

City Report
FIFA World Cup 2026

Philadelphia



Issued
20th May 2026



Philadelphia

Overview

Country	United States of America
Host stadium	Lincoln Financial Field (FIFA tournament-time name: Philadelphia Stadium), South Philadelphia, PA
Distance to Downtown	~5 miles (8 km) south of Center City
Stadium capacity	65,8271
Roof / cover type	Open-air; no roof
Altitude	~12 m (40 ft)
Timezone (June-July 2026)	Eastern Daylight Time (UTC-4)
Official language(s)	English (Spanish widely used; significant Vietnamese, Mandarin, Russian and Haitian Creole communities)
Match count & dates	6 matches: 5 Group Stage (14th–27th June), 1 Round of 16 (4th July)
Primary airport(s)	PHL (Philadelphia International) is the primary gateway; EWR (Newark) and BWI (Baltimore) serve as secondary options nearby
Population (metro)	~6.2 million (Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington metro)

Risk ratings

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

Philadelphia hosts six matches, including the Round of 16 match on 4th July 2026, which is the United States' Sesquicentennial. Federal-event security layered on top of FIFA tournament security creates a uniquely complex operating environment for that single day, with US Secret Service, FBI Philadelphia and the United States Park Police alongside Pennsylvania

State Police. Lincoln Financial Field is located in the South Philadelphia sports complex and has extensive experience with event-day operations. Violent crime risks in Philadelphia are elevated relative to other US host cities and concentrated in specific neighbourhoods, but tourist zones, including Center City, Old City, and University City, are well policed.

