



ALERT:24

Mexico and the 2026 FIFA World Cup

Traveler and stakeholder security
insights



A global opportunity for Mexico

The [2026 FIFA World Cup](#), the largest World Cup ever staged, represents a landmark moment for Mexico as it becomes the first country to host the event three times. The tournament will offer an unparalleled opportunity to showcase the country's culture and hospitality to a global audience with [Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey](#) expected to welcome over [5.5 million visitors](#), generating economic activity, tourism growth and international visibility on a substantial level.

Mexico City, in particular, has extensive experience hosting high-profile international events, including over a decade of Formula 1 Grand Prix races – among the most highly attended globally – as well as major sporting tournaments, global concert tours and cultural events. Guadalajara similarly hosts major cultural and international events, including the International Book Fair and large-scale concerts, alongside strong tourism linked to the tequila industry, while Monterrey – as Mexico's industrial capital – is well accustomed to international business travel and associated infrastructure.

For organizations, sponsors and travelers alike, the World Cup will be defined first and foremost by excitement, celebration and global attention. As with any major international event, however, the scale and visibility of the games also introduce additional complexity. Recent confrontations between the Mexican government and regional criminal organizations, as well as heightened movement of people, predictable crowd concentrations, and global media scrutiny, mean that organizations sending employees, partners or clients to Mexico should remain attentive to the evolving security environment, without losing sight of the extraordinary opportunity the tournament represents.

Recent developments and why they matter

In late February 2026, Mexican security forces conducted a [high-profile operation](#) against the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), resulting in the death of its leader, Nemesio “El Mencho” Oseguera Cervantes. The subsequent short term, multi-state retaliation by the CJNG, as well as an extensive online

propaganda campaign, underscored how quickly security incidents in Mexico can escalate and generate disruption, particularly to transportation and mobility.

Despite initial impacts being limited in duration, the response highlighted the capability of organized criminal groups in creating extensive disruption in a short period of time through the use of widespread attacks as well as the dispersal of false information,





including images and videos, to increase panic. However, the events also demonstrated the speed with which Mexican authorities are able to mobilize security resources in order to stabilize the situation.

To this effect, the incident [has sharpened scrutiny](#) of Mexico's security posture in the lead-up to the World Cup. Media, organizers, and supporting organizations have become increasingly focused on how existing security frameworks will operate under the pressures of a global, high-density event. This heightened attention is likely to persist throughout the tournament and remains front-of-mind for organizations and travelers planning to be in Mexico during this period.

Security dynamics during the World Cup

Expectations around security for the World Cup will reflect two overlapping realities. First, Mexico will apply many of the same measures seen at large-scale sporting events globally: enhanced policing, controlled access to venues and fan zones, and visible security around key transport hubs. Second, these measures will operate within a broader national context where organized crime activity remains an enduring feature of the risk landscape.

Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey are also major urban centers with complex security profiles. During the Games, official venues, fan zones and primary transport corridors will benefit from [heightened security coverage](#). Outside these areas, however, security conditions are likely to resemble those of any other peak tourism period in Mexico.

Additionally, the scale of the event is likely to create [economic incentives](#) for opportunistic criminal activity, particularly in the form of theft, extortion and low-level fraud. While it is broadly in their interest for the tournament to proceed without major disruption, such risks are consistent with those observed in major global cities during peak tourism periods or major events.

Why this matters for organizations

For organizations with personnel traveling to or operating in Mexico during the World Cup, recent developments reinforce several key considerations:

- **Security incidents can escalate rapidly**, even if their effects are short lived
- **Disruption may be geographically dispersed**, affecting transport and schedules beyond the immediate location of an incident
- **Misinformation can spread rapidly**, with criminal groups using social media to amplify uncertainty and distort the operating environment
- **Residual risk persists outside high-security zones**, particularly for informal activities such as dining, nightlife and independent travel

Taken together, these dynamics do not suggest that the World Cup is likely to be derailed by security concerns. Rather, they underline the importance of realistic planning and insight based on factual intelligence gathering, thus enabling organizations to make informed decisions and allow travelers to enjoy the event confidently while remaining sensible to the environment in which it takes place.

What can organizations do

The presence of enhanced security around World Cup venues will reduce risk, but it will not eliminate it entirely. Organizations can best support their people by focusing on preparedness, awareness, and communication, rather than attempting to implement full contingency operations unless circumstances warrant it.



Threat monitoring and risk awareness

Organizations should maintain visibility on the evolving security environment across host cities, including areas beyond stadiums and official fan zones. Monitoring developments that could affect transportation, accommodation, or planned activities allows for timely adjustments and informed reassurance.



Travel preparedness

Providing pre-departure travel briefs remains one of the most effective risk mitigation measures. These should be proportionate and practical, covering personal safety considerations, areas or behaviors to avoid, cultural awareness, emergency protocols and key contact information, including relevant embassy details.



Communications and support

Clear communication channels enable organizations to share updates on security conditions or operational disruption and provide a route for travelers to report concerns or request assistance if needed. Even light-touch communication frameworks can significantly improve confidence and response effectiveness during high-profile events.

Useful resources

[FIFA World Cup official guidance](#) on host cities and event logistics

[Embassy and consular travel advice](#) for Mexico during the World Cup

[WTW Alert:24 Mexico monitor](#), including dedicated World Cup related analysis and alerts for subscribers

Planning confidently for the World Cup

The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be one of the greatest sporting spectacles on earth and a defining moment for Mexico on the global stage. For visitors, it promises an exceptional experience shaped by culture, celebration and world-class football.

With realistic expectations, sensible precautions and access to timely information, organizations and travelers can focus on enjoying the occasion while navigating the security environment with confidence. The World Cup represents a significant opportunity for Mexico and an exceptional experience for those attending.



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