

FIFA World Cup 2026 in Atlanta: Stadium Guide, Hotels, Things to Do & Travel Tips



Atlanta is one of the premier host cities for the [*FIFA World Cup 2026 in the USA*](#), welcoming football fans from around the world to one of America's most exciting sports and entertainment destinations. Home to the iconic Mercedes-Benz Stadium, the city will host several tournament matches, including knockout-stage action, making it a must-visit destination for supporters traveling across the United States.

Beyond the stadium, Atlanta offers a unique blend of Southern hospitality, modern attractions, rich history, and outstanding food. Visitors can explore world-famous landmarks such as the Georgia Aquarium, World of Coca-Cola, Centennial Olympic Park, and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park, all within easy reach of downtown.

Whether you are attending one match or spending several days exploring the city, this guide covers everything you need to know before your trip. From transportation and accommodation to stadium tips and nearby attractions, you'll find practical information to help you enjoy both the FIFA World Cup and everything Atlanta has to offer.

FIFA World Cup 2026 in Atlanta

Atlanta will play a major role in the FIFA World Cup 2026 as one of the tournament's 11 U.S. host cities. The city is expected to welcome hundreds of thousands of domestic and international visitors throughout the competition.

All FIFA matches in Atlanta will take place at [Mercedes-Benz Stadium](#), one of the most technologically advanced sports venues in the world. Known for its retractable roof, impressive architecture, and excellent fan experience, the stadium has previously hosted major international sporting events, including the Super Bowl and the College Football Playoff National Championship.

Atlanta is also one of the easiest host cities to reach thanks to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, one of the busiest airports in the world. Combined with its extensive public transportation network, visitors can easily travel between the airport, downtown hotels, the stadium, and major attractions.

Why Atlanta is one of the best FIFA host cities:

- Hosts multiple FIFA World Cup 2026 matches.
 - Modern, world-class Mercedes-Benz Stadium.
 - Excellent public transportation through MARTA.
 - One of the largest international airports in the world.
 - Wide selection of hotels for every budget.
 - Famous Southern cuisine and vibrant nightlife.
 - Numerous attractions within walking distance of downtown.
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Quick Information

Information	Details
Host City	Atlanta, Georgia
Stadium	Mercedes-Benz Stadium
Tournament	<u>FIFA World Cup 2026</u>
Airport	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)
Public Transportation	MARTA Rail and Bus
Best Areas to Stay	Downtown, Midtown, Buckhead
Stadium Capacity	Approximately 75,000
Time Zone	Eastern Time (ET)
Ideal Stay	3-4 Days

Atlanta FIFA World Cup 2026 Match Schedule

Atlanta is one of the busiest FIFA World Cup 2026 host cities in the United States. **Mercedes-Benz Stadium will host eight matches** throughout the tournament, including five group-stage matches, one Round of 32 match, one Round of 16 match, and one semifinal.

Confirmed Matches in Atlanta

Date	Stage	Match
June 15	Group H	Spain vs. Cabo Verde

June 18	Group A	Czechia vs. South Africa
June 21	Group H	Spain vs. Saudi Arabia
June 24	Group C	Morocco vs. Haiti
June 27	Group K	Uzbekistan vs. Qualifier (TBD at draw)
July 1 32	Round of	Winner/Qualifier (TBD)
July 7 16	Round of	Winners of knockout matches (TBD)
July 15	Semifinal	Two qualifying teams (TBD)

Which Teams Are Playing in Atlanta?

Atlanta will welcome several national teams during the group stage, including:

- Spain
- Cabo Verde
- Czechia
- South Africa
- Saudi Arabia
- Morocco
- Haiti
- Uzbekistan
- One Group K qualifying team (to be confirmed)

About Mercedes-Benz Stadium

Mercedes-Benz Stadium is one of the flagship venues of the FIFA World Cup 2026 and is widely recognized as one of the finest sports stadiums in North America. Its innovative architecture, advanced technology, and central downtown location make it an exceptional venue for international football.

