

City Report
FIFA World Cup 2026

Vancouver

Issued
20th May 2026





Vancouver

Overview

Country	Canada
Host stadium	BC Place (FIFA tournament-time name: Vancouver Stadium), 777 Pacific Blvd, Vancouver, BC
Distance to Downtown	Located in Downtown Vancouver, within walking distance of most central hotels
Stadium capacity	48,821
Roof / cover type	Retractable cable-supported roof; can be closed in inclement weather; not climate-controlled when closed
Altitude	~5 m (16 ft)
Timezone (June-July 2026)	Pacific Daylight Time (UTC-7)
Official language(s)	English (significant Mandarin, Cantonese, Punjabi, Tagalog and Korean communities; French is co-official federally)
Match count & dates	7 matches: 5 Group Stage (13th–26th June, including Canada vs Qatar on 18th June and Switzerland vs Canada on 24th June), 1 R32 (2nd July), 1 R16 (7th July)
Primary airport(s)	YVR (Vancouver International); YXX (Abbotsford), and BLI (Bellingham, USA) serve as secondary options
Population (metro)	~2.7 million (Metro Vancouver Regional District)

Risk ratings

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

Vancouver is one of the lowest-risk tournament cities. BC Place is located Downtown and has extensive experience hosting events and excellent transit access via TransLink's SkyTrain. Vancouver's primary tournament-window exposures are wildfire smoke, which can degrade air quality across the region, and the

Cascadia subduction zone seismic risk. Vancouver hosts seven matches at BC Place. Border crossings pose operational challenges for inbound US fans, and Canada's two home matches on 18th and 24th June are likely to see a significant surge in demand and disruption.

