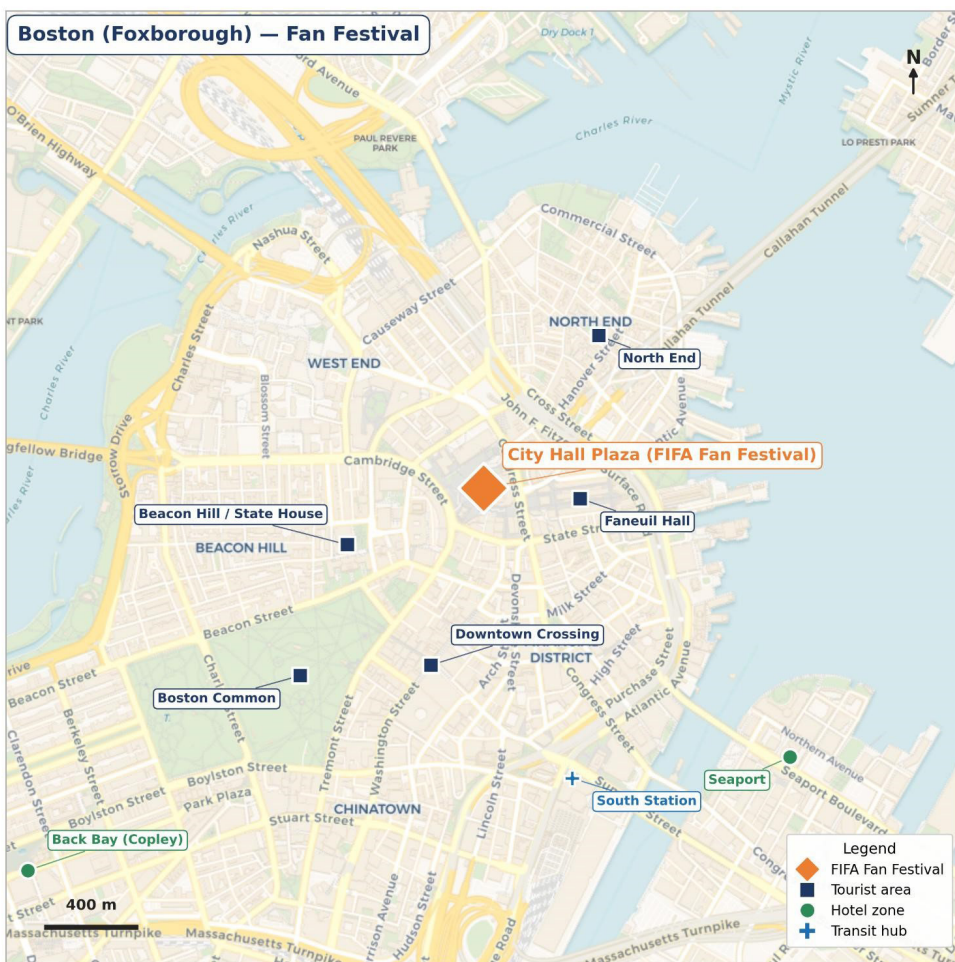
Entry/gates into the stadium

Per FIFA standard policy for the 2026 World Cup, Gillette Stadium gates are expected to open two hours before kickoff. A clear-bag policy is enforced (maximum 12" x 6" x 12" / 30.5cm x 16cm x 30.5cm), with screening by metal detector and visual inspection. Prohibited items include professional cameras with detachable or telephoto lenses, drones, oversized signs and banners (FIFA's typical size limit is ~2 m x 1.5 m), umbrellas, and any flagpoles. The quarterfinal on 9th July will draw the largest gate volume of the tournament window in Boston.



Fanzones

The FIFA Fan Festival is planned for Boston City Hall Plaza. Foxborough's Patriot Place commercial complex is expected to host commercial watch parties but is not a sanctioned fan zone. Each official fan zone will operate its own screening perimeter. Boston Common is the city's primary event venue, and is likely to have the most extensive security posture; a security perimeter is highly likely to remain in place for the duration of the festival.



