

City Report
FIFA World Cup 2026

Monterrey



Issued
20th May 2026



Monterrey (Guadalupe)

Overview

Country	Mexico
Host stadium	Estadio BBVA (FIFA tournament-time name: Monterrey Stadium), Guadalupe, Nuevo León
Distance to Downtown	~6 miles (10 km) east of Monterrey Centro
Stadium capacity	50,113
Roof / cover type	Partial roof covering most seating; the field is open. Not climate-controlled
Altitude	~540 m (1,770 ft)
Timezone (June-July 2026)	Central Standard Time (UTC-6)
Official language(s)	Spanish (English widely understood in business and hospitality contexts)
Match count & dates	4 matches: 3 Group Stage (14 th , 20 th and 24 th June), 1 R32 (29 th June)
Primary airport(s)	MTY (Monterrey International / General Mariano Escobedo)
Population (metro)	~5.3 million (Monterrey metropolitan area)

Risk ratings

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

Monterrey is consistently the hottest of all 16 host cities, with documented daytime highs near 100°F (38°C) during the tournament window, especially as Estadio Monterrey is among the most heat-exposed venues in North America. The *Cártel del Noreste* (CDN), a US-designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO), is operationally active in Nuevo León and Tamaulipas and recorded approximately 116 attacks during early

2026. The Mexican Armed Forces operation in Jalisco that killed CJNG leader “El Mencho” on 22nd February triggered a nationwide wave of narco blockades (*narcobloqueos*), though Monterrey was not targeted then; the federal government is deploying approximately 99,000 security personnel nationwide. Healix assesses Monterrey as a MODERATE security risk environment, commensurate with Mexico City.

Arrival, departure and transportation

Airports and public transport

Monterrey International/General Mariano Escobedo (MTY) is the primary airport, about 15 miles (24 km) north-east of Centro. Allow two hours for international departures during the tournament window. Monterrey is well connected by air to other Mexican cities and US Sun Belt hubs, such as Houston, Dallas, and Atlanta, with one-hour flights to Houston and Dallas making same-day travel feasible.

Recommended accommodation zones

San Pedro Garza García is one of the recommended locations for business travellers, with international-standard hotels within 20 to 40 minutes of Estadio BBVA. Centro Monterrey is the cultural and tourist core, 15 to 30 minutes from the venue. Alternatives include Guadalupe, which is 10 to 15 minutes from the stadium, and Barrio Antiguo, 20 to 30 minutes from the venue. Valle Oriente offers modern business hotels at a lower price point than San Pedro Garza García.



Security and medical risks

Crime

Monterrey's crime profile is varied between petty and violent crime risks, though the majority of violent crime is related to organised crime and thus unlikely to impact visits. Tourist and business zones, such as San Pedro Garza García, Centro Monterrey, Barrio Antiguo and Galerías Monterrey, are well-policed and generally lower-risk. Specific peripheral municipalities, including parts of Apodaca, Escobedo and Juárez, have higher reported crime concentrations and are generally not on fan or business traveller itineraries.

Terrorism

Mexico's terrorism risk profile is lower than in Western Europe or US host cities. Nuevo León is the home state of the *Cártel del Noreste* (CDN), a US-designated FTO, responsible for an estimated 116 attacks across northern Mexico during the first quarter of 2026. CDN is known to operate in Tamaulipas, Coahuila, and rural Nuevo León, outside the Monterrey

metropolitan area, as well as along the overland corridors connecting Monterrey to the US border at Nuevo Laredo and Reynosa. The federal government is deploying approximately 99,000 security personnel nationwide. In Monterrey, the Guardia Nacional, SEDENA, Policía Estatal Fuerza Civil, and the Monterrey/Guadalupe/San Pedro municipal police are coordinating through a centralised command-and-control centre that covers Estadio BBVA, Parque Fundidora, and primary transit corridors.

State authorities have also confirmed the deployment of robot-dog units without weapons at the stadium for crowd management and high-risk-area surveillance capable of relaying live video and issuing voice commands via on-board loudspeakers, marking the first such tournament-scale use in Mexico. Travellers and fans should anticipate a visible security presence at MTY, the venue perimeter, Parque Fundidora and the primary hotel zones throughout the tournament window.