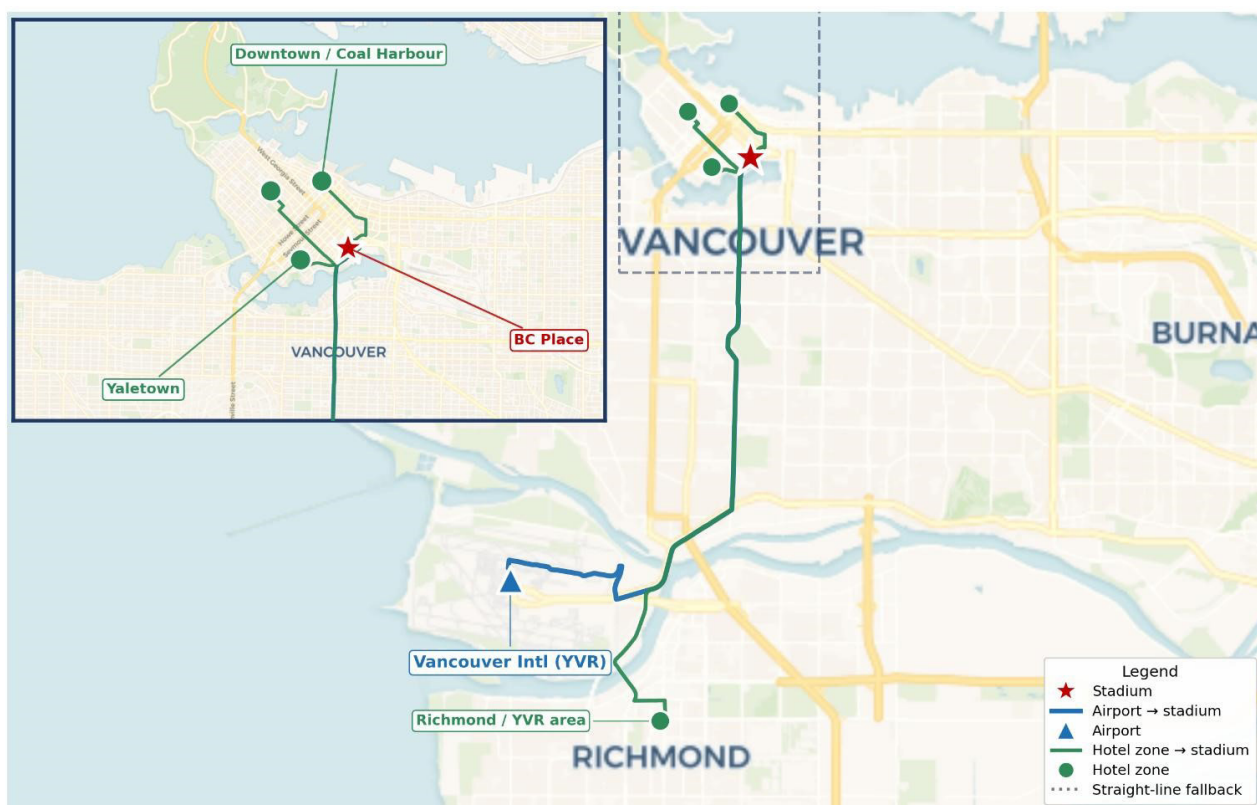
Arrival, departure and transportation

Airports and public transport

YVR (Vancouver International) is the dominant gateway, about 9 miles (15 km) south of downtown. The Canada Line SkyTrain connects YVR to Waterfront Station in downtown Vancouver in about 30 minutes. YXX (Abbotsford International), located about 42 miles (68km) from downtown Vancouver, handles regional flights. BLI (Bellingham, WA) is a small airport just south of the US border, located about 51 miles (83 km) south of the border; the border crossing is likely to add about 60 to 90 minutes. NEXUS and Mobile Passport Control materially reduce wait times at YVR.

Recommended accommodation zones

Downtown Vancouver and Coal Harbour offer walking-distance access to BC Place, while Yaletown sits immediately adjacent to the stadium. The YVR area also contains a hotel zone accessible via Skytrain. All four zones are well-policed and the lowest-friction option for fans attending multiple matches.



Security and medical risks

Crime

Vancouver consistently ranks among the safer large North American cities. Violent crime is concentrated in the Downtown Eastside (DTES), a zone immediately east of Gastown and Chinatown with a high concentration of homelessness and drug use. Tourist zones (downtown, Yaletown, Stanley Park, Granville Island) are well-policed and operationally low risk. Travellers should avoid the DTES at night and should exercise heightened vigilance if walking near BC Place given the stadium's relative proximity to the area. Vehicle break-ins are documented but materially lower than in major US cities. A separate consideration is the legacy of the 26 April 2025 Lapu-Lapu Day vehicle-ramming attack at a Filipino heritage festival on East 43rd Avenue, which resulted in eleven deaths and 32 injuries. VPD and BC event organisers have materially expanded vehicle-mitigation perimeter and crowd-control resourcing for outdoor mass-gathering events since then, including the Fan Festival and matchday operations.

Terrorism

Canada's threat environment is assessed as medium by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). The Vancouver Police Department, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), CSIS, Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), and Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams (INSET) coordinate regional security, with publicly announced mutual-aid contingents from police departments at the regional and federal levels. Roughly 200 temporary CCTV cameras are being installed across BC Place, the FIFA Fan Festival site at the PNE, and training venues as a requirement of the FIFA tournament security. A 2-km controlled-security radius will be activated around BC Place on matchdays and MD-1; the FIFA Fan Festival at Hastings Park operates a tighter 100m perimeter around its activation footprint. Visitors should expect visible security at YVR, the Vancouver Convention Centre and the BC Place perimeter throughout the tournament window.

Unrest

Vancouver has an active demonstration culture concentrated around the Art Gallery at Robson Square, the US Consulate and Indigenous-rights events. The unrest risk is low during the tournament; any demonstrations are likely to be peaceful and well managed by the Vancouver Police.

Natural disaster

Vancouver is exposed to wildfire smoke, as interior British Columbia fires routinely result in smoke across the region. The Cascadia subduction zone earthquake, which has a low probability but would be of high consequence, poses a latent natural disaster risk; while most new buildings in Vancouver are seismically upgraded, major disruption would be almost certain.

Heat

Vancouver's June and July baseline is mild, with average highs of 70–74°F (21–23°C). Heat waves have been documented; the 2021 Pacific Northwest heat dome set Metro Vancouver's highest temperatures in past years of 41.4°C (121.3°F) in inland suburbs, and the BC Coroners Service confirmed 619 heat-related deaths across the province between 25th June and 12th July 2021. While such events are rare; travellers and organisations should ensure contingency plans for high temperatures. BC Place's retractable roof can close in extreme heat, but the venue is not climate controlled.