Match risk rating

Match	Date and Kickoff (All Times Local)	Match Risk Rating
Haiti – Scotland	13th June 21h00	MODERATE
<p>This match is assessed as MODERATE risk due to anticipated fan turnout and latent geopolitical risks. Haitian nationals are banned from travelling to the United States, with immigrants from the country also the target of significant rhetoric by Donald Trump during the 2024 election campaign. Accordingly, the heightened presence of immigration authorities in Boston in the lead-up to the match, while still unlikely, cannot be ruled out, particularly given the sizeable Haitian diaspora in the Boston metro area. Should immigration operations occur, this is liable to trigger protests by local residents, particularly given Boston’s liberal political environment. Precedent from previous European Championships and the fact that this is Scotland’s first World Cup in 28 years inform our assessment that Scotland will have a large fan turnout for their matches. Scottish fans are likely to gather in large numbers on matchday and MD-1 in Downtown Boston, with high-footfall locations such as Boston Common and Waterfront Park likely to be frequented by fans, causing associated disruption in their vicinity. Demand surges for MTA rail lines to Foxborough, as well as major Boston-Foxborough Highways such as I-95, I-495 and Route 1, are highly likely to be recorded; taxis and rideshares are likely to see additional demand surges due to the cost of a round-trip MTA ticket to the match.</p>		
Iraq – Norway	16th June 18h00	MINIMAL
Scotland – Morocco	19th June 18h00	MODERATE
<p>This match is assessed as MODERATE risk due to anticipated high fan turnout and associated disruption risks in Boston and travelling to Foxborough on matchdays. Precedent from previous European Championships and the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup indicates that both countries will have a large contingent of fans travelling to Boston for the match. Scottish and Moroccan fans are likely to gather in large numbers on matchday and MD-1 in Downtown Boston, with high-footfall locations such as Boston Common and Waterfront Park likely to be frequented by fans, causing associated disruption in their vicinity. Clashes between rival fans are highly unlikely but cannot be ruled out, especially during the evening kickoff or after a contentious match. Demand surges for MTA rail lines to Foxborough, as well as on major Boston-Foxborough Highways such as I-95, I-495, and Route 1, are highly likely to be recorded; taxis and rideshares are likely to see additional demand surges due to the cost of a round-trip MTA ticket to the match.</p>		
England – Ghana	23rd June 16h00	MODERATE
<p>This match is rated as MODERATE risk due to the anticipated high turnout of England fans and associated security risks, as well as travel disruption in Boston and Foxborough. Precedent from previous major football tournaments informs our assessment that England games will be among the most disruptive due to the size of their fanbase. English fans are likely to gather in large numbers on matchday and MD-1 in Downtown Boston, with high-footfall locations such as Boston Common and Waterfront Park likely to be frequented by fans, which is particularly disruptive to the area given its geographically compact nature. Clashes between England and Ghana fans are highly unlikely to be recorded, though fan violence in nightlife areas and in public squares remains a latent risk due to the historical precedent of fan violence by elements of England’s fanbase. Demand surges for MTA rail lines to Foxborough, as well as on major Boston-Foxborough Highways such as I-95, I-495, and Route 1, are highly likely to be recorded; taxis and rideshares are likely to see additional demand surges due to the cost of a round-trip MTA ticket to the match.</p>		

Match risk rating

Match	Date and Kickoff (All Times Local)	Match Risk Rating
Norway – France	26th June 15h00	MINIMAL
Round of 32	29th June 16h30	MODERATE
<p>This match is assessed as MODERATE risk due to elevated security and operational risks commensurate with the knockout stage. While the teams are not confirmed for this match, knockout stage matches are more likely to involve two teams with large fanbases, with a higher likelihood of disruption and fan unrest if it is a rivalry match or involves a fanbase with ultras presence. Fans are likely to gather in large numbers on matchday and MD-1 in Downtown Boston, with high-footfall locations such as Boston Common and Waterfront Park likely to be frequented by fans, which is particularly disruptive to the area given its geographically compact nature. Demand surges for MTA rail lines to Foxborough, as well as on major Boston-Foxborough Highways such as I-95, I-495, and Route 1, are highly likely to be recorded; taxis and rideshares are likely to see additional demand surges due to the cost of a round-trip MTA ticket to the match.</p>		
Quarterfinal	9th July 16h00	MODERATE
<p>This match is assessed as MODERATE risk due to anticipated high fan turnout and associated disruption risks in Boston and travelling to Foxborough on matchdays. Precedent from previous European Championships and the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup indicates that both countries will have a large contingent of fans travelling to Boston for the match. Scottish and Moroccan fans are likely to gather in large numbers on matchday and MD-1 in Downtown Boston, with high-footfall locations such as Boston Common and Waterfront Park likely to be frequented by fans, causing associated disruption in their vicinity. Clashes between rival fans are highly unlikely but cannot be ruled out, especially during the evening kickoff or after a contentious match. Demand surges for MTA rail lines to Foxborough, as well as on major Boston-Foxborough Highways such as I-95, I-495, and Route 1, are highly likely to be recorded; taxis and rideshares are likely to see additional demand surges due to the cost of a round-trip MTA ticket to the match.</p>		