Unrest

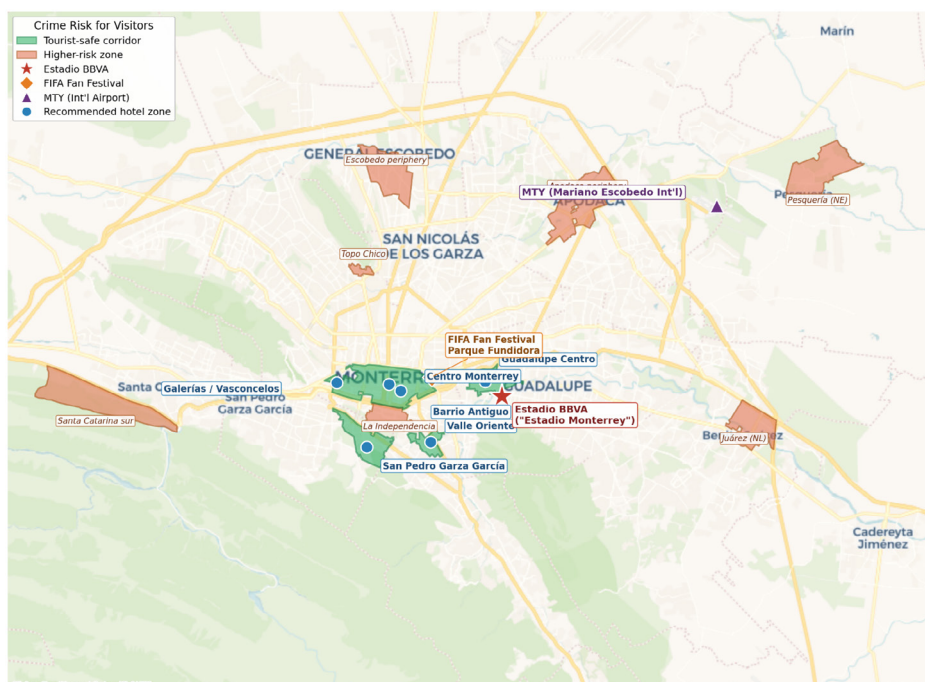
The risk associated with unrest in Monterrey is lower than that in US host cities and Mexico City, and broadly in line with Guadalajara's. Several civil society organisations are based in Monterrey and have experience in organising well-attended demonstrations. If demonstrations materialise, flashpoint locations include the Macroplaza, the Palacio de Gobierno (Nuevo León state government) and university campuses (Tec de Monterrey, UANL).

Natural disaster

The earthquake risk is low as Monterrey sits inland from the Mexican subduction zone. Hurricane and tropical-storm exposure via Gulf basin remnants is documented as Tropical Storm Alberto in 2025, which caused major flooding, though such an event is highly unlikely during the tournament. However, thunderstorms and hail have been documented during the summer, particularly as the Río Santa Catarina valley is flood-prone during heavy rainfall events.

Heat

Monterrey experiences the highest absolute temperatures of any Mexican host city, with average highs of about 93°F (34°C) in June and about 91°F (33°C) in July. Multiple 100°F+ (38°C+) afternoons should be expected during the tournament window, with occasional 104°F+ (40°C+) extreme days. The humidity is moderate, but the heat-illness risk remains significant for outdoor afternoon kickoffs. Estadio BBVA's partial roof provides shade for most seats but offers no active cooling.



Stadium and matchday

Match schedule

Date	Match	Stage	Kickoff (local)
14 th June	Sweden - Tunisia	Group F	21h00
20 th June	Tunisia - Japan	Group F	22h00
24 th June	South Africa - South Korea	Group A	19h00
29 th June	Winner of Group F - Runner-up Group C	Round of 32	19h00

Public transport and transportation to the stadium

Estadio BBVA is located in Guadalupe, about 6 miles (10 km) east of Monterrey Centro and 15 miles (24 km) from MTY airport. Public transit options are the Metrorrey light-rail network, with Línea 1 terminating at Exposición and located approximately