Arrival, departure and transportation

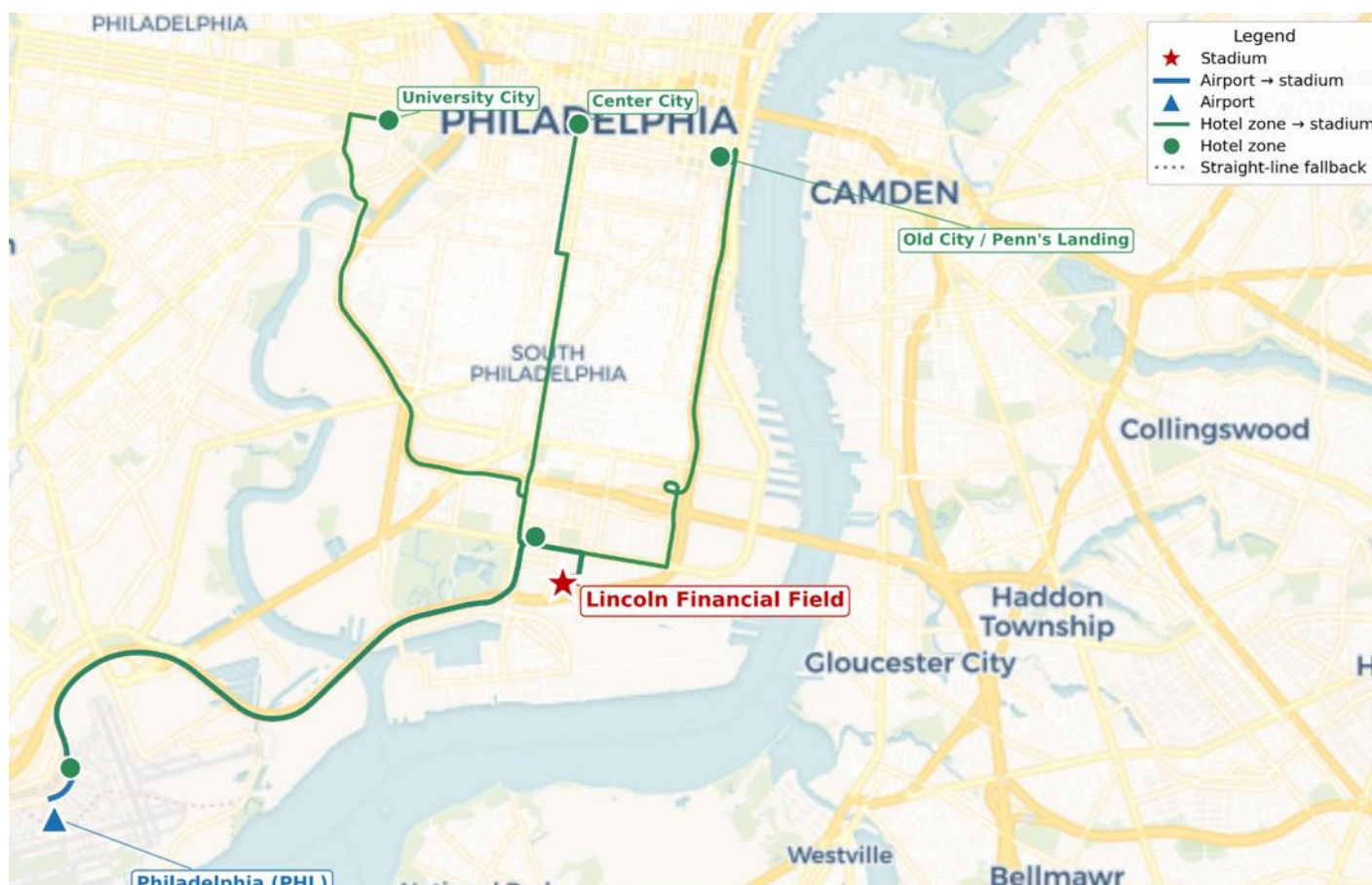
Airports and public transport

PHL (Philadelphia International) is the primary gateway, about 7 miles (12 km) from Center City and 4 miles (6 km) from Lincoln Financial Field. The SEPTA Airport Line connects PHL to 30th Street Station and Center City in roughly 25 minutes. EWR (Newark), located about 85 miles

(137 km) from Philadelphia, and BWI (Baltimore-Washington), located about 105 miles (168km) from Philadelphia, are practical secondary gateways via the Amtrak Northeast Corridor. PHL congestion is moderate by US standards; travellers should allow at least two hours for international departures during the tournament window.

Recommended accommodation zones

Center City is the main accommodation zone in Philadelphia, located 15–25 minutes from the stadium via the SEPTA Broad Street Line. Alternatives include Old City, 20–30 minutes from the venue, and University City near the Penn and Drexel University campuses, 25–40 minutes from the stadium. South Philadelphia, the closest accommodation zone to the sports complex, offers mid-tier hotels 5–15 minutes from Lincoln Financial Field and is the lowest-friction choice for fans attending multiple matches.



Security and medical risks

Crime

Philadelphia's violent-crime rate is among the highest of any US host city and is concentrated in specific neighbourhoods. Violent crime, as well as elevated rates of drug use and homelessness, are most prevalent in the Kensington and Strawberry Mansion neighbourhoods North of Center City. North Philadelphia broadly, and parts of Southwest Philadelphia, have the highest concentration of violent crime risks. Conversely, citywide homicides have fallen sharply from 2025 through early 2026; tourist zones, such as Center City, Old City, University City and the Sports Complex, are well-policed and operationally low-risk. Fishtown, Northern Liberties and South Philly proper are popular nightlife areas with moderate crime profiles. SEPTA Transit Police reported a record 33% annual crime reduction in 2024 and continued declines across seven of eight categories through 2025; nonetheless, late-night exposure remains credible, and the standard advice is to avoid empty subway and Broad Street Line stations after midnight.

Terrorism

Philadelphia maintains an elevated baseline counterterrorism posture as a major historic and federal city. The Round of 16 match on 4th July 2026 coincides with the United States' 250th-anniversary federal event programming, meaning the US Secret Service, the FBI (Philadelphia), the United States Park Police (Independence Hall), and standard FIFA tournament security will operate as a single-layered envelope. Visitors should expect exceptionally heavy security around Independence Mall, the Liberty Bell and the stadium throughout that day.

