

City Report
FIFA World Cup 2026

Kansas City

Issued
20th May 2026





Kansas City

Overview

Country	United States of America
Host stadium	GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium (FIFA tournament-time name: Kansas City Stadium), Kansas City, MO
Distance to Downtown	~10 miles (16 km) east of Downtown Kansas City
Stadium capacity	67,513
Roof / cover type	Open-air, no roof
Altitude	~257 m (843 ft)
Timezone (June-July 2026)	Central Daylight Time (UTC-5)
Official language(s)	English (Spanish well represented across the metro)
Match count & dates	6 matches: 4 Group Stage (16 th –27 th June), 1 R32 (3 rd July), 1 Quarterfinal (11 th July)
Primary airport(s)	MCI (Kansas City International) is the primary gateway
Population (metro)	~2.4 million (Kansas City MO-KS bistate metro)

Risk ratings

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

Kansas City is the smallest metro of the US host cities and offers one of the lowest composite-risk environments. Arrowhead Stadium is open-air with mature NFL event-day operations. The city straddles the Kansas-Missouri state line, creating jurisdictional complications for

emergency response. Severe-weather convection, such as tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and hail, is the dominant tournament-window hazard. Kansas City hosts six matches: four group-stage games, a Round of 32 on 3rd July and a Quarterfinal on 11th July.

