

FIFA World Cup 2026 in Kansas City: Stadium Guide, Hotels, Match Schedule & Travel Tips



Kansas City is one of the official host cities for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and is expected to welcome football fans from around the world for one of the biggest sporting events in history. With matches taking place at the legendary GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium, visitors can experience one of the loudest and most iconic stadiums in professional sports while enjoying the city's famous barbecue, vibrant entertainment districts, and rich sporting culture.

Unlike many host cities, Kansas City has built a strong reputation as America's "Soccer Capital." Home to Sporting Kansas City and a passionate football community, the city regularly hosts major international matches and continues to play an important role in the growth of soccer across the United States.

Whether you are traveling to support your national team or planning a longer Midwest road trip, this guide covers everything you need to know about FIFA World Cup 2026 in Kansas City, including the match schedule, stadium information, transportation, accommodation, and the best attractions to explore before or after the matches.

Kansas City FIFA World Cup 2026 at a Glance

Kansas City will be one of the most *[exciting US destinations](#)* for the tournament's lovers. The city is hosting six FIFA World Cup 2026 matches at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium. Known for its incredible fan atmosphere and sporting tradition, the city offers an unforgettable experience for football supporters.

Located in Kansas City, Missouri, Arrowhead Stadium is recognized as one of the loudest sports venues in the world. Combined with affordable accommodation, outstanding barbecue restaurants, and numerous cultural attractions, Kansas City provides an excellent destination for both domestic and international visitors.

Why Kansas City Is One of the Best FIFA Host Cities

- Hosts 6 FIFA World Cup 2026 matches
 - Home to the world-famous GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium
 - Strong soccer culture with passionate local supporters
 - Convenient access through Kansas City International Airport (MCI)
 - Excellent value compared to many other host cities
 - Famous for Kansas City-style barbecue
 - Great museums, entertainment districts, and family attractions
 - Easy base for exploring the American Midwest
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Kansas City FIFA World Cup 2026 Match Schedule & Teams

Kansas City will host six FIFA World Cup 2026 matches, including group-stage fixtures and knockout-round games.

Tournament Overview

- **Total Matches:** 6
- **Group Stage:** 4 Matches
- **Round of 32:** 1 Match
- **Quarterfinal:** 1 Match
- **Venue:** GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium

Quick Information

| Information | Details |
|-----------------------|--|
| Host City | Kansas City, Missouri |
| Stadium | GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium |
| Tournament Matches | 6 |
| Airport | Kansas City International Airport (MCI) |
| Public Transportation | Ride-share, Bus, Rental Car |
| Best Areas to Stay | Downtown Kansas City, Country Club Plaza, Crossroads Arts District, Independence, Near Arrowhead Stadium |
| Stadium Capacity | Approximately 76,000 |
| Time Zone | Central Time (CT) |
| Recommended Stay | 3-5 Days |

About GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium

GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium is one of the most iconic sports venues in North America and will host all FIFA World Cup 2026 matches in Kansas City. Opened in 1972, the stadium is home to the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs and has earned worldwide recognition for its electrifying atmosphere and record-breaking crowd noise.

Over the years, Arrowhead Stadium has hosted international football matches, major concerts, championship sporting events, and global entertainment, making it an ideal venue for the FIFA World Cup.

Stadium Capacity

GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium can accommodate approximately **76,000 spectators**, making it one of the largest FIFA World Cup venues in the United States.

Stadium Location

The stadium is located approximately:

- 8 miles (13 km) from Downtown Kansas City
- 26 miles (42 km) from Kansas City International Airport (MCI)

Its location offers convenient access via Interstate 70 and several major roadways.

World-Class Facilities

Visitors can enjoy:

- Excellent sightlines from every seating level
- Large high-definition video boards
- Premium suites and club seating
- Official FIFA merchandise stores
- Wide variety of food and beverage options

- Mobile ticket entry
- Accessible seating and guest services
- Spacious concourses

Match-Day Experience

Arrowhead Stadium is famous for its incredible atmosphere. During FIFA World Cup 2026, fans can expect lively supporter sections, official fan activations, international food vendors, entertainment zones, and one of the loudest environments in the tournament.

Accessibility

The stadium offers accessible entrances, elevators, wheelchair seating, companion seating, accessible restrooms, and guest assistance services throughout the venue.

Best Seating Areas

- **Lower Bowl:** Closest views and the most energetic atmosphere.
- **Club Level:** Premium amenities with comfortable seating.
- **Upper Level:** Excellent panoramic views at a more affordable price.

How to Reach GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium

Planning transportation ahead of time will make your World Cup experience much smoother.

From Kansas City International Airport (MCI)

Kansas City International Airport is the primary gateway for domestic and international visitors.