Unrest

Philadelphia has an average unrest risk commensurate with the United States, with notable flashpoints around City Hall, Independence Mall and the federal building. The risk of large-scale unrest is low overall, with one notable elevated-watch period: federal-event-related demonstrations on or near 4th July around historic district landmarks is liable to result in demonstrations and associated road closures with limited lead time.

Natural disaster

Philadelphia experiences heat, severe thunderstorms and limited flooding. Hurricane and tropical-storm exposure is possible as remnants, but direct hits during the tournament window are unlikely. The Schuylkill and Delaware rivers have a history of flooding, which can affect riverine areas, but the South Philadelphia sports complex sits well above the floodplain, and matchdays at the stadium carry minimal flood risk.

Heat

Philadelphia averages a high of about 80°F (27°C) in June, rising to 88°F (31°C) in July, with relative humidity routinely 67–74%. Heat waves regularly push daytime temperatures into the mid-90s°F (35°C) and apparent temperatures into the high 90s°F (35°C). Lincoln Financial Field is open-air with limited shade, so the risk of heat-related illnesses is highest during afternoon kickoffs.



Stadium and matchday

Match schedule

Date	Match	Stage	Kickoff (local)
14 th June	Côte d'Ivoire - Ecuador	Group E	19h00
19 th June	Brazil - Haiti	Group C	20h30
22 nd June	France - Iraq	Group I	17h00
25 th June	Curaçao - Côte d'Ivoire	Group E	16h00
27 th June	Croatia - Ghana	Group L	17h00
4 th July	Winner of Match 74 - Winner of Match 77	Round of 16	17h00

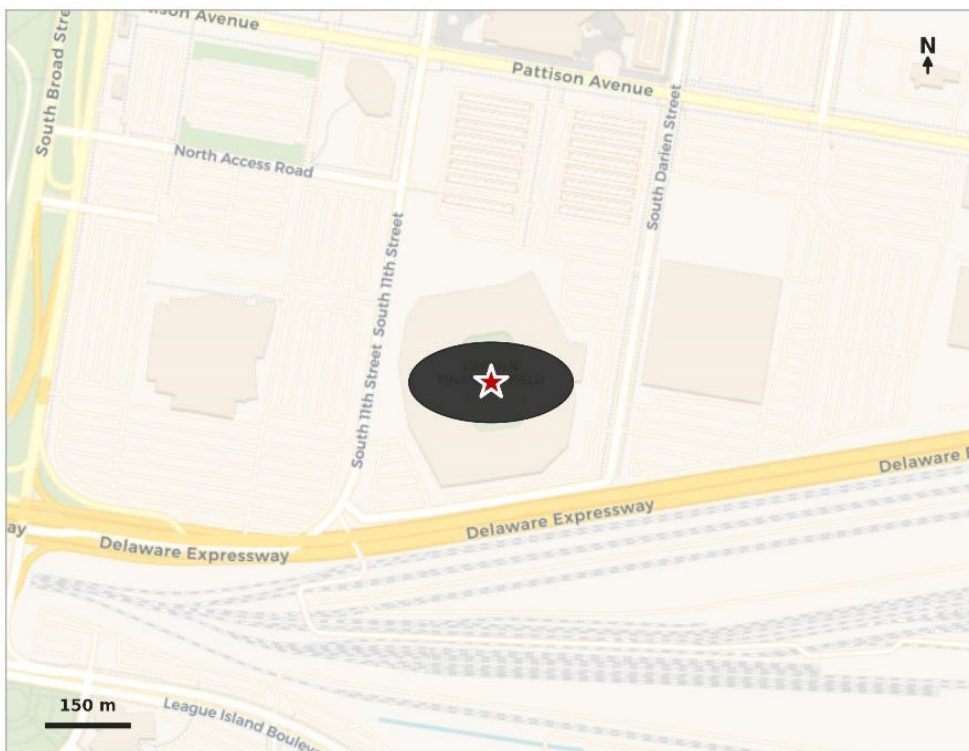
Public transport and transportation to the stadium