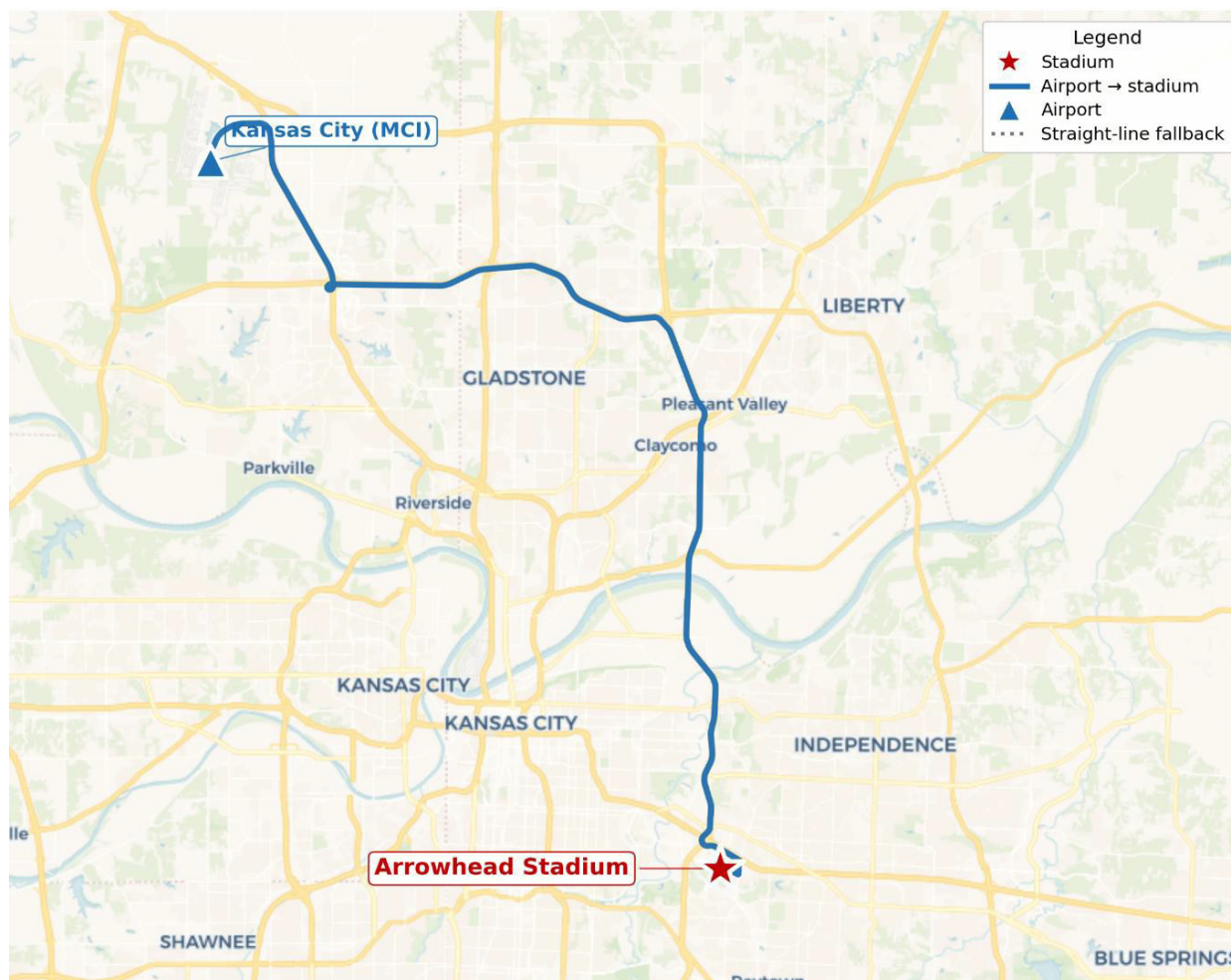
Arrival, departure and transportation

Airports and public transport

Kansas City International Airport (MCI) is the primary and only airport, located about 15 miles (24 km) northwest of downtown via I-29. The new single-terminal MCI, opened in 2023, handles international and domestic traffic with substantially improved capacity. Travellers should allow two and a half hours for international departures during the tournament window. There is no rail link from MCI to downtown; rideshare, taxi and the KCI Shuttle are the practical options.

Recommended accommodation zones

Downtown KCMO and the Power & Light District offer the best in-city experience, 20–30 minutes from Arrowhead Stadium. Other lower-risk areas of the city include Country Club Plaza, Crown Center and Westport. Overland Park and Wyandotte County on the Kansas side of the city provide suburban alternatives at 30–45 minutes from the stadium.



Security and medical risks

Crime

Kansas City's violent-crime rate is moderately elevated for its metro size and concentrated in specific neighbourhoods. Tourist zones, including Power & Light, Country Club Plaza, Crown Center, Crossroads and the River Market, are well-policed and operationally low-risk. Specific areas have higher reported crime rates and are not on standard tourist routes, including parts of Wyandotte County and the South Patrol corridor between US-71 and I-435 south of Bannister Road, though homicide totals have been decreasing in past years. The Truman Sports Complex itself is operationally low-risk during events. A recent mass-casualty incident informs the city's downtown event safety posture. On 14th February 2024, the Chiefs' Super Bowl LVIII victory parade ended in a shooting at Union Station that caused one fatality and 22 casualties, including 11 children. Local authorities are likely to heighten security in high-footfall areas on matchdays as a result.