Business as usual operations

Demand surges around match days are almost certain, with the quarterfinal on 9th July being the dominant pressure point for transportation infrastructure. Route 1 and the MBTA Foxborough Line are highly likely to be saturated for four to six hours before and after kickoff. Downtown Boston hotels will see materially elevated pricing throughout the tournament window. Allow an extra commute buffer for journeys via I-93 and I-90 that feed into the BOS and South Station hubs. Boston’s direct office disruption is moderate, as Gillette Stadium is in Foxborough, so the central business district is less affected than in New York or Atlanta, with the dominant operational pressure on the I-95 and Route 1 corridors.

Recommendations for businesses and organisations

- Consider implementing remote-work options for staff commuting via South Station, Back Bay, or BOS, and for staff with regular Foxborough-bound travel. Massachusetts State Police lead venue security, so even routine business travel near the stadium will encounter elevated screening on match days.
- Pre-book hotel blocks for visiting staff as early as possible. Availability during the lead-up to the Quarterfinal in the Seaport, Back Bay and Cambridge corridor is likely to be significantly constrained; consider Providence or Worcester as backup options.
- Add a 30–45-minute buffer to BOS customs and TSA on tournament-inbound peak days. CBP Mobile Passport Control at BOS is available for eligible travellers and is the fastest entry option.
- Logistics operations and clinical-trial sample couriers should reschedule runs away from matchday afternoons on the I-95 corridor.
- Brief marketing and legal teams on FIFA-marks restrictions: no use of FIFA, ‘World Cup’ or ‘2026’ in advertising without an Official Sponsor or Supporter licence. Ambush-marketing enforcement around the City Hall Plaza Fan Festival will be aggressive.

Recommendations for residents

- Plan errands and medical appointments away from match-day afternoons, especially 9th July.
- Sign up for AlertBoston and MEMA Alerts (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) to stay apprised of security, operational and weather developments.
- Foxborough-area residents should expect Route 1 saturation throughout match weeks; build extra time into any non-discretionary travel.



Multi city travel

Boston sits in FIFA's Eastern cluster with New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, Toronto and Miami. Amtrak Acela puts NYC about three and a half hours away and Philadelphia about five hours. Toronto is a one and a half hour flight, and Miami a roughly three and a half hour flight. Travellers entering Canada need a passport; visa-exempt nationals

flying in need a Canadian eTA before boarding, while visarequired nationals need a visitor visa unless they qualify for an eTA exception. Travellers to Mexico require a visa unless they are from Canada, the USA, the EU, the UK, Japan, or select other countries. See the Special Advisory for routing guidance.