Average travel time:

- Rental Car: 30-35 minutes
- Ride-share: 30-40 minutes

By Car

Driving is the easiest way to reach Arrowhead Stadium. Interstate 70 provides direct access, and official parking is available for visitors who reserve in advance.

Ride-Sharing Services

Uber and Lyft operate throughout Kansas City and offer designated pickup and drop-off areas near the stadium.

Public Transportation

Kansas City's public transportation system is limited compared to some other FIFA host cities. Most visitors choose rental cars, taxis, ride-sharing services, or official event transportation on match days.

Hotel Shuttle Services

Some hotels may provide shuttle transportation to Arrowhead Stadium during the tournament. Contact your hotel before arrival for availability.

Best Areas to Stay in Kansas City During the World Cup

Choosing the right neighborhood depends on your travel style and how much time you plan to spend exploring the city.

Downtown Kansas City

Downtown offers the widest selection of hotels, restaurants, entertainment venues, and nightlife. It's the most popular area for first-time visitors and provides convenient access to many attractions.

Best for:

- First-time visitors
- Nightlife

- Dining
 - Entertainment
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Country Club Plaza

Known for its Spanish-inspired architecture, upscale shopping, and excellent restaurants, Country Club Plaza is one of Kansas City's most beautiful neighborhoods.

Best for:

- Couples
 - Luxury travelers
 - Shopping
 - Relaxed atmosphere
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Crossroads Arts District

This vibrant neighborhood features art galleries, breweries, coffee shops, live music venues, and local restaurants, making it a favorite among younger travelers.

Best for:

- Couples
 - Food lovers
 - Arts and culture
 - Boutique hotels
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Near Arrowhead Stadium

Staying close to the stadium minimizes travel time on match days and is ideal for visitors attending multiple FIFA matches.

Best for:

- Football fans
 - Families
 - Match-day convenience
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Independence

Located east of Downtown Kansas City, Independence offers comfortable hotels, historic attractions, and generally lower accommodation prices.

Best for:

- Budget travelers
 - Families
 - Road trips
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Best Hotels Near GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium

Kansas City offers accommodation options for every budget, from luxury downtown hotels to convenient properties near the stadium.

Loews Kansas City Hotel

Located in Downtown Kansas City, Loews offers modern luxury accommodations, spacious rooms, excellent restaurants, and easy access to entertainment districts.

Best for: Luxury travelers and international visitors.

Kansas City Marriott Downtown

One of the city's most popular hotels, offering comfortable rooms, excellent dining, and convenient access to local attractions.

Best for: Families and first-time visitors.

Hotel Kansas City

A beautifully restored historic hotel featuring elegant rooms, unique architecture, and a central downtown location.

Best for: Couples and boutique hotel enthusiasts.

Drury Inn & Suites Kansas City Stadium

Located just minutes from Arrowhead Stadium, this hotel offers complimentary breakfast and convenient access on match days.

Best for: Football fans and families.

Best Western Premier Kansas City Sports Complex Hotel

One of the closest hotels to Arrowhead Stadium, making it a practical choice for visitors attending multiple matches.

Best for: Match-day convenience.

Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center

Situated near Downtown, this upscale hotel provides spacious accommodations with easy access to restaurants, museums, and shopping.

Best for: Business travelers and families.

Embassy Suites by Hilton Kansas City Plaza

Offering spacious suites and complimentary breakfast, this hotel is located near Country Club Plaza and many popular attractions.

Best for: Extended stays and families.

Things to Do Before or After the Matches

Kansas City offers much more than football. Whether you have a few hours or several days between matches, these attractions provide an authentic Midwestern experience.

Visit the National WWI Museum and Memorial

One of the world's leading museums dedicated to the First World War, this landmark also offers spectacular panoramic views of the Kansas City skyline.

Explore Union Station

This beautifully restored historic railway station features museums, restaurants, exhibitions, shopping, and seasonal events, making it one of the city's most visited attractions.

Discover Country Club Plaza

Enjoy upscale shopping, outdoor cafés, fountains, and Spanish-inspired architecture while exploring one of Kansas City's most iconic neighborhoods.

Walk Through the Crossroads Arts District

Known for its vibrant art scene, local breweries, galleries, and street murals, the Crossroads Arts District is an excellent place to experience the city's creative culture.

Visit the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

This internationally recognized museum houses an impressive collection of American, European, Asian, and contemporary art. Admission to the permanent collection is free.

Experience the Power & Light District

Located in Downtown Kansas City, this entertainment district offers restaurants, live music, sports bars, and nightlife, making it a popular destination before and after FIFA matches.

Taste Authentic Kansas City Barbecue

No visit is complete without trying the city's legendary barbecue. Famous smoked brisket, burnt ends, ribs, and slow-cooked meats have made Kansas City one of America's top culinary destinations.