Terrorism

Kansas City maintains a standard mid-tier US baseline counterterrorism posture. FBI Kansas City, Kansas City Police Department (KCPD), Kansas City Kansas Police Department (KCKPD), Missouri State Highway Patrol, Kansas Highway Patrol and the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) coordinate regional security. Visitors should expect visible security at MCI and the Arrowhead Stadium perimeter throughout the tournament window.

Unrest

The risk of unrest is lower in Kansas City than in other American host cities. Flashpoint locations are concentrated around City Hall, the federal courthouse and the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus. KCPD has materially expanded crowd-management resourcing for marquee events since the Union Station shooting. Fan unrest after matches is most likely to affect the Power & Light District.

Natural disaster

Kansas City sits in the southern extension of Tornado Alley. Severe-weather convection, including tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and hail, is the most prevalent natural disaster risk during the tournament. There is no exposure to hurricanes or tropical storms. The earthquake risk is low, while flooding on the Kansas and Missouri rivers is documented but rarely operationally significant.

Heat/infectious disease

Kansas City's June and July averages run 84–89°F (29–32°C), with frequent 95°F+ (35°C+) days. Humidity is moderate, but absolute temperatures can run hot. Arrowhead Stadium is open-air, which increases the risk of heat-related illness during daytime kickoffs.