Stadium Capacity

The stadium accommodates approximately **75,000 spectators** for major international events, creating an electric atmosphere while maintaining excellent visibility from nearly every seat.

Location

Mercedes-Benz Stadium is located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, just minutes from many of the city's most popular hotels, restaurants, and attractions. Its central location allows many visitors to reach the stadium on foot or by public transportation.

Facilities

Visitors can expect:

- Modern concourses with spacious walkways.
- Hundreds of food and beverage options.
- Free stadium Wi-Fi.
- Mobile ticket scanning.
- Merchandise stores.
- Family-friendly facilities.
- Accessible seating and services throughout the venue.

Match-Day Experience

Mercedes-Benz Stadium is known for its energetic atmosphere. Fans can expect live entertainment, official FIFA fan activities, interactive displays, and a vibrant crowd from around the world.

Stadium Entry Tips

- Arrive at least **2 to 3 hours before kickoff**.
- Use digital tickets for quicker entry.
- Follow FIFA's bag policy before arriving.
- Complete security screening early to avoid long queues.
- Locate your gate before entering the stadium grounds.

Accessibility

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

Best Seating Areas

- **Lower Level:** Closest views of the action.
 - **Club Level:** Premium amenities and excellent sightlines.
 - **Upper Level:** More affordable tickets with panoramic views of the pitch.
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How to Reach Mercedes-Benz Stadium

Atlanta offers several convenient transportation options, making it one of the easiest FIFA host cities to navigate.

From Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

The airport is approximately 10 miles (16 km) from Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Travelers can reach downtown in around 20–30 minutes using MARTA, taxis, ride-sharing services, or rental cars.

By MARTA Rail

MARTA is the fastest and most convenient way to reach the stadium. The nearest stations are:

- GWCC/CNN Center Station
- Vine City Station

Both stations are within a short walk of the stadium.

By Bus

Several MARTA bus routes also serve downtown Atlanta and connect to nearby rail stations.

By Car

Drivers can access the stadium via Interstates 20, 75, and 85. Heavy traffic should be expected on match days.

Parking

Official parking lots are available around the stadium but often require advance reservations. Booking parking before match day is highly recommended.

Ride-Sharing

Uber and Lyft operate designated pickup and drop-off locations near Mercedes-Benz Stadium, providing a convenient alternative to driving.

Walking

Visitors staying in Downtown Atlanta can comfortably walk to the stadium from many hotels, restaurants, and attractions.

Best Areas to Stay in Atlanta

Choosing the right neighborhood can make your FIFA World Cup trip more convenient and enjoyable.

Downtown Atlanta

Downtown is the most popular choice for FIFA visitors. It offers the shortest travel time to Mercedes-Benz Stadium and easy access to attractions like Centennial Olympic Park, the Georgia Aquarium, and the World of Coca-Cola.

Best for:

- First-time visitors
 - Walking to the stadium
 - Families
 - Sightseeing
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Midtown Atlanta

Midtown combines excellent hotels, museums, parks, and restaurants with convenient MARTA connections to downtown.

Best for:

- Couples
 - Food lovers
 - Museum visitors
 - Longer stays
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Buckhead

Buckhead is Atlanta's upscale district, known for luxury hotels, fine dining, and premium shopping.

Best for:

- Luxury travelers
- Business visitors
- High-end dining
- Shopping

Airport Area

Hotels near ATL Airport provide competitive rates and convenient access for travelers with early or late flights. MARTA connects the airport directly to downtown.

Best for:

- Budget-conscious travelers
- Short stays
- Early departures

Atlantic Station

Atlantic Station offers modern hotels, shopping, entertainment, and restaurants in a walkable mixed-use neighborhood.

Best for:

- Families
- Shopping
- Evening entertainment

Best Hotels Near Mercedes-Benz Stadium

Whether you're looking for luxury accommodations or affordable options, Atlanta offers hotels for every type of traveler.