Stadium and matchday

Match schedule

Date	Match	Stage	Kickoff (local)
13 th June	Australia - Turkey	Group D	21h00
18 th June	Canada - Qatar	Group B	15h00
21 st June	New Zealand - Egypt	Group G	18h00
24 th June	Switzerland - Canada	Group B	12h00
26 th June	New Zealand - Belgium	Group G	20h00
2 nd July	Winner of Group B - 3rd E/F/G/I/J	Round of 32	20h00
7 th July	Winner of Match 85 - Winner of Match 87	Round of 16	13h00

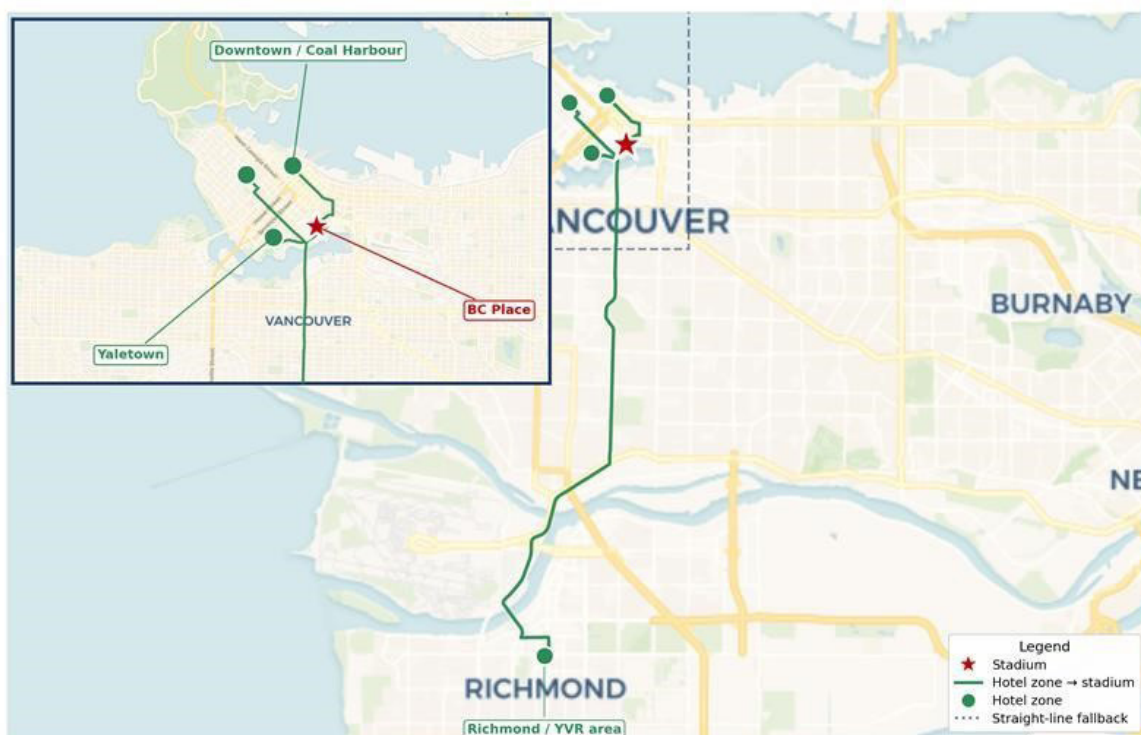
Public transport and transportation to the stadium

BC Place sits downtown and is served by TransLink SkyTrain; on match days, TransLink has confirmed that pedestrian access to BC Place from Stadium-Chinatown Station is closed, with all transit-borne fans directed to Main Street-Science World Station, one stop east on the Expo and Millennium Lines. From YVR, the SkyTrain is the

recommended option, with walking or Skytrain preferred from Downtown Vancouver; BC Place has one of the best transit integration profiles among tournament venues.