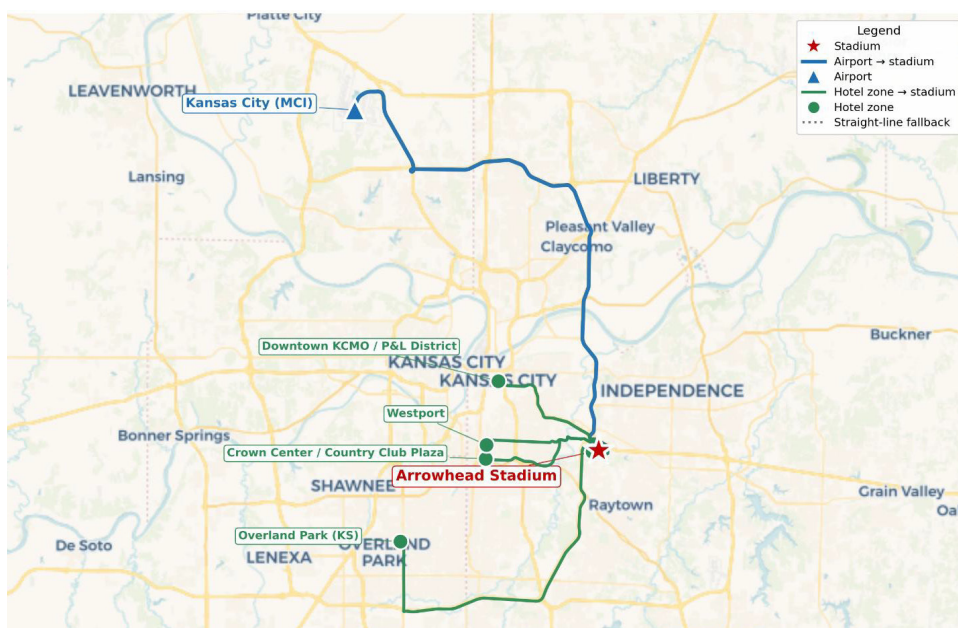
Stadium and matchday

Match schedule

Date	Match	Stage	Kickoff (local)
16 th June	Argentina - Algeria	Group J	20h00
20 th June	Ecuador - Curaçao	Group E	19h00
25 th June	Tunisia - Netherlands	Group F	18h00
27 th June	Algeria - Austria	Group J	21h00
3 rd July	Winner of Group K - 3rd D/E/I/J/L	Round of 32	20h30
11 th July	Winner of Match 95 - Winner of Match 96	Quarterfinal	20h00

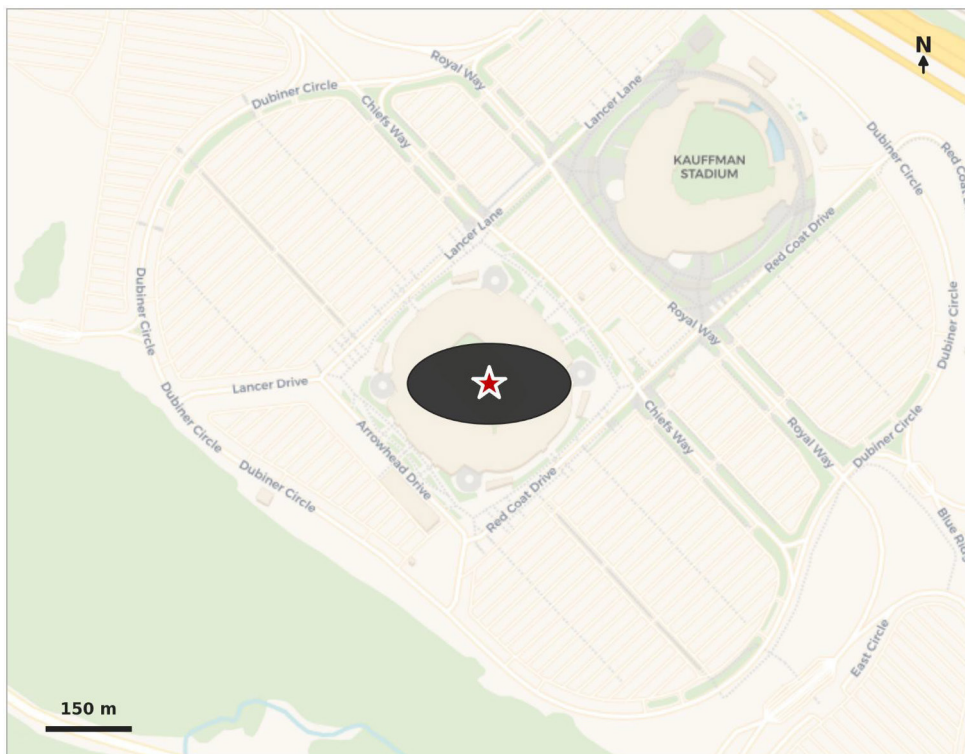
Public transport and transportation to the stadium