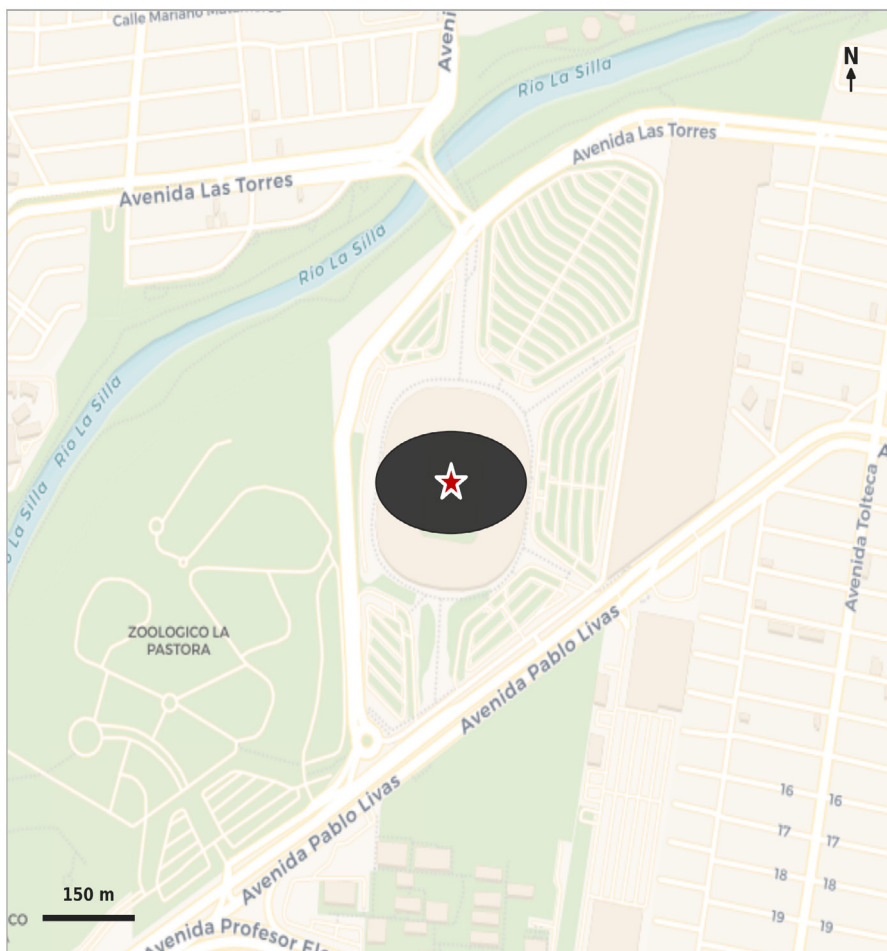
a 10-minute walk north of the stadium, and the Ecovia BRT corridor, with a stop within walking distance of the venue. Matchday road closures will block all roads within 1 mile (1.5 km) of the stadium, including Avenida Pablo Livas and Avenida Eloy Cavazos, for approximately four hours before kickoff. Driving routes are constrained, and parking is limited; travellers

are advised to use Uber, Didi or authorised hotel-arranged services rather than street taxis. The venue is open-air, with under-pitch ventilation and stand-level cooling installed to mitigate heat, but it is not climate-controlled; kickoff times in Monterrey have been scheduled for later in the evening, likely for that reason.