Lincoln Financial Field sits in the South Philadelphia sports complex alongside Citizens Bank Park and Xfinity Mobile Arena, connected to Center City by SEPTA's Broad Street Line via NRG Station, and is a short walk. Driving routes converge on I-95 and the Walt Whitman Bridge from New Jersey. Stadium parking is plentiful for the sports complex, but pre-purchase is required for tournament fixtures. Rideshare drop-off operates from designated lots; Uber and Lyft surge during major events at the complex, routinely hitting three to four times normal demand. The Round of 16 on 4th July will run the largest perimeter footprint of any Philadelphia match, alongside a general citywide heightened security posture.



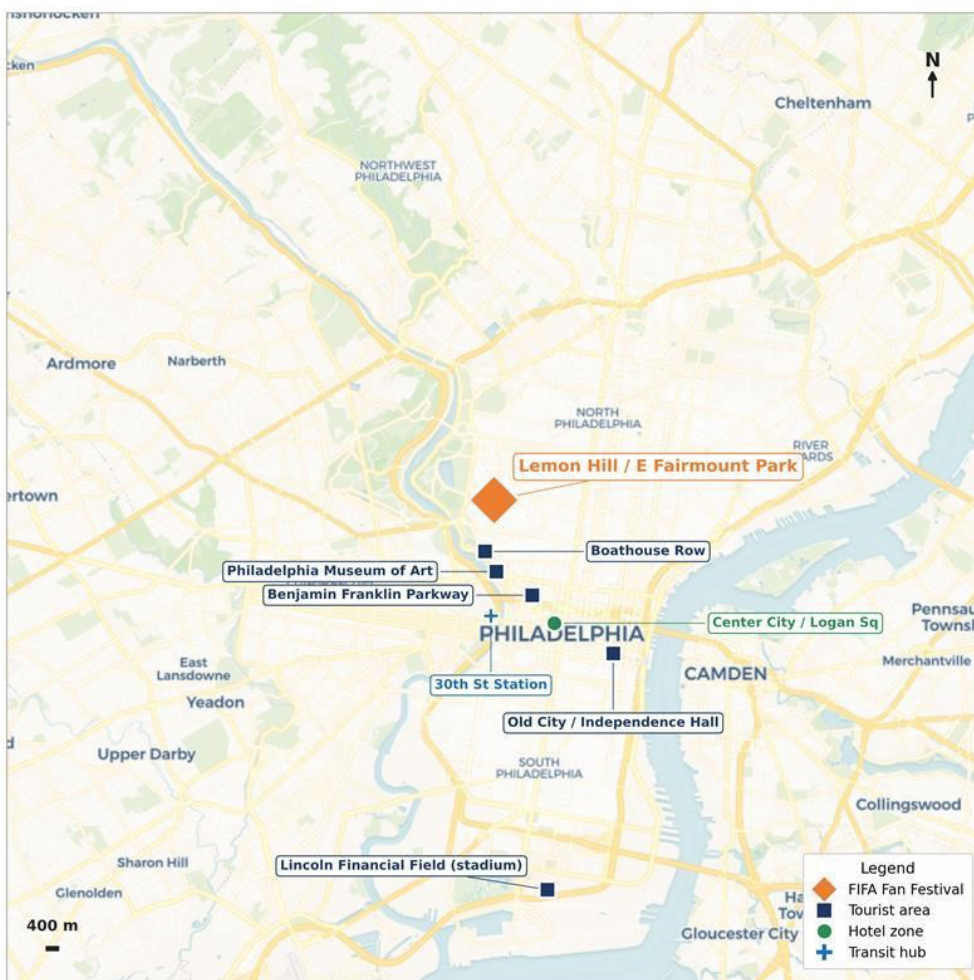
Entry/gates into the stadium

Per FIFA standard policy for the 2026 World Cup, Lincoln Financial Field gates are expected to open two hours before kickoff. A FIFA-standard clear-bag policy is enforced (maximum 12" x 6" x 12" / 30.5cm x 16cm x 30.5cm), and bag checks are not offered at Lincoln Financial Field, 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. On 4th July, the additional federal event security layer is highly likely to extend the screening perimeter beyond that of other matches.