Arrowhead Stadium sits in the Truman Sports Complex, about 8 miles (13 km) east of downtown. There is no direct rail link to the venue; I-70, I-435, and Stadium Drive is used to access the stadium. KCPD and the Missouri State Highway Patrol close the inner perimeter to non-credentialed traffic four hours before kickoff. Pre-purchased parking is mandatory. The official tournament shuttle is ConnectKC26 Stadium Direct, running from the FIFA Fan Festival site at the National WWI Museum and from four park-and-ride lots, beginning three hours before kickoff and continuing until two hours after the match. Rideshare drop-off operates from designated lots. Arrowhead Stadium is assessed as the most poorly-connected tournament venue, and fans should account for a disproportionate demand surge on taxis, rideshare services, and shuttles. Fans attending matches should account for journey times of 30 to 45 minutes from downtown and 45 to 60 minutes from the Plaza on match days. The Quarterfinal on 11th July will run the largest perimeter footprint of any Kansas City match.



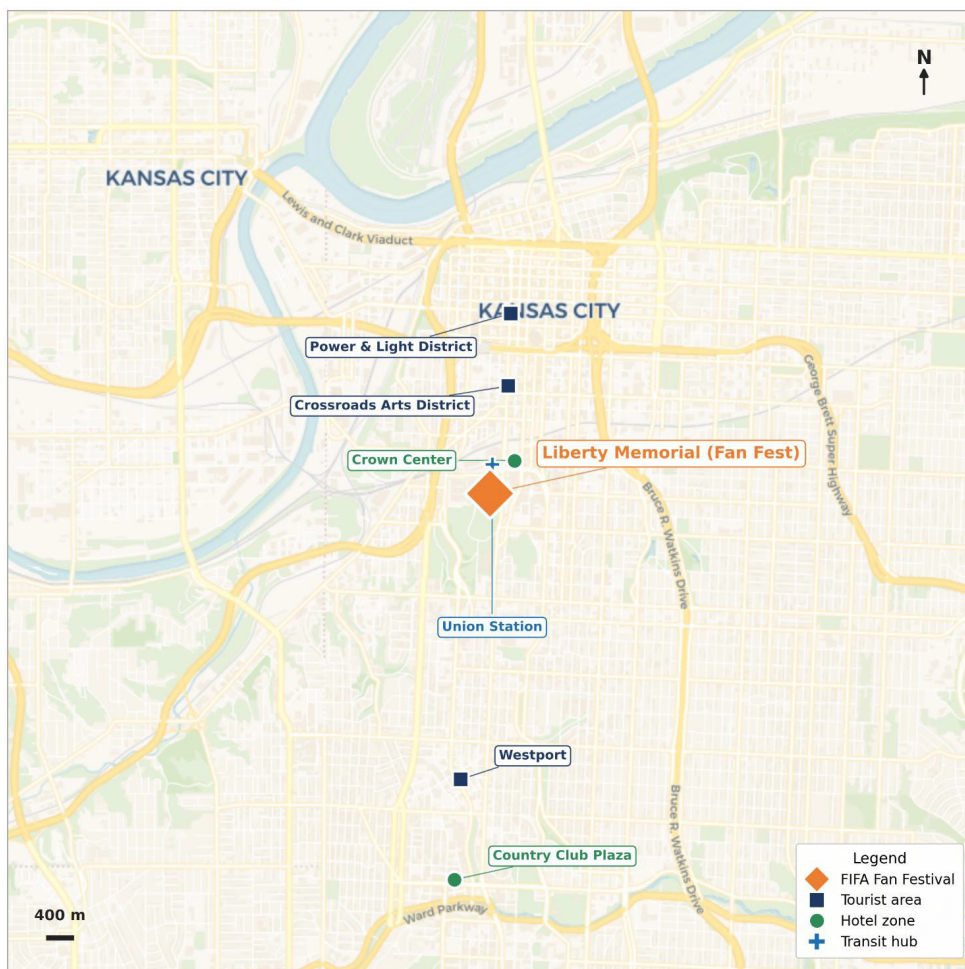
Entry/gates into the stadium

Per FIFA standard policy for the 2026 World Cup, Arrowhead Stadium gates are expected to open two hours before kickoff. The FIFA-standard clear-bag policy is enforced, including clear bags up to 12" x 6" x 12" (about 30 cm x 15 cm x 30 cm) or a one-gallon Ziploc, plus a small clutch up to 4.5" x 6.5" (≈11 cm x 17 cm); there is no bag check or storage on-site. Screening is by metal detector and manual bag 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.



Fanzones

The official FIFA Fan Festival is on the south lawn of the National WWI Museum and Memorial in downtown Kansas City, running across at least 18 days from 11th June to 13th July 2026, covering all Kansas City match days, every USMNT match day, and 4th July. Admission is free with mandatory advance registration; capacity is capped at 25,000. Each official fan zone operates its own screening perimeter. The Liberty Memorial site offers an iconic downtown view and mature event operations capability.



Match risk rating

Match	Date and Kickoff (All Times Local)	Match Risk Rating
Argentina – Algeria	16th June 20h00	HIGH
<p>This match is assessed as HIGH risk due to both teams having large fanbases, the presence of ultras, and an elevated risk of fan clashes. Argentina is likely to have one of the largest fanbases at the tournament, with precedent from past tournaments indicating that large gatherings of fans in public spaces are almost certain to be recorded on matchday and MD-1. Algeria is likely to have a moderately-sized fanbase, though the presence of ultras within the fanbase elevates the risk of fan clashes and unrest near Arrowhead Stadium and in Downtown Kansas City. Risks are also increased by the likelihood of both fanbases gathering in the relatively small Downtown of Kansas City, as well as by the evening kickoff time. Travel disruption is likely to be recorded on key roads like I-70, with demand surges for taxis and rideshare services almost certain due to limited transit connections.</p>		