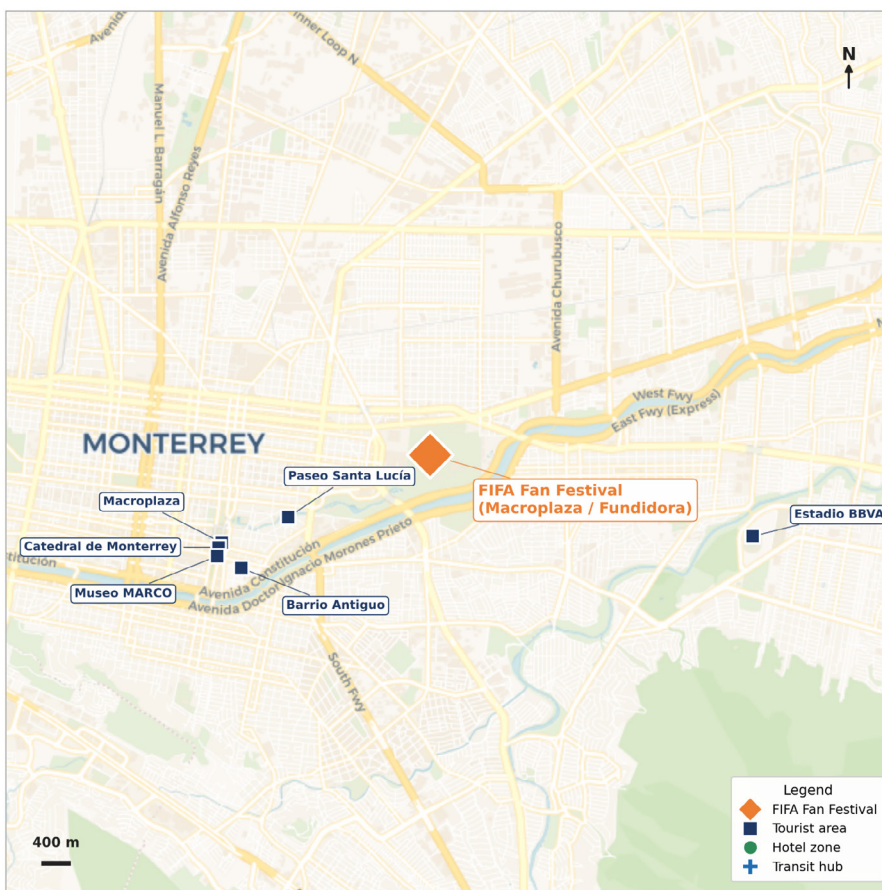
Entry/gates into the stadium

Estadio BBVA gates 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. Prohibited items include professional cameras with detachable or telephoto lenses, drones, banners larger than 1.5 m x 1 m, glass containers and any flagpoles. Heavy police and Guardia Nacional presence is standard. Gate assignments are by section and zone; confirm your access ramp on the ticket.



Fanzones

The official FIFA Fan Festival is at Parque Fundidora and is the largest of its kind in the tournament. It runs from 11th June to 19th July 2026, with free general admission. All 104 tournament matches will be projected on large HD screens; concerts will take place, along with a regional/international gastronomy pavilion, gaming zones, an official merchandise area, and World Cup heritage exhibitions. Perimeter screening is enforced by Policía Municipal de Monterrey and Protección Civil Nuevo León. Because the Fan Festival is in Monterrey Centro/Obispado-corridor rather than at the venue in Guadalupe, fan-flow congestion concentrates on the Avenida Constitución/Avenida Madero corridor and on Metrorrey Línea 2 (terminating at Parque Fundidora) on match days.



Match risk rating

Match	Date and Kickoff (All Times Local)	Match Risk Rating
Sweden – Tunisia	14th June 20h00	LOW
<p>This match is assessed as LOW risk due to anticipated fan turnout from both teams and the general security environment in Monterrey. While Monterrey's risk environment is commensurate with Mexico's countrywide moderate risk rating, the risk of petty crime, scams, and express kidnapping is heightened for this match, as both fanbases are highly likely to stand out as foreign nationals, particularly in the vicinity of Estadio BBVA and in high-footfall areas in the city centre. Both Sweden and Tunisia are likely to have moderately sized fanbases that travel to Monterrey for the match; clashes between the two fanbases are highly unlikely, but general unrest cannot be ruled out given the presence of ultras in Tunisian football. Disruption is most likely to affect Monterrey's city centre, with fan gatherings most likely to be recorded in the Centro and Barrio Antiguo neighbourhoods. Travel disruption on matchdays is likely to be recorded on the Line 1 metro, as well as on major arterial roads such as Federal Highway 40, and the multiple East-West streets that form State Highways 3, 14 and 16.</p>		
Tunisia – Japan	20th June 22h00	LOW
<p>This match is assessed as LOW risk due to anticipated fan turnout from both teams and the general security environment in Monterrey. While Monterrey's risk environment is commensurate with Mexico's countrywide moderate risk rating, the risks of petty crime, scams, and express kidnapping are heightened for this match, as both fanbases are highly likely to stand out as foreign nationals. Tunisia and Japan are likely to have moderate and large fanbases, respectively, travelling to Monterrey for the match; clashes between the two fanbases are highly unlikely, but general unrest cannot be ruled out given the presence of ultras within Tunisian football. Disruption is most likely to affect Monterrey's city centre, with fan gatherings likely in the Centro and Barrio Antiguo neighbourhoods. Travel disruption on matchdays is likely to be recorded on the Line 1 metro, as well as on major arterial roads such as Federal Highway 40, and the multiple East-West streets that form State Highways 3, 14 and 16.</p>		
South Africa – South Korea	24th June 19h00	MINIMAL
Round of 32	29th June 19h00	MODERATE
<p>This match is assessed as MODERATE risk due to elevated security and operational risks commensurate with the knockout stage, as well as Monterrey's overall security environment. 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. While Monterrey's risk environment is commensurate with Mexico's countrywide moderate risk rating, the risks of petty crime, scams, and express kidnapping are heightened for this match, particularly if the participating teams' fanbases are highly likely to stand out as foreign nationals. Disruption is most likely to affect Monterrey's city centre, with fan gatherings likely in the Centro and Barrio Antiguo neighbourhoods. Travel disruption on matchdays is likely to be recorded on the Line 1 metro, as well as on major arterial roads such as Federal Highway 40, and the multiple East-West streets that form State Highways 3, 14 and 16.</p>		