Fanzones

The official FIFA Fan Festival is at Lemon Hill in East Fairmount Park, running from 11th June to 19th July 2026, which is free with mandatory online registration. Philadelphia is the only US host city operating its Fan Festival for all 39 days of the tournament. The 4th of July federal Sesquicentennial programming around Independence Mall is geographically separate but will compound downtown transportation pressure; visitors should expect compounded screening perimeters and longer wait times that day. Each official fan zone operates its own screening perimeter.



Match risk rating

Match	Date and Kickoff (All Times Local)	Match Risk Rating
Côte d'Ivoire – Ecuador	14th June 18h00	LOW
<p>This match is assessed as LOW risk due to likely high fan turnout and associated fan disruption in Philadelphia. Precedent from past World Cups indicates that Ecuador's fanbase is likely to be moderately-sized; however, the north-east of the United States is home to the vast majority of the country's Ecuadorian population, increasing the likelihood of a large fan turnout at the match. Clashes between the two fanbases have a remote chance of occurring, though there is a risk of disruption from fan gatherings near Lincoln Financial Field and in public areas of Downtown Philadelphia, such as City Hall, Washington Square, and Independence Square. Travel disruption on matchdays is highly likely to affect major North-South routes such as I-95, I-76 and Broad Street, as well as transit routes such as the Broad Street Subway and the 17 and 68 bus routes.</p>		
Brazil – Haiti	19th June 20h30	HIGH
<p>This match is assessed as HIGH risk due to elevated fan turnout and disruption in Philadelphia, as well as 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 Philadelphia in the lead-up to the match, while still unlikely, cannot be ruled out. Should immigration operations occur, this is liable to trigger protests by local residents, particularly given Philadelphia's liberal political environment. Precedent from past World Cups and the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup indicates that Brazil fans are highly likely to travel in large numbers to Philadelphia for the match. Clashes between the two fanbases have a remote chance of occurring, though disruption from fan gatherings near Lincoln Financial Field and in public areas of Downtown Philadelphia, such as City Hall, Washington Square, and Independence Square, remains a credible risk. Travel disruption on matchdays is highly likely to affect major North-South routes such as I-95, I-76 and Broad Street, as well as transit routes such as the Broad Street Subway and the 17 and 68 bus routes.</p>		
France – Iraq	22nd June 17h00	MINIMAL
Curaçao – Côte d'Ivoire	25th June 16h00	MINIMAL
Croatia – Ghana	27th June 17h00	LOW
<p>This match is assessed as LOW risk due to elevated fan turnout and associated risks of disruption in Philadelphia. Croatia is likely to have a large number of fans travelling to Philadelphia for the match, with precedent from incidents at past World Cups and European Championships indicating that this match poses an elevated risk of fan unrest due to the presence of ultras in the Croatian fanbase. Additionally, Philadelphia is located in close proximity to New York City and Washington DC, the two cities with the largest Ghanaian diasporas in the United States, increasing the likelihood of a moderate or large turnout among Ghana fans. While large-scale clashes between the two fanbases are unlikely to be recorded, isolated instances of violence, as well as fan disorder near the stadium and in public venues in Philadelphia, should be accounted for by travelling fans. Disruption from fan gatherings near Lincoln Financial Field and in public areas of Downtown Philadelphia, such as City Hall, Washington Square, and Independence Square, also remains a credible risk on MD-1 and matchday. Travel disruption on matchdays is highly likely to affect major North-South routes such as I-95, I-76 and Broad Street, as well as transit routes such as the Broad Street Subway and the 17 and 68 bus routes.</p>		