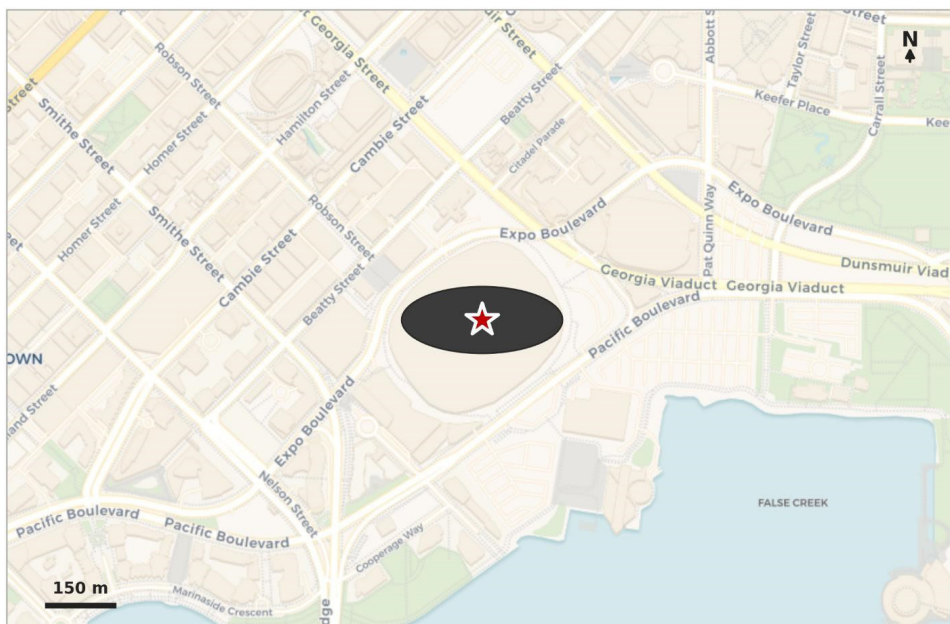
Driving routes are limited, and parking is constrained; consider pre-purchasing or using rideshare. Pacific Boulevard will be closed between the Cambie Street Bridge off-ramp and Carrall Street from 23 May through the end of July to expand the stadium

footprint, and Granville Street between Georgia Street and Davie Street is fully closed to vehicle traffic from 11th June until 20th July. Smithe, Beatty and Expo Boulevard will also receive match-day closures. The retractable roof typically closes for matches in inclement weather. Vancouver Police and the RCMP close the inner perimeter to non-credentialed vehicles four hours before kickoff.



Entry/gates into the stadium

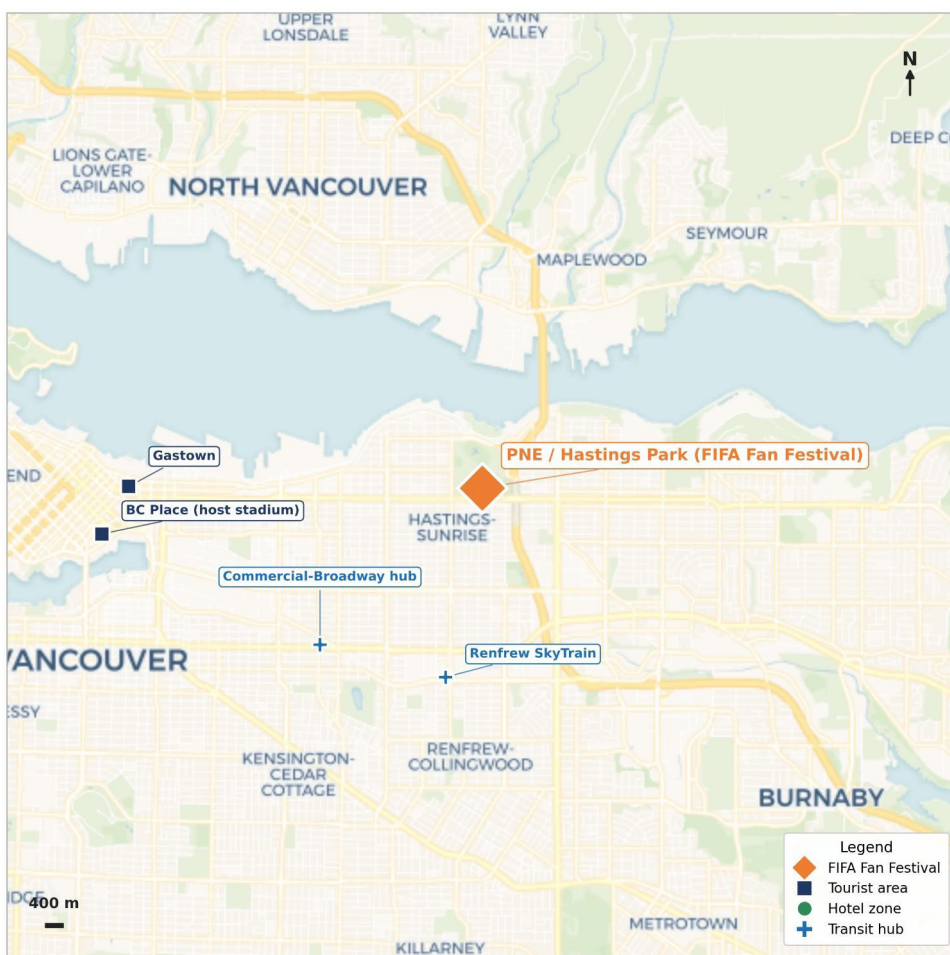
BC Place gates open three hours before kickoff for FIFA WC matches. The FIFA-standard clear-bag policy is enforced, including clear bags up to 12" x 6" x 12" (about 30 cm x 15 cm x 30 cm) or a onegallon Ziploc, plus a small clutch up to 4.5" x 6.5" (≈11 cm x 17 cm); there is no bag check or storage onsite. 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 at the PNE (Pacific National Exhibition) grounds at Hastings Park, running from 11th June to 19th July 2026, with free public access. The site has a daily capacity of approximately 25,000 fans and features a new 10,000-capacity open-air Amphitheatre that hosts live match screenings and supporting cultural programming. Jack Poole Plaza and the Vancouver Convention Centre may host selected major-match screenings and ancillary activations, but are not the official Fan Festival site. Each official fan zone operates its own screening perimeter.