Business as usual operations

Demand surges around match days. Avenida Eloy Cavazos and the Anillo Periférico are closed to non-credentialed traffic on match days. Hotel inventory in San Pedro, Centro and Guadalupe will be saturated for the tournament window. The most affected sectors include heavy industry, financial services, tech, nearshoring (the I-35 corridor through Laredo is the busiest US-Mexico trade crossing, and Monterrey is the staging hub), and US-side cross-border supply chains.

Recommendations for businesses and organisations

- Consider implementing remote-work options for staff commuting near Guadalupe and Estadio BBVA on match days. The Avenida Pablo Livas and Constitución corridor will face elevated risks of travel disruption from four hours before kickoff.
- Ensure business operations account for limited business operations, closures, and services on Mexican national team matchdays.
- Pre-book hotel blocks for visiting staff. San Pedro Garza García (the wealthiest district in Latin America) is the safest and most business-traveller-standard zone, but match-day inventory will likely be limited. Valle Oriente is a cheaper alternative.
- For visiting executives, use only authorised hotel-arranged taxi service or vetted vehicles. Monterrey's crime risk remains significant, and ground support and protective services for business travellers remain advisable, even in lower-risk areas such as San Pedro. Confirm

Embassy or Consular and US State Department guidance prior to travel.

- Aeropuerto MTY is well-served with US connections via Houston and Dallas. Confirm the tournament-week schedule and expect elevated immigration wait times.
- FIFA marks restrictions apply identically in Mexico; IMPI is the local IP enforcement counterpart. Brief any tournament-themed marketing through legal.