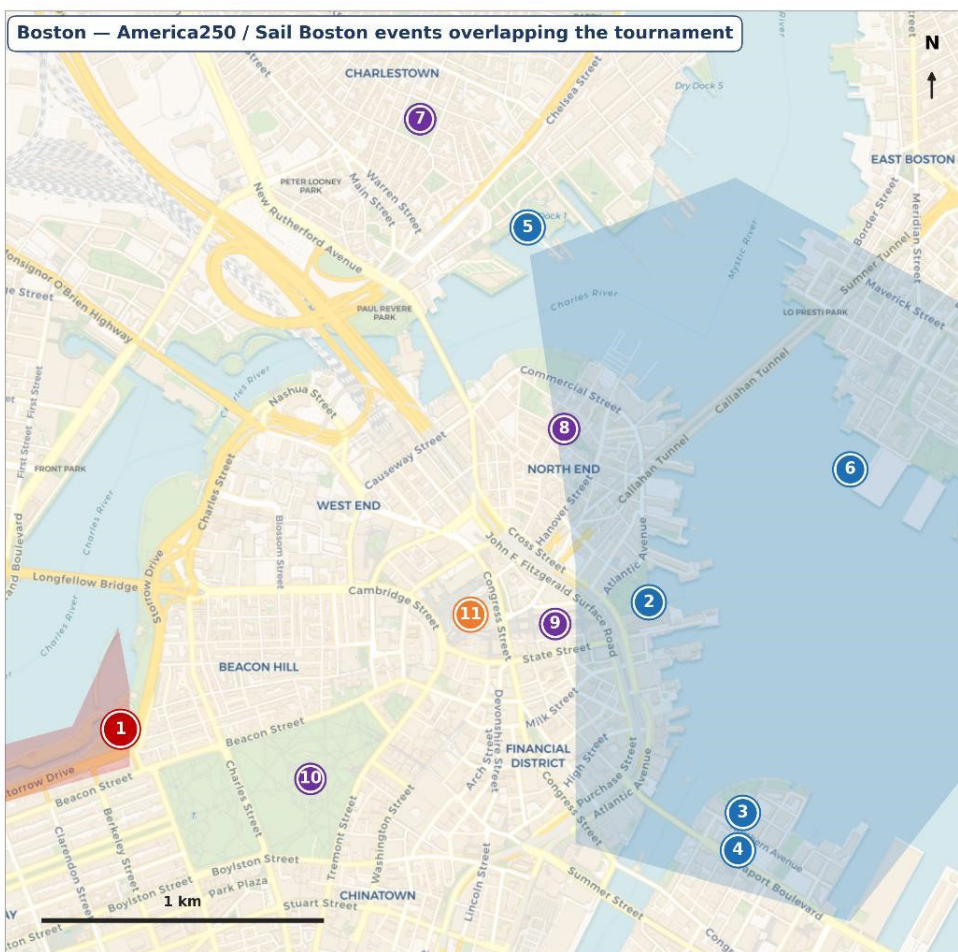


City-specific risks

Boston's defining city-specific risk for the tournament is its convergence with the America250 / Massachusetts250 semiquincentennial programme, with three events planned: the Boston Pops Fireworks on 4th July, which is the official MA250 Signature Event, resulting in extensive street closures, the World Cup quarterfinal on 9th July, and Sail Boston 2026 / Sail250

from 10th to 16th July. The Fireworks are likely to attract around one million spectators, making it likely to be the most well-attended event in the city this year. The risk of disruption to the World Cup is mitigated by Gillette Stadium's location in Foxborough and the lack of games in the city from 29th June to 9th July. Starting the day after the quarterfinal, Sail Boston will take up nine days of hotel and rail capacity.

South Station and Back Bay are the operational chokepoints since the Foxborough Event Service shares that infrastructure, and BOS should expect peak departure pressure on the 5th to 6th and 16th to 17th July.



Event key

Each numbered dot on the map corresponds to an entry below.

Boston Pops — 4 July

- 1 Charles River Esplanade — Boston Pops Fireworks
4 Jul

Sail Boston / Sail250 — 10-16 July

- 2 Long Wharf / Columbus Park — Sail Boston viewing
10-16 Jul
- 3 Fan Pier — Sail Boston fireworks
11 & 15 Jul
- 4 Seaport / Innovation District — festival
10-16 Jul
- 5 Charlestown / USS Constitution — berthing
10-16 Jul
- 6 East Boston Waterfront — viewing
10-16 Jul

Freedom Trail / historic anchors

- 7 Bunker Hill Monument
- 8 Old North Church
- 9 Faneuil Hall
- 10 Boston Common

World Cup context

- 11 City Hall Plaza — FIFA Fan Festival
12-27 Jun (group stage only)

- Esplanade crowd corridor (Pops, 4 Jul)
- Sail Boston inner-harbour zone

General advice

- **During major events, plan journeys avoiding common protest flashpoints.** Boston Common, the State House on Beacon Hill, and the Harvard and MIT campuses are likely to experience significant traffic disruption during prolonged demonstrations.
- **Pedestrian travel is advisable across virtually all of Boston before nightfall as long as basic security precautions are followed.** Exercise increased caution in parts of Roxbury, Mattapan, and Dorchester, as well as in nightlife districts after dark.
- **Vehicle break-ins remain the most common petty crime affecting visitors.** Refrain from storing non-essential valuables in vehicles and ensure passports are stored in a separate compartment.