Although the Fan Festival is at the PNE rather than downtown, BC Place and most accommodation zones are within walking distance of each other; fan-flow congestion will concentrate on the Pacific Boulevard / Beatty Street corridor on match days.



Match risk rating

Match	Date and Kickoff (All Times Local)	Match Risk Rating
Australia – Turkey	13th June 21h00	LOW
<p>This match is assessed at LOW risk due to high fan turnout and the low but latent risk of fan unrest. Turkish and Australian fans are likely to travel to Vancouver in large numbers for the match; disruption from fan gatherings in public spaces in Downtown Vancouver, such as Robson Square and Jack Poole Plaza, is likely to be recorded. While clashes between the two fanbases are highly unlikely, fan unrest and associated disruption before the match cannot be ruled out due to the evening kickoff and the significant ultras element within the Turkish fanbase. Disruption is almost certain to be recorded throughout Downtown Vancouver, as well as on key transit routes like the Expo and Canada Line SkyTrains and the R5 bus line; disruption in Downtown Vancouver is likely to be exacerbated by the area's compact geography and lack of highways.</p>		
Canada – Qatar	18th June 15h00	MODERATE
<p>This match is assessed as MODERATE risk due to the participation of a host nation. Canada fans are likely to travel in large numbers to the fanzone and to restaurants and bars in the city centre to watch the match, increasing the risk of disruption throughout Downtown Vancouver, and on key transit routes like the Expo and Canada Line SkyTrains and the R5 bus line; disruption in Downtown Vancouver is likely to be exacerbated by the area's compact geography and lack of highways. Fan gatherings are liable to be held in public spaces in Downtown Vancouver, such as Robson Square and Jack Poole Plaza. Clashes between the two fanbases have a remote chance of occurring.</p>		
New Zealand – Egypt	21st June 18h00	LOW
<p>This match is assessed as LOW risk due to the likelihood of elevated fan turnout and associated disruption in Vancouver. Egypt is designated by FIFA as one of the countries with an elevated-risk fanbase due to its significant size and the influence of ultras within it. Fan gatherings are liable to be held in public spaces in Downtown Vancouver, such as Robson Square and Jack Poole Plaza. Disruption is almost certain to be recorded throughout Downtown Vancouver, as well as on key transit routes like the Expo and Canada Line SkyTrains and the R5 bus line; disruption in Downtown Vancouver is likely to be exacerbated by the area's compact geography and lack of highways.</p>		
Switzerland – Canada	24th June 12h00	MODERATE
<p>This match is assessed as MODERATE risk due to the participation of a host nation. Canada fans are likely to travel in large numbers to the fanzone and to restaurants and bars in the city centre to watch the match, increasing the risk of disruption throughout Downtown Vancouver and on key transit routes like the Expo and Canada Line SkyTrain lines and the R5 bus line. Disruption in Downtown Vancouver is likely to be exacerbated by the area's compact geography and lack of highways. Fan gatherings are liable to be held in public spaces in Downtown Vancouver, such as Robson Square and Jack Poole Plaza. Clashes between the two fanbases have a remote chance of occurring, though Switzerland fans are likely to travel in moderate numbers to Vancouver, adding to the likelihood of disruption in public gathering areas and on transit lines in the lead-up to the matchday.</p>		
New Zealand – Belgium	26th June 20h00	MINIMAL