Signia by Hilton Atlanta

Located within walking distance of Mercedes-Benz Stadium, this modern hotel is one of the closest options for FIFA visitors. It features upscale rooms, multiple

restaurants, fitness facilities, and direct access to the Georgia World Congress Center.

Best for: Match-day convenience and luxury.

Omni Atlanta Hotel at Centennial Park

This hotel sits beside Centennial Olympic Park and is within easy walking distance of the stadium. Guests also have quick access to major attractions and restaurants.

Best for: Families and first-time visitors.

Embassy Suites by Hilton Atlanta at Centennial Olympic Park

Spacious suites, complimentary breakfast, and an excellent downtown location make this property popular with families and groups attending FIFA matches.

Best for: Families and longer stays.

Hyatt Place Atlanta Centennial Park

A comfortable mid-range option offering modern rooms and easy access to Mercedes-Benz Stadium and downtown attractions.

Best for: Value-conscious travelers.

The Candler Hotel Atlanta, Curio Collection by Hilton

A beautifully restored historic property offering luxury accommodations and elegant architecture in downtown Atlanta.

Best for: Couples and luxury travelers.

Hampton Inn & Suites Atlanta-Downtown

An affordable hotel located close to both the stadium and Atlanta's top attractions.

Best for: Budget travelers.

Glenn Hotel, Autograph Collection

This boutique hotel is known for stylish rooms and its rooftop lounge overlooking downtown Atlanta.

Best for: Couples and nightlife.

Reverb by Hard Rock Downtown Atlanta

A contemporary hotel featuring music-inspired design, modern amenities, and a location within walking distance of the stadium.

Best for: Young travelers and groups.

Things to Do Before or After the Match

Watching a FIFA World Cup match in Atlanta is only part of the experience. The city offers outstanding attractions that can easily fill several days before or after kickoff.

Georgia Aquarium

One of the largest aquariums in the world, featuring whale sharks, dolphins, sea lions, penguins, and thousands of marine animals. It is only a short walk from Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

World of Coca-Cola

Discover the history of one of the world's most famous brands through interactive exhibits, memorabilia, and beverage tastings from around the globe.

Centennial Olympic Park

Originally built for the 1996 Summer Olympics, this downtown park is a popular gathering place for visitors and often hosts events during major sporting competitions.

Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park

Explore the birthplace, church, and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through museums and preserved historic sites that highlight Atlanta's important role in the American Civil Rights Movement.

Atlanta BeltLine

The BeltLine is a popular urban trail connecting neighborhoods, restaurants, breweries, public art installations, and parks. It's a great place to walk, cycle, or relax between matches.

Piedmont Park

Located in Midtown, Piedmont Park offers walking trails, open green spaces, skyline views, and easy access to nearby restaurants and cafés.

National Center for Civil and Human Rights

This award-winning museum provides powerful exhibits on civil rights history and human rights movements from around the world.

SkyView Atlanta

Enjoy panoramic views of downtown Atlanta from this giant observation wheel, especially beautiful during the evening after a FIFA match.

CNN Center Area

Although the CNN studio tours have ended, the surrounding area remains a lively entertainment district with restaurants, sports bars, and easy access to Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Best Time to Arrive on Match Day

Planning your arrival time can make your FIFA World Cup experience much more enjoyable.

- **Arrive at Least Three Hours Before Kickoff:** Large crowds are expected throughout the tournament. Arriving early gives you enough time for transportation, security screening, merchandise shopping, and exploring the stadium before the match begins.
- **Complete Security Screening Early:** All spectators will pass through security checkpoints before entering Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Having your digital ticket and identification ready helps speed up the process.
- **Visit Official Merchandise Stores:** Official FIFA merchandise is available inside and around the stadium. Popular items often sell out before kickoff, so early arrivals have the best selection.

