

## FIFA World Cup 2026 in Houston: Stadium Guide, Hotels, Match Schedule & Travel Tips



Houston is one of the official host cities for the [\*FIFA World Cup 2026 USA\*](#) matches. The city promises an unforgettable tournament experience for football fans from around the world. Home to the modern NRG Stadium, Houston combines world-class sporting facilities with outstanding hospitality, diverse cultures, and countless attractions, making it one of the best destinations to watch the world's biggest football tournament.

As the largest city in Texas, Houston offers visitors much more than match-day excitement. From NASA's Space Center Houston and the renowned Museum District to award-winning restaurants and vibrant nightlife, there's something for every traveler. Whether you're visiting for a single match or planning a longer Texas road trip, Houston serves as an excellent base for exploring the region.

This guide covers everything you need to plan your FIFA World Cup trip, including the match schedule, NRG Stadium, transportation, the best areas to stay, recommended hotels, and top attractions before or after the match.

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## **Houston FIFA World Cup 2026 at a Glance**

Houston will welcome football fans from across the globe as one of the United States' eleven FIFA World Cup 2026 host cities. All matches will take place at [\*\*\*NRG Stadium\*\*\*](#), one of America's premier sports and entertainment venues.

Houston is expected to host seven FIFA World Cup matches, including group-stage fixtures and knockout-round games. Combined with its excellent international airport, reliable public transportation, and wide range of hotels, Houston offers one of the most convenient World Cup experiences in North America.

### **Why Houston Is One of the Best FIFA Host Cities**

- Hosts 7 FIFA World Cup 2026 matches
  - Home to the iconic NRG Stadium
  - Easy access through George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)
  - METRORail provides direct service to NRG Park
  - Hundreds of hotels for every budget
  - One of America's most diverse food scenes
  - World-famous attractions including Space Center Houston
  - Excellent destination for families, couples, and international visitors
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## **Houston FIFA World Cup 2026 Match Schedule & Teams**

Houston will host seven FIFA World Cup 2026 matches at NRG Stadium, including group-stage fixtures and knockout-round action.

### **Tournament Overview**

- **Total Matches:** 7
- **Group Stage:** 5 Matches
- **Round of 32:** 1 Match
- **Round of 16:** 1 Match
- **Venue:** NRG Stadium, Houston, Texas

## Quick Information

Information	Details
Host City	Houston, Texas
Stadium	NRG Stadium
Tournament Matches	7
Airport	George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)
Secondary Airport	William P. Hobby Airport (HOU)
Public Transportation	METRO Rail, METRO Bus, Ride-share
Best Areas to Stay	Downtown Houston, Museum District, Texas Medical Center, Galleria, NRG Park
Stadium Capacity	Approximately 72,000
Time Zone	Central Time (CT)
Recommended Stay	4-5 Days

## About NRG Stadium

NRG Stadium is one of the premier sports venues in the United States and will host all FIFA World Cup 2026 matches in Houston. Opened in 2002, the stadium is home to the NFL's Houston Texans and has hosted numerous international football matches, concerts, college championships, and one of the world's largest annual events, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

### Stadium Capacity

NRG Stadium can accommodate approximately **72,000 spectators** for FIFA World Cup matches, creating an exciting atmosphere while maintaining excellent sightlines throughout the venue.

### Stadium Location

NRG Stadium is located in **NRG Park**, approximately:

- 6 miles (10 km) from Downtown Houston
- 13 miles (21 km) from William P. Hobby Airport
- 25 miles (40 km) from George Bush Intercontinental Airport

Its central location makes it one of the easiest FIFA stadiums to reach among all host cities.

### World-Class Facilities

Visitors can enjoy:

- Modern seating with excellent visibility
- Large high-definition video displays
- Premium hospitality lounges
- Official FIFA merchandise stores
- Wide variety of food and beverage options
- Mobile ticket entry
- Accessible seating and services
- Spacious concourses

## **Match-Day Experience**

NRG Stadium is known for its energetic atmosphere during major sporting events. FIFA fans can expect entertainment zones, international supporters, official fan experiences, merchandise stores, and food vendors before kickoff.

## **Accessibility**

The stadium provides elevators, wheelchair seating, accessible entrances, companion seating, family facilities, and guest assistance throughout the venue.

## **Best Seating Areas**

- **Lower Bowl:** Closest views of the pitch.
  - **Club Level:** Premium seating with additional amenities.
  - **Upper Level:** Budget-friendly seating with panoramic views.
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## **How to Reach NRG Stadium**

Houston offers several convenient transportation options, making it easier to reach NRG Stadium than many other FIFA host venues.