Appendix: Methodology

Risk ratings

MINIMAL	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	EXTREME
Locations in this category are likely to be affected by small-scale, peaceful, protests that occur sporadically and represent no security risk but may cause temporary localised travel disruption.	Locations in this category are likely to be affected by small-scale protests and low-level clashes, resulting in a heightened police presence in the affected areas. Multiple arrests are reported, resulting in travel and operational disruption.	Locations in this category are likely to be affected by medium to large-scale protests and multiple low-level clashes. Local businesses are at a heightened risk of being damaged and looted, resulting in operational disruption.	Locations in this category are likely to be affected by large-scale protests and clashes taking place resulting in the deployment of National Guard units to contain the unrest. Movement restrictions are implemented to contain unrest, resulting in significant operational disruption.	Locations in this category are likely to be affected by significant civil unrest resulting in the temporary absence of law and order. Strict movement restrictions are imposed and a significant deployment of National Guard units leads to severe operational disruption.

Incident impact ratings

MINIMAL	LOW	MODERATE	SIGNIFICANT	CRITICAL
Incidents in this category are routine within the risk environment and do not pose a threat to life. Incidents rarely impact beyond the immediate vicinity and / or there is negligible implication associated with the risk factor.	Incidents in this category are routine within the risk environment but rarely pose a threat to life and / or the casualty impact is incidental and highly localised. Incidents rarely impact beyond the immediate vicinity or the implications are incidental.	Incidents in this category are fairly common for the risk environment and may pose a threat to life, occasionally resulting in mass casualties. The impact is typically restricted to the immediate vicinity and / or is incidental.	Incidents in this category occasionally occur in the risk environment and typically pose a credible and imminent threat to life, occasionally resulting in mass casualties. The impact may spread beyond the immediate vicinity.	Incidents in this category are highly out of the ordinary for the risk environment, pose a significant and imminent threat to life and will likely result in significant mass casualties. The impact is likely to have wider-reaching implications.

Risk trends

RAPIDLY IMPROVING	IMPROVING	STABLE	DETERIORATING	RAPIDLY DETERIORATING
The situation is improving in the short term, with the potential for an event to cause a sudden and unexpected improvement.	The situation is improving in the medium term, at a steady and predictable rate.	The situation is unlikely to see a significant improvement or deterioration over the medium term.	The situation is worsening in the medium term, at a steady and predictable rate.	The situation is worsening in the short term, with the potential for a sudden and unexpected deterioration.

Source evaluation criteria

CANNOT BE JUDGED	UNRELIABLE	RARELY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	RELIABLE
No basis exists for evaluating the reliability of the source.	Lacking in authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency. Frequent history of misinformation or inaccuracy.	Significant doubt about authenticity, trustworthiness or competency. Some history of misinformation or inaccuracy.	Doubt about authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency. History of some valid information.	Some doubt about authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency. History of valid information most of the time.	No doubt of authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency. History of being reliable almost all of the time.

Information validity

CANNOT BE JUDGED	CONFIRMED FALSE	LIKELY FALSE	POSSIBLY TRUE	PROBABLY TRUE	CONFIRMED TRUE
No basis exists for evaluating the validity of the information.	Confirmed as false by reputable independent sources.	Not confirmed. Possible but not logical. No other information on the subject or information is contradictory.	Not confirmed but reasonably logical. Limited other information on subject.	Not confirmed but logical in itself and consistent with most other information on subject.	Confirmed by reputable independent sources and logical in itself.

Forecasting

REMOTE CHANCE	HIGHLY UNLIKELY	UNLIKELY	EVEN CHANCE	LIKELY	HIGHLY LIKELY	ALMOST CERTAIN
<5%	10% - 20%	25% - 35%	40%-50%	55%-75%	80%-90%	>95%

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