Ecuador – Curaçao	20th June 19h00	MINIMAL
Tunisia – Netherlands	25th June 18h00	LOW
<p>This match is rated as LOW risk due to the likelihood of disruption in Kansas City. Precedent from past World Cups indicates that the Netherlands are likely to have one of the largest fanbases; Dutch fans are likely to gather in public squares and main roads on matchdays and MD-1, which is liable to result in disruption in Downtown Kansas City. Additionally, Tunisian football has a significant presence and influence of ultras culture in the country's football landscape and is considered a higher-risk fanbase by FIFA. The likelihood of disruption from fan gatherings is exacerbated by the lack of gathering spaces outside Arrowhead Stadium and the stadium's poor public transport connections. Clashes between the fanbases are highly unlikely but cannot be ruled out due to the increased likelihood of both fanbases gathering in the relatively small Downtown of Kansas City. Travel disruption is likely to be recorded on key roads like I-70, with demand surges for taxis and rideshare services almost certain due to limited transit connections. Travel disruption is likely to be recorded on key roads like I-70, with demand surges for taxis and rideshare services almost certain due to limited transit connections.</p>		
Algeria – Austria	27th June 21h00	LOW
<p>This match is rated as LOW risk due to the likelihood of disruption in Kansas City. The two fanbases are likely to combine for a relatively high turnout. Clashes between the fanbases are highly unlikely, but cannot be ruled out due to the presence of ultras in the Algerian fanbase, as well as the likelihood of both fanbases gathering in the relatively small Downtown of Kansas City and the evening kickoff time. Travel disruption is likely to be recorded on key roads like I-70, with demand surges for taxis and rideshare services almost certain due to limited transit connections.</p>		
Round of 32	3rd July 20h30	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. The likelihood of disruption from fan gatherings is exacerbated by the lack of gathering spaces outside Arrowhead Stadium and the stadium's poor public transport connections. Clashes between the fanbases are highly unlikely but cannot be ruled out due to the increased likelihood of both fanbases gathering in the relatively small Downtown of Kansas City. Travel disruption is likely to be recorded on key roads like I-70, with demand surges for taxis and rideshare services almost certain due to limited transit connections. Travel disruption is likely to be recorded on key roads like I-70, with demand surges for taxis and rideshare services almost certain due to limited transit connections.</p>		