### **From George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)**

IAH is Houston's primary international airport. Average travel time:

- Rental Car: 30-40 minutes
- Ride-share: 35-45 minutes
- Public Transit: Approximately 60-75 minutes

### **From William P. Hobby Airport (HOU)**

Hobby Airport is closer to the stadium and serves many domestic flights. Average travel time:

- Rental Car: 20-25 minutes

- Ride-share: 20-30 minutes

## **METRORail**

Houston's METRORail Red Line stops directly at **NRG Park**, making it one of the most convenient public transportation options for FIFA visitors. This helps fans avoid parking challenges and heavy traffic on match days.

## **By Car**

Visitors driving to the stadium can access NRG Park via Interstate 610 and nearby highways. Official parking should be reserved in advance whenever possible.

## **Ride-Sharing Services**

Uber and Lyft operate throughout Houston with designated pickup and drop-off locations near the stadium.

## **Hotel Shuttle Services**

Some hotels near NRG Park may offer shuttle transportation during the tournament. Check with your accommodation before booking.

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## **Best Areas to Stay**

Houston offers excellent accommodation options for every type of traveler.

### **Downtown Houston**

Downtown Houston is one of the most popular places to stay, offering luxury hotels, restaurants, nightlife, museums, and easy METRORail access to NRG Stadium.

### **Best for:**

- First-time visitors

- Nightlife
  - Restaurants
  - Sightseeing
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### **Museum District**

Located just north of NRG Stadium, the Museum District offers quieter accommodations close to Houston's top museums, Hermann Park, and public transportation.

#### **Best for:**

- Families
  - Culture lovers
  - Longer stays
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### **Texas Medical Center**

Adjacent to NRG Park, this area offers numerous hotels within a short ride of the stadium while remaining well connected to downtown.

#### **Best for:**

- Match-day convenience
  - Families
  - Business travelers
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### **Galleria/Uptown**

Houston's premier shopping district features luxury hotels, upscale restaurants, and excellent shopping while remaining about 20 minutes from NRG Stadium.

#### **Best for:**

- Luxury travelers
  - Shopping
  - Couples
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## **NRG Park Area**

Staying near NRG Stadium provides the shortest travel time on match days. Several hotels are within walking distance or a short drive of the venue.

### **Best for:**

- Football fans
  - Families
  - Visitors attending multiple matches
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## **Best Hotels Near NRG Stadium**

Houston offers accommodations ranging from luxury hotels to affordable family-friendly options.

### **Holiday Inn Houston S - NRG Area**

Located just minutes from NRG Stadium, this hotel is one of the most convenient options for FIFA visitors.

**Best for:** Match-day convenience.

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### **Hyatt Place Houston Medical Center**

Modern rooms, complimentary breakfast, and quick access to NRG Stadium make this a popular choice for families.

**Best for:** Families and longer stays.

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### **Hilton Houston Plaza/Medical Center**

A comfortable full-service hotel located near both the Medical Center and NRG Park.

**Best for:** Business travelers and couples.

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### **Marriott Marquis Houston**

One of Houston's premier luxury hotels in Downtown Houston, featuring rooftop pools, multiple restaurants, and easy METRORail access.

**Best for:** Luxury stays and sightseeing.

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### **Hilton Americas-Houston**

Connected to the George R. Brown Convention Center, this hotel offers spacious rooms and convenient access to Downtown attractions.

**Best for:** International visitors.

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### **The Westin Galleria Houston**

Located inside Houston's famous Galleria district, this upscale hotel is ideal for visitors combining football with shopping and dining.

**Best for:** Luxury travelers and couples.

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### **Embassy Suites by Hilton Houston Near the Galleria**

Offering spacious suites and complimentary breakfast, this hotel provides excellent value for families and groups.

**Best for:** Families and extended stays.

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## **Things to Do Before or After the Match**

Houston offers plenty of attractions beyond the FIFA World Cup, allowing visitors to turn their football trip into a memorable Texas vacation.

### **Visit Space Center Houston**

Explore NASA's official visitor center, see real spacecraft, astronaut exhibits, and interactive displays. It's one of Houston's most famous attractions and a must-visit for families and science enthusiasts.

### **Discover the Museum District**

Home to 19 museums, Houston's Museum District offers world-class art, natural history, science, and cultural exhibits, all within a short distance of NRG Stadium.

### **Relax at Hermann Park**

Located next to the Museum District, Hermann Park features walking trails, gardens, lakes, and the Houston Zoo, making it an excellent place to unwind before or after a match.