- **Explore Fan Activities:** The area surrounding Mercedes-Benz Stadium is expected to feature entertainment, sponsor activations, food vendors, and opportunities to interact with fellow supporters from around the world.
 - **Avoid Peak Transportation Hours:** Public transportation and ride-sharing services become extremely busy during the final two hours before kickoff. Leaving your hotel early helps avoid unnecessary delays.
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Practical Travel Tips for FIFA Fans

Use these practical tips to make your Atlanta World Cup trip smoother and more enjoyable.

- **Book Accommodation Early:** Hotels in Downtown Atlanta, Midtown, and near Mercedes-Benz Stadium are among the first to sell out during major sporting events. Early reservations often provide better prices and availability.
- **Use MARTA Whenever Possible:** MARTA is usually faster than driving on match days and eliminates the hassle of finding parking near the stadium.
- **Carry a Portable Phone Charger:** Digital tickets, navigation apps, and mobile payments can quickly drain your phone battery. A portable power bank is highly recommended.
- **Wear Comfortable Walking Shoes:** Even if you use public transportation, expect to walk between stations, hotels, attractions, and stadium entrances.
- **Stay Hydrated:** Atlanta's summer weather is typically hot and humid. Carry a reusable water bottle and drink plenty of fluids throughout the day.
- **Check Stadium Policies Before Leaving:** Review the latest guidelines for permitted bags, prohibited items, and entry procedures before heading to the stadium to avoid delays.
- **Allow Extra Time for Transportation:** Road closures, increased traffic, and larger crowds are expected throughout the tournament. Build additional travel time into your schedule.
- **Explore Beyond Match Day:** Atlanta offers much more than football. If your schedule allows, visit Centennial Olympic Park, the Georgia Aquarium,

the World of Coca-Cola, or the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park to experience the city's culture and history.

Conclusion

Atlanta offers one of the complete FIFA World Cup 2026 experiences in the United States. With eight tournament matches, including a semifinal, world-class facilities at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, excellent public transportation, and a vibrant downtown filled with attractions, restaurants, and entertainment, the city is an outstanding destination for football fans from around the world.

Whether you are visiting Atlanta for a single match or planning a longer stay, preparing ahead will help you enjoy every moment of your trip. From choosing the right hotel to navigating the city with ease, this guide is designed to help you make the most of your FIFA World Cup experience.

Download our FREE Atlanta FIFA World Cup 2026 Travel Guide PDF and keep essential travel information, stadium tips, and local recommendations with you throughout your trip.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Atlanta will host **eight FIFA World Cup 2026 matches** at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, including five group-stage matches, one Round of 32 match, one Round of 16 match, and one semifinal.

Which stadium is hosting the FIFA World Cup in Atlanta?

All FIFA World Cup 2026 matches in Atlanta will be played at **Mercedes-Benz Stadium**, located in Downtown Atlanta.

Which national teams will play in Atlanta?

Confirmed group-stage teams include **Spain, Cabo Verde, Czechia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Haiti, and Uzbekistan**. The remaining knockout-stage participants will be determined as the tournament progresses.

What is the best way to get to Mercedes-Benz Stadium?

The easiest option is **MARTA Rail**, with GWCC/CNN Center Station and Vine City Station both located within walking distance of the stadium. Ride-sharing services and taxis are also widely available.

Where should I stay for the FIFA World Cup in Atlanta?

Downtown Atlanta is the most convenient area because it offers easy access to Mercedes-Benz Stadium, major attractions, restaurants, and MARTA stations. Midtown is another excellent choice for visitors seeking more dining and entertainment options.

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

Plan to arrive **at least three hours before kickoff** to allow enough time for transportation, security screening, merchandise shopping, and finding your seat.

Is public transportation available from Atlanta Airport to the stadium?

Yes. MARTA connects **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport** directly to Downtown Atlanta, making it one of the easiest airport-to-stadium transfers among all FIFA World Cup 2026 host cities.

What are the best attractions near Mercedes-Benz Stadium?

Popular attractions include the **Georgia Aquarium**, **World of Coca-Cola**, **Centennial Olympic Park**, **SkyView Atlanta**, and the **National Center for Civil and Human Rights**, all located within or near downtown Atlanta.