Match risk rating

Match	Date and Kickoff (All Times Local)	Match Risk Rating
Quarterfinal	11th July 20h00	<p>MODERATE</p>
<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. The likelihood of disruption from fan gatherings is exacerbated by the lack of gathering spaces outside Arrowhead Stadium and the stadium's poor public transport connections. Clashes between the fanbases are highly unlikely but cannot be ruled out due to the increased likelihood of both fanbases gathering in the relatively small Downtown of Kansas City. Travel disruption is likely to be recorded on key roads like I-70, with demand surges for taxis and rideshare services almost certain due to limited transit connections. Travel disruption is likely to be recorded on key roads like I-70, with demand surges for taxis and rideshare services almost certain due to limited transit connections.</p>		



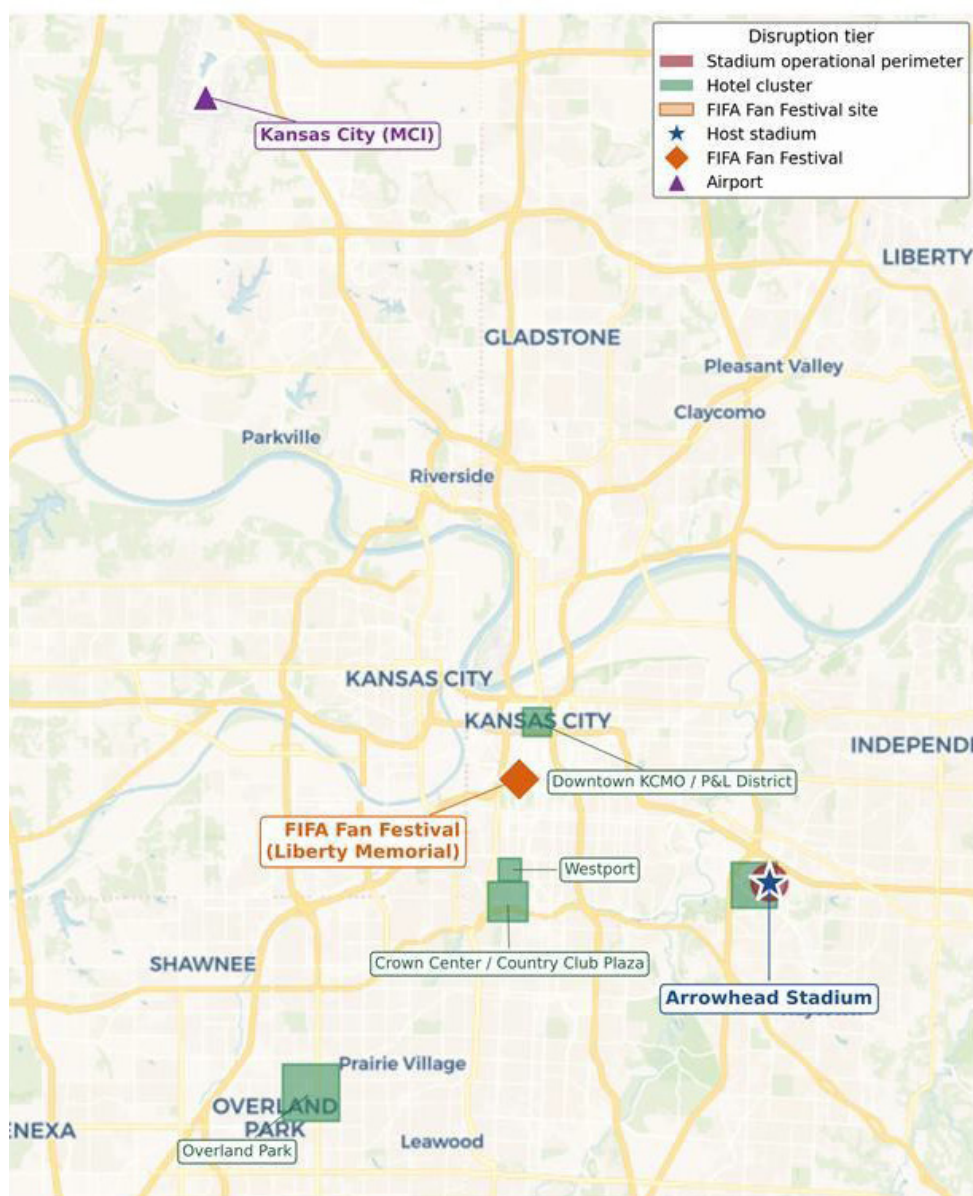
Business as usual operations

Demand surges around match days, particularly the Round of 32 on 3rd July and the Quarterfinal on 11th July. I-70 and I-435 saturate around afternoon kickoffs. Kansas City has limited downtown hotel inventory relative to its tournament profile, so demand pressure is acute even though absolute volume is lower than in larger host cities. The most affected sectors include the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, agribusiness, logistics, engineering and architecture, federal employment, and healthcare.

Recommendations for businesses and organisations

- Consider implementing remote-work options for staff commuting through the Truman Sports Complex / I-70 corridor on match days. Arrowhead Stadium is 10 miles east of downtown, and the I-70 / I-435 / I-470 cluster is likely to be the most disrupted commute route.

- Pre-book hotel blocks in advance. Inventory in Downtown KCMO, the Power & Light District, Crown Center, Country Club Plaza and Overland Park is likely to be reduced; the Quarterfinal week (6th-12th July) is almost certain to have the highest demand for accommodation.
- For Kansas-side operations (Overland Park, Lenexa, Wyandotte County): match-day cross-state-line travel has no special process, though travellers should be aware of the state they are in for medical or insurance claims.
- Logistics and intermodal operations should confirm railyard and BNSF/UP coordination for the match-day I-70 closures.
- Brief marketing and legal teams on FIFA-marks restrictions: ambush-marketing enforcement around the National WWI Museum and Liberty Memorial Fan Festival is expected.



Recommendations for residents

- Plan errands and medical appointments away from match-day afternoons, particularly around the Quarterfinal on 11th July.
- Refresh tornado-shelter plans (interior room, lowest level, away from windows). Severe-weather convection is the dominant tournament-window hazard.
- Sign up for AlertKC to stay apprised of security, operational and severe-weather developments.

Multi city travel

Kansas City sits in FIFA's Central cluster. Flights to Dallas are about an hour and a half, to Houston about two hours, to Atlanta about two hours, and to Mexico City about three hours. Kansas City's central location makes it a practical base for fans following matches across the Central cluster. Travellers to Mexico require