Recommendations for residents

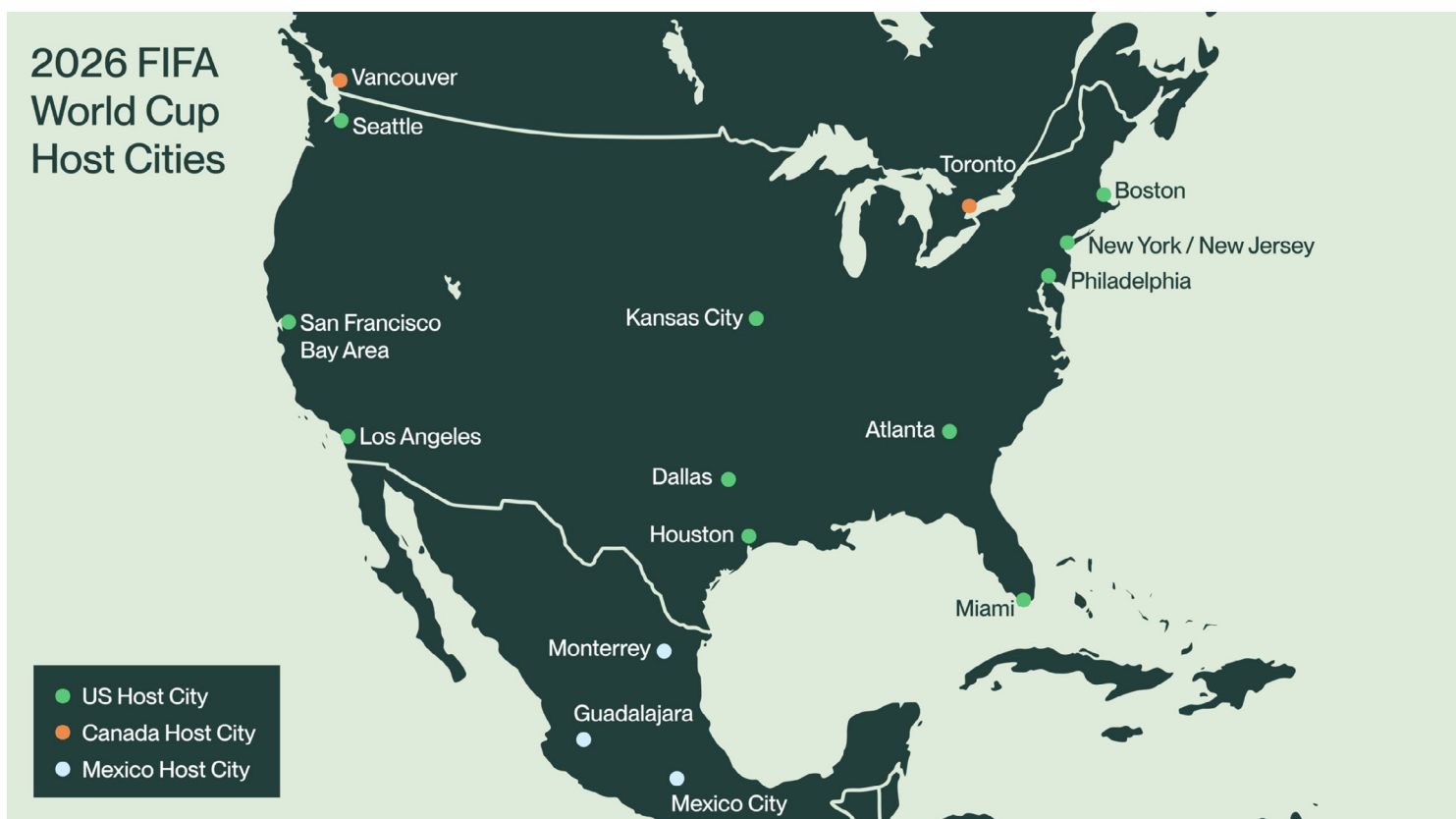
- Plan errands and medical appointments away from match-day afternoons.
- Refresh hurricane and heavy-rainfall preparedness and sign up for Protección Civil Nuevo León alerts.
- Prioritise hydration during heat-wave events; Monterrey runs the hottest temperatures of any Mexican host city.



Multi city travel

Monterrey sits in FIFA's Mexican cluster with Mexico City (about an hour and a half by air) and Guadalajara (about an hour and a half by air). Overland routes traverse cartel-active corridors and are not recommended. MTY is closest to US Sun Belt hubs; Houston is about

an hour by air, and Dallas is about an hour and a half. Cross-border travel to US host cities requires a passport. 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