Match risk rating

Match	Date and Kickoff (All Times Local)	Match Risk Rating
Round of 16	4th July 17h00	<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. Disruption from fan gatherings near Lincoln Financial Field and in public areas of Downtown Philadelphia, such as City Hall, Washington Square, and Independence Square, also remains a credible risk on MD-1 and matchday. Travel disruption on matchdays is highly likely to affect major North-South routes such as I-95, I-76 and Broad Street, as well as transit routes such as the Broad Street Subway and the 17 and 68 bus routes.</p>		



Business as usual operations

Demand surges around match days, with the Round of 16 on 4th July being the dominant pressure point. I-95 and the Walt Whitman Bridge are highly likely to be saturated for four to six hours before and after kickoff. Center City hotels are highly likely to see elevated rates on the 4th of July weekend due to the concurrent FIFA and Sesquicentennial events. Compounded road closures around Independence Mall are almost certain on that day. The most affected sectors include pharmaceuticals, financial services, asset management, academic medicine, and tourism.

Recommendations for businesses and organisations

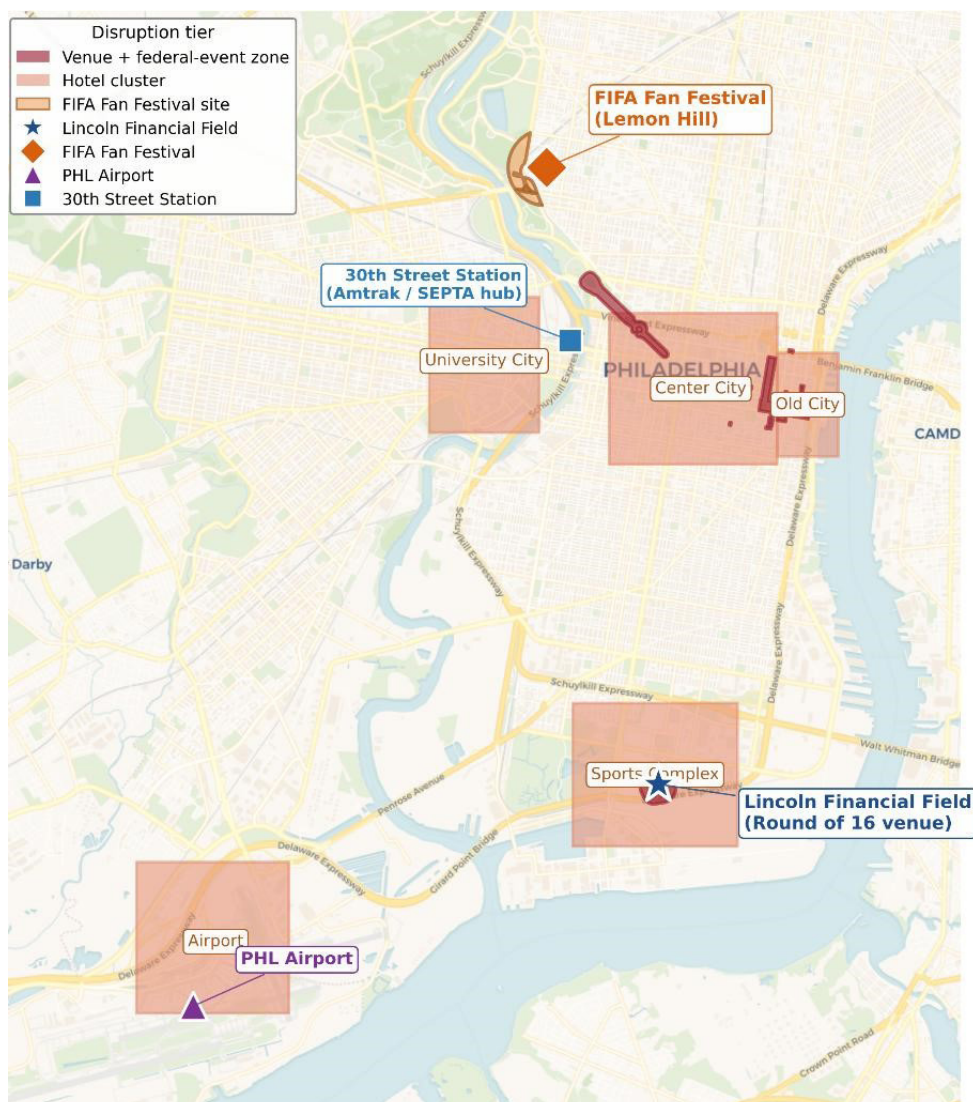
- Ensure business operations account for a closed long weekend from 3rd-5th July; federal courts, Independence NHP and Center City will be under expanded security alongside FIFA operations. Major office activity should be scheduled away from those dates.
- Activate remote-work options for staff commuting via 30th Street Station, the Broad Street Line south to the Sports Complex, or