Tour Boulevard Brewing Company

Beer enthusiasts can visit one of the Midwest's most popular craft breweries, offering brewery tours, tasting experiences, and panoramic views of the city skyline.

Best Time to Arrive on Match Day

Arriving early allows you to fully enjoy the FIFA World Cup atmosphere and avoid unnecessary delays.

- **Arrive at Least Three Hours Before Kickoff:** This provides enough time for parking, security screening, and finding your seat.
- **Reserve Parking Before Match Day:** Official parking passes are expected to sell out for popular fixtures.
- **Experience the Pre-Match Atmosphere:** Arrowhead Stadium is famous for its passionate sports fans. Arriving early lets you enjoy the excitement around the stadium before kickoff.

- **Download Your Mobile Tickets in Advance:** Save your tickets to your phone before leaving your hotel to avoid connectivity issues.
 - **Check Stadium Entry Policies:** Review FIFA's latest rules regarding bags, prohibited items, and security procedures before your visit.
 - **Dress for Summer Weather:** Kansas City can experience warm temperatures during June and July, so lightweight clothing and comfortable shoes are recommended.
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Practical Travel Tips for FIFA Fans

These travel tips will help you enjoy a smooth and memorable FIFA World Cup experience in Kansas City.

- **Book Accommodation Early:** Hotels throughout Kansas City are expected to sell out quickly during the tournament, especially those near Downtown and Arrowhead Stadium.
 - **Choose the Right Neighborhood:** Downtown offers nightlife and attractions, while hotels near the stadium provide greater convenience on match days.
 - **Carry a Portable Phone Charger:** Mobile tickets, navigation apps, and ride-sharing services will all rely on your smartphone.
 - **Wear Comfortable Walking Shoes:** Expect plenty of walking around the stadium, fan zones, museums, and entertainment districts.
 - **Try Kansas City Barbecue:** Famous dishes like burnt ends, smoked brisket, ribs, and slow-smoked sausage are an essential part of the local experience.
 - **Stay Hydrated:** Summer temperatures can become quite warm during the afternoon. Carry a reusable water bottle whenever possible.
 - **Allow Extra Time for Security:** FIFA security screening may take longer than regular sporting events, especially during knockout matches.
 - **Explore Beyond Match Day:** Extend your stay to visit museums, parks, historic neighborhoods, breweries, and local attractions that showcase Kansas City's unique character.
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Conclusion

Kansas City offers one of the most authentic football experiences of the [*FIFA World Cup 2026 USA session*](#). With six exciting matches at the legendary GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium, passionate local supporters, world-famous barbecue, and welcoming Midwestern hospitality, the city promises an unforgettable tournament atmosphere for fans from around the globe.

Whether you are traveling for a single match or following your team throughout the competition, Kansas City combines world-class football with outstanding attractions, comfortable accommodations, and a vibrant cultural scene that makes every visit worthwhile.

Download our FREE Kansas City FIFA World Cup 2026 Travel Guide PDF for offline access to match information, stadium tips, hotel recommendations, transportation advice, and local attractions throughout your World Cup journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many FIFA World Cup 2026 matches will be played in Kansas City?

Kansas City will host six FIFA World Cup 2026 matches, including four group-stage matches, one Round of 32 match, and one quarterfinal at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium.

Which stadium will host the FIFA World Cup in Kansas City?

All matches will be played at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium, one of the most iconic sports venues in the United States and home to the NFL's Kansas City Chiefs.

What is the closest airport to Arrowhead Stadium?

Kansas City International Airport (MCI) is the primary airport serving FIFA visitors. It is located approximately 26 miles (42 km) from the stadium.

What is the best way to get to GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium?

Driving, rental cars, and ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft are the most convenient transportation options. Visitors should reserve parking early if they plan to drive.

Where should I stay during the FIFA World Cup in Kansas City?

Downtown Kansas City is ideal for sightseeing and nightlife, while hotels near Arrowhead Stadium provide the shortest commute on match days. Country Club Plaza and Crossroads Arts District are also excellent choices.

What are the best attractions near Arrowhead Stadium?

Popular attractions include the National WWI Museum and Memorial, Union Station, Country Club Plaza, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Power & Light District, Crossroads Arts District, and Boulevard Brewing Company.

How early should I arrive for a FIFA World Cup match?

Plan to arrive at least three hours before kickoff to allow time for parking, security checks, and enjoying the pre-match atmosphere around the stadium.

Why is Kansas City known as a great football destination?

Kansas City has one of the strongest soccer cultures in the United States, passionate sports fans, an iconic stadium, and a long history of hosting major international sporting events, making it an outstanding FIFA World Cup host city.