Match risk rating

Match	Date and Kickoff (All Times Local)	Match Risk Rating
Round of 32	2 nd July 20h00	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. Disruption is almost certain to be recorded throughout Downtown Vancouver, as well as on key transit routes like the Expo and Canada Line SkyTrains and the R5 bus line; disruption in Downtown Vancouver is likely to be exacerbated by the area's compact geography and lack of highways.</p>		
Round of 16	7th July 13h00	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. Disruption is almost certain to be recorded throughout Downtown Vancouver, as well as on key transit routes like the Expo and Canada Line SkyTrains and the R5 bus line; disruption in Downtown Vancouver is likely to be exacerbated by the area's compact geography and lack of highways.</p>		



Business as usual operations

Demand surges around match days for transportation, medical infrastructure and accommodation are almost certain, with significant crowds likely on SkyTrains and buses. Canada's two home matches on 18th and 24th June will be the most disruptive to operations in Downtown. Border crossings at Peace Arch, Pacific Highway and Aldergrove will spike on US-fan inbound days. BC Place is downtown, adjacent to Yaletown and the Plaza of Nations, so direct disruption to the central business district is high on match days. The most affected sectors include film and TV production, tech, mining and resource HQs, cruise terminal operations, and tourism.

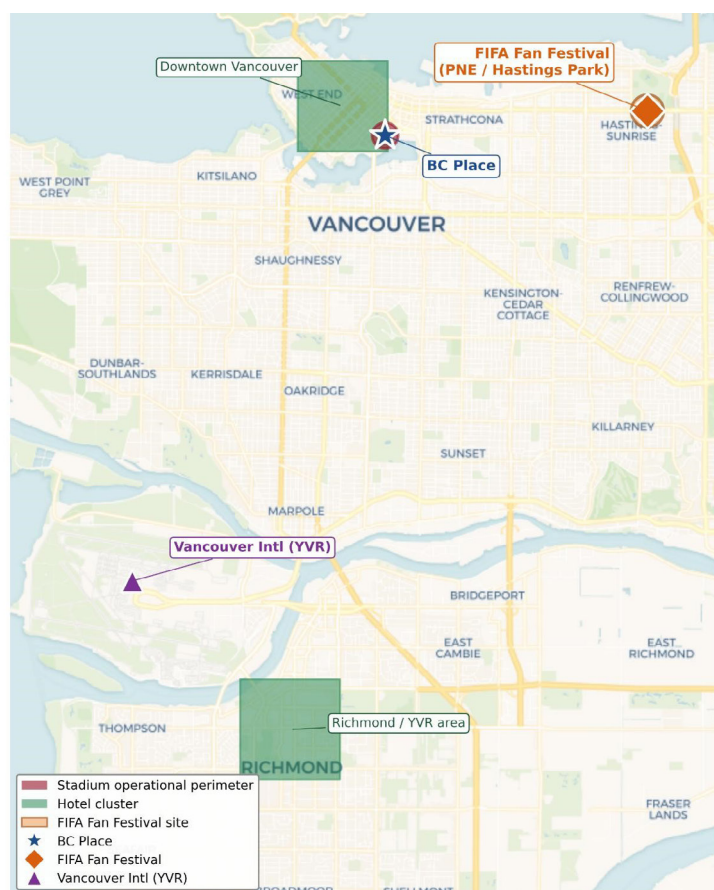
Recommendations for businesses and organisations

- Consider implementing remote-work options for staff commuting through downtown corridors. Match days at BC Place close adjacent surface streets (Pacific Boulevard, Smithe, Beatty, Expo). The SkyTrain Stadium-Chinatown station is the recommended transit option, and BC Place's transit integration profile is excellent.
- Pre-book hotel blocks for visiting staff well ahead. Downtown, Coal Harbour, Yaletown and Robson are the primary zones; Richmond and YVR offer the cheapest tier. Canada's home matches on 18th and 24th June will almost certainly have the highest demand surge.