I-95 and I-76. These corridors are saturated for four hours pre- and post-each kickoff.

- Pre-book accommodation immediately — Round of 16 weekend inventory in Center City and Old City is effectively gone, and pricing on remaining stock is exceptional.
- Brief marketing and legal teams on FIFA-marks restrictions: ambush-marketing scrutiny is highly likely near fanzones and tourist sites.

Recommendations for residents

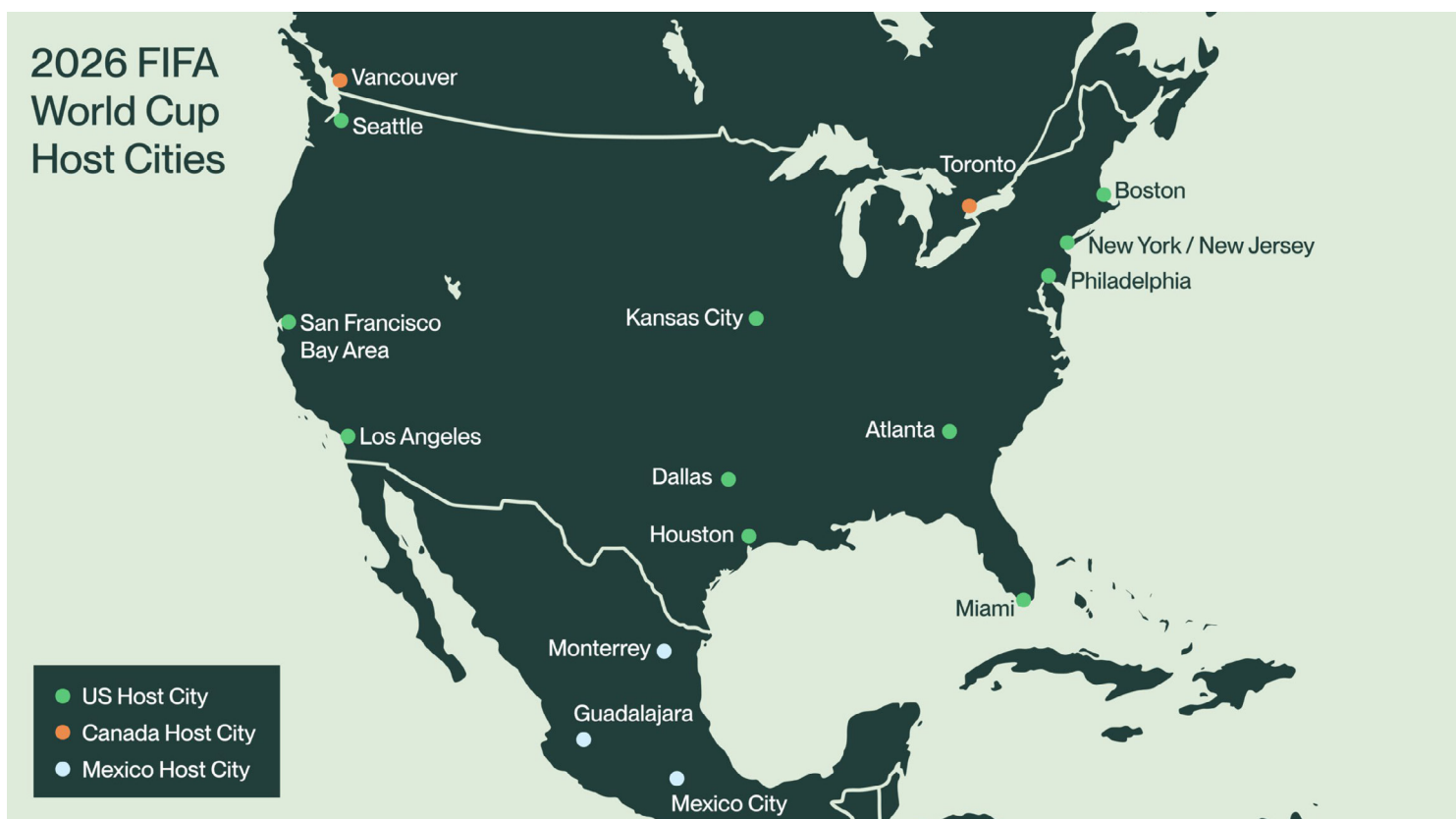
- Plan errands and medical appointments away from match-day afternoons, particularly 4th July.
- Sign up for ReadyPhiladelphia to stay apprised of security, operational and weather developments.
- Independence Mall area residents should expect extended security perimeters across the 4th July weekend; build extra time into any non-discretionary travel.