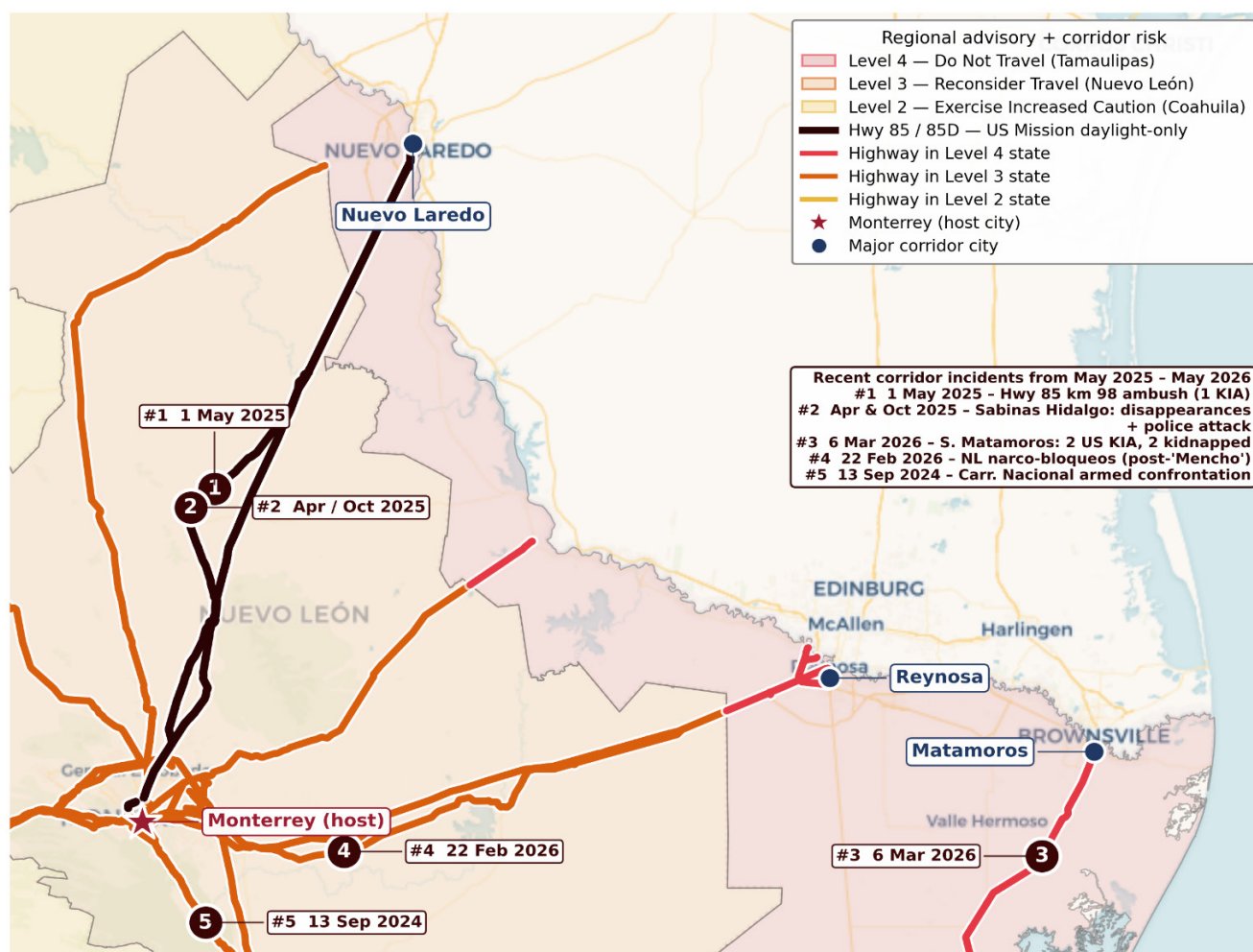
The state of Tamaulipas, located about 93 miles (150 km) north, bordering Texas, has documented organised-crime activity along Highway 85 toward Nuevo Laredo and Highway 40 toward Reynosa; Cartel de Noreste (CDN) is the dominant criminal actor along these corridors and was responsible for an estimated 116 attacks in the first quarter of 2026. The operation that killed Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG) leader “El Mencho” on 22nd February 2026 triggered a coordinated nationwide narcobloqueo episode, with about 250 blockades across 20 states,

which produced short transit-network disruption in certain urban centres; tourist and business zones were not targeted then and have not been since.

The most likely trigger for the rapid deterioration of the security environment during the tournament period is another prominent arrest linked to the CDN or CJNG in northern Mexico before July 2026. Travellers should continue to follow best-practice advice for Mexico, including minimising overland travel into Tamaulipas, Coahuila, and rural Nuevo León, with air travel the

recommended option. Travellers are advised to use ground support from local providers, or accredited taxis or rideshare services for shorter moves in lower-risk zones.

Should the security environment deteriorate, personnel and risk managers should treat any nationwide narcobloqueo episode as a 4-to-24-hour ground-mobility freeze rather than a stable situation. Organisations should be aware of triggers for a deteriorating security environment in the city and have a protocol in place for locally based personnel should a narcobloqueo situation occur.



General advice

- **During major events, plan journeys avoiding common protest flashpoints.** The Macroplaza, the Palacio de Gobierno and the Tec de Monterrey and UANL campuses are the most likely locations for organised demonstrations.
- **Pedestrian travel is advisable across San Pedro Garza García and Barrio Antiguo before nightfall as long as basic security precautions are followed.** Minimise pedestrian travel in the city centre, where opportunistic crime rates are generally higher, particularly in the Zona Rosa. Other crime hotspots include Zona de Tolerancia, home to the 'red light' district, and the San Nicolás de los Garza, Guadalupe, and Independencia suburbs. Defer non-business-essential travel to Monterrey's northern and eastern suburbs, which are at higher risk for violent crime.
- **Use Uber, Didi or hotel-arranged taxis only.** Consider using local providers for ground support and protective services for business travellers or higher profile personnel attending matches for security and operational purposes.
- **Ensure personnel prioritise hydration and other measures to protect from heat.** Monterrey runs the hottest temperatures of any tournament city.



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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