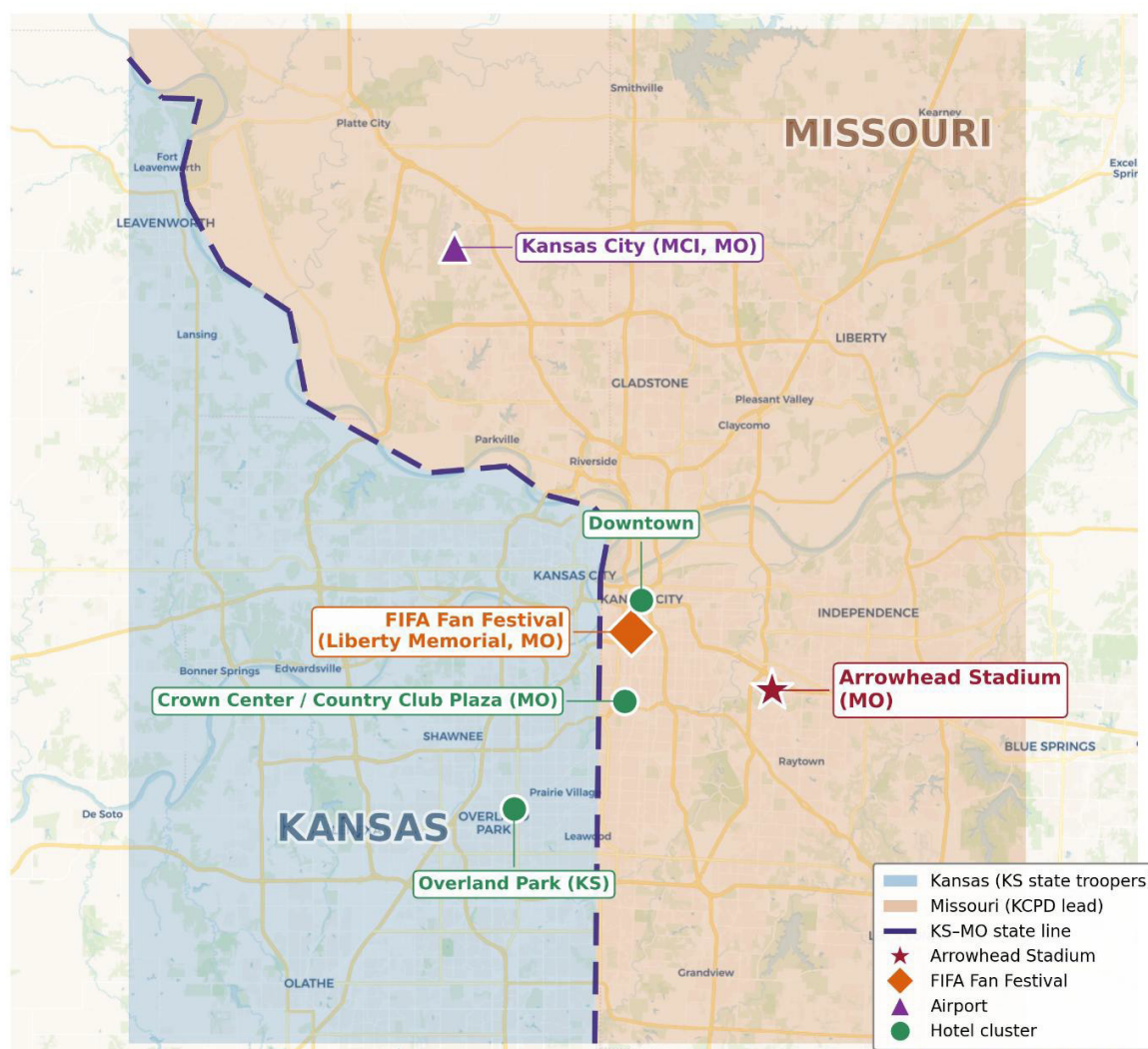
a visa unless they are from Canada, the USA, the EU, the UK, Japan, or select other countries. Travellers entering Canada need a passport; visa-exempt nationals flying in need a Canadian eTA before boarding. See the Special Advisory for routing guidance.



City-specific risks

Kansas City's defining operational complication is its bistate jurisdictional structure: Arrowhead Stadium sits in Missouri, while a substantial fan base and accommodation footprint sit in Kansas. A 911 call from the stadium reaches Missouri emergency services, while a call from the associated accommodation area reaches Kansas dispatch. The two states have separate emergency-management frameworks, so travel-insurance claims and personal-injury

documentation should record the precise jurisdictional location of any incident. The secondary risk is exposure to tornadoes and severe thunderstorms, as Kansas City sits in the southern extension of Tornado Alley. The venue and metro have well-established sheltering protocols, but visitors should know the standard tornado protocol for hotels and the Fan Festival: find an interior room, prioritise basements or ground floors, and stay away from windows.



General advice

- **During major events, plan journeys avoiding common protest flashpoints.** City Hall, the federal courthouse and the UMKC campus are likely locations for organised demonstrations.
- **Pedestrian travel is advisable across Power & Light, Country Club Plaza, Crown Center and the Crossroads before nightfall as long as basic security precautions are followed.** Exercise increased caution in parts of east-side KCMO and parts of Wyandotte County after dark.
- **Severe-weather convection is the dominant tournament-window hazard.** Monitor National Weather Service warnings during match days, and know the standard tornado protocol for your accommodation before the tournament starts. Shelter-in-place if a tornado is incoming, and ensure check-in or lost communications procedures are in place in case of lengthy power outages.



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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