Multi city travel

Philadelphia sits in FIFA's Eastern cluster with New York/New Jersey, Boston, Toronto and Miami. The Amtrak Northeast Corridor puts New York City about an hour and three-quarters away and Boston about five hours. Toronto is a one-and-a-half-hour flight, and Miami is about three hours. Travellers entering Canada need a passport; visa-

exempt nationals flying in need a Canadian eTA before boarding, while visa-required 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

Philadelphia’s defining tournament-window risk is the Round of 16 match on 4th July 2026 — the United States’ 250th anniversary (Sesquicentennial) and the city’s biggest civic day in 50 years. Four major events stack on top of each other in a single 24-hour window, including the FIFA Round of 16 at Lincoln Financial Field in the South Philadelphia sports complex; the federal Sesquicentennial

programming centred on Independence National Historical Park, including the Independence Hall, Liberty Bell Center and the National Constitution Center), the annual Wawa Welcome America Independence Day concert and fireworks at Eakins Oval / the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the FIFA Fan Festival continuing at Lemon Hill in East Fairmount Park.

Each event runs its own screening perimeter, and the combined security posture includes the US Secret Service, FBI Philadelphia, United States Park Police, Pennsylvania State Police, Philadelphia PD, SEPTA Transit Police and the venue security apparatus across the city for the day. Centre City, where most accommodations sit, is the compound-impact zone, squeezed between the federal core around Independence Mall and the fireworks corridor along the Parkway.

Travellers and residents should account for demand surges on the Broad Street Line and Market-Frankford Lines, as well as disruption on the Parkway corridor and along Broad Street through to the Sports Complex; I-95 and the Walt Whitman Bridge are highly likely to saturate four to six hours before and after kickoff; Center City hotel pricing across the 4th July weekend will be significantly elevated and federal road closures around Independence Mall and the Parkway will compound FIFA perimeter closures around Lincoln Financial Field. Demonstrations linked to the 250th anniversary are likely to be centred on the federal core; travellers and residents should build a buffer for potentially extended USSS perimeters at short notice.



General advice

- **During major events, plan journeys avoiding common protest flashpoints.** Independence Mall, City Hall and the federal building are likely to experience significant traffic disruption during prolonged demonstrations, particularly around 4th July.
- **Pedestrian travel is advisable across Center City, Old City, University City and the Sports Complex before nightfall as long as basic security precautions are followed.** Exercise increased caution in parts of North Philadelphia, Kensington, Strawberry Mansion and parts of Southwest Philadelphia, and minimise non-essential movement during hours of darkness in these areas.
- **Vehicle break-ins and snatch theft are the most common petty crimes affecting visitors.** Refrain from leaving 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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