- Cruise-terminal logistics: Canada Place sits about 0.6 miles (1 km) from BC Place, so match days will see security perimeter expansion that affects pier-area pedestrian flow. Coordinate with cruise lines on passenger embarkation timing.
- Film and TV productions with downtown shoots scheduled during match days should plan around four to six hours of pre- and post-match traffic. Permit-side coordination with Vancouver Police should already be underway for shoot dates within the tournament window.
- Maintain a wildfire-smoke contingency throughout the tournament. Interior BC fire season can push downtown AQI above 100 with little warning. For US-bound supply chains, build a bordercrossing buffer (Peace Arch, Pacific Highway) into your tournament-week schedule.

Recommendations for residents

- Plan errands and medical appointments away from match-day afternoons, particularly Canada's home matches on 18th and 24th June.
- Sign up for AlertReady (federal) and Metro Vancouver Notify for official emergency notifications, and refresh earthquake-preparedness kits, a major earthquake along the Cascadia subduction zone is the dominant low-probability, high-consequence Pacific Northwest hazard.
- Stock N95 masks for wildfire-smoke episodes, as fires from Central BC can degrade Vancouver air quality at short notice during the tournament window.



Multi city travel

Vancouver sits in FIFA's Western cluster with Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Guadalajara. Seattle is a three-hour drive (or a one-hour flight) with a border crossing. San Francisco is about two and a half hours by air, Los Angeles about three hours, and Toronto about five hours. Cross-border travel to US host cities

requires a passport for all nationals and, depending on nationality, either an ESTA or a visa. 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

Vancouver’s defining tournament-window city-specific risk for visitors moving between accommodation, the venue and the Fan Festival is the city’s unsheltered population concentration, which is among the most visible in Canada. The 2023 Metro Vancouver Greater Vancouver Homeless Count recorded 4,821 people experiencing homelessness on a single night region-wide, with 2,420 in the City of Vancouver. The city’s own unsheltered counts in 2024 and 2025 have shown an increase in the number of unhoused persons. The concentration is geographically narrow but operationally significant for the tournament, as the affected zones lie directly between BC Place and the FIFA Fan Festival at PNE/Hastings Park.

The highest-impact zone is the Downtown Eastside (DTES) core around the Hastings & Main intersection, consisting of the blocks between Carrall and Heatley, which remains the historic centre of

Vancouver’s unsheltered population. The April 2023 enforcement action that decamped the East Hastings tent encampment dispersed but did not eliminate street-level activity in this corridor, and follow-on enforcement at Oppenheimer Park and CRAB Park has continued.

The other high-impact zone is the downtown Granville Street entertainment district, where documented street disorder is concentrated along the Granville strip between Smith and Hastings. Moderate-impact adjacent zones include Gastown, Chinatown, and Strathcona-Oppenheimer Park (south of Hastings), plus the East Hastings corridor itself extending east from the DTES core toward Nanaimo Street. This corridor runs uninterrupted from the DTES out toward the PNE Fan Festival site, so fans travelling east along Hastings Street will pass through visible homelessness activity for roughly the first half of the route. Key operational implications for

travellers include bypassing East Hastings between Main and Clark on foot, particularly after dark; the SkyTrain Expo/Millennium Line to Renfrew or Commercial-Broadway, followed by the 14/16 bus to the PNE, is materially safer and faster than walking the corridor.

Personal-safety incident rates for non-resident pedestrians remain meaningfully lower than the visible concentration would suggest, but visitors should expect frequent panhandling, visible substance use, and street disorder. The Vancouver Police Department maintains an elevated DTES patrol presence and has entertainment district, and at SkyTrain stations on the eastern downtown/DTES boundary. committed additional tournament-window deployment along the Hastings corridor, the Granville entertainment district, and at SkyTrain stations on the eastern downtown/DTES boundary.



General advice

- **During major events, plan journeys avoiding common protest flashpoints.** The Art Gallery at Robson Square, the US Consulate and Indigenous-rights gathering points are the most likely locations for organised demonstrations.
- **Pedestrian travel is advisable across virtually all of downtown Vancouver, Yaletown, Stanley Park, Granville Island and Gastown before nightfall as long as basic security precautions are followed.** Bypass the DTES, particularly during evening hours, and familiarise yourself with lower-risk pedestrian routes near BC Place.
- **Exercise increased caution in high footfall areas due to reports of opportunistic crime at Pacific Central Station, Granville Public Market and along East Hastings.** Do not leave bags or personal belongings unattended at any time.
- **Pack a light rain layer, as Vancouver in June and July can produce variable rain, and an N95 mask in case of wildfire-smoke episodes.** The retractable roof at BC Place will close for inclement weather, but the venue is not climate-controlled when closed.



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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