### **Explore Discovery Green**

This vibrant downtown park hosts live events, food trucks, outdoor art, and seasonal activities. It's a popular gathering spot for visitors exploring central Houston.

### **Visit the Houston Zoo**

Ranked among the best zoos in the United States, the Houston Zoo is home to thousands of animals and provides an enjoyable experience for visitors of all ages.

### **Experience Houston's International Food Scene**

Houston is known for its incredible culinary diversity. Whether you are craving authentic Texas barbecue, Mexican cuisine, Vietnamese dishes, or international flavors, the city's restaurant scene has something for everyone.

### **Shop at The Galleria**

As Texas' largest shopping center, The Galleria features hundreds of stores, luxury brands, restaurants, and entertainment, making it a popular destination between matches.

### **Walk Through Buffalo Bayou Park**

Enjoy scenic trails, skyline views, kayaking opportunities, and green spaces just minutes from Downtown Houston. It's a great place to relax after an exciting day at the World Cup.

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## **Best Time to Arrive on Match Day**

Planning ahead ensures a smoother and more enjoyable FIFA World Cup experience.

- **Arrive at Least Three Hours Before Kickoff:** Allow enough time for transportation, security checks, and finding your seat.
- **Take METRORail to Avoid Traffic:** The Red Line offers one of the easiest ways to reach NRG Stadium during major events.
- **Explore the FIFA Fan Areas:** Arriving early gives you time to visit official fan zones, merchandise shops, and food vendors around the stadium.
- **Download Your Mobile Tickets Before Leaving:** Save your tickets offline and ensure your phone is fully charged.

- **Check Houston's Weather Forecast:** Summer weather can be hot and humid, so wear lightweight clothing and stay hydrated.
  - **Review Stadium Entry Policies:** Check the latest FIFA guidelines regarding bags, prohibited items, and security procedures before traveling to the stadium.
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## Practical Travel Tips for FIFA Fans

These practical recommendations will help you enjoy a comfortable and hassle-free World Cup trip in Houston.

- **Book Your Hotel Several Months in Advance:** Hotels near NRG Stadium and Downtown Houston are expected to fill quickly during the tournament.
- **Stay Near METRORail Stations:** Choosing accommodation close to the Red Line makes traveling to the stadium faster and more convenient.
- **Carry a Portable Phone Charger:** You will rely on digital tickets, maps, ride-sharing apps, and mobile payments throughout your trip.
- **Dress for Houston's Climate:** Lightweight clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses, and comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended.
- **Drink Plenty of Water:** Houston's warm and humid weather can be challenging, especially if you are spending time outdoors before the match.
- **Experience Houston's Diverse Food Scene:** From authentic Texas barbecue and Tex-Mex to Vietnamese, Indian, and Latin American cuisine, Houston offers one of the most diverse culinary experiences in the United States.
- **Reserve Stadium Parking Early:** If you are driving, purchase official parking in advance to avoid last-minute availability issues.
- **Allow Extra Time During Peak Hours:** Traffic around NRG Park can become extremely busy on match days, particularly during knockout-round fixtures.
- **Extend Your Stay to Explore Houston:** Combine your World Cup trip with visits to NASA's Space Center Houston, the Museum District, Buffalo Bayou Park, and Galveston Island for a complete Texas travel experience.

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## **Conclusion**

Houston is set to be one of the most exciting destinations during the FIFA World Cup 2026, offering a perfect combination of world-class football, modern stadium facilities, outstanding transportation, and diverse cultural experiences. With **NRG Stadium** hosting seven tournament matches and the city providing easy access through two major airports and the METRORail system, Houston is an excellent choice for both domestic and international football fans.

Whether you are attending a single match or planning a longer stay, Houston offers far more than just football. From Space Center Houston and the Museum District to award-winning restaurants and vibrant neighborhoods, visitors can enjoy an unforgettable travel experience alongside the world's biggest sporting event.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How many FIFA World Cup 2026 matches will be played in Houston?**

Houston will host seven FIFA World Cup 2026 matches at NRG Stadium, including five group-stage matches, one Round of 32 match, and one Round of 16 match.

### **Which stadium will host the FIFA World Cup in Houston?**

All Houston matches will be played at NRG Stadium, located in NRG Park, approximately 6 miles (10 km) south of Downtown Houston.

### **What is the closest airport to NRG Stadium?**

William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) is the closest airport to NRG Stadium, while George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) serves most international flights and offers excellent global connections.

### **What is the best way to get to NRG Stadium?**

The METRORail Red Line is one of the easiest ways to reach NRG Stadium. Visitors can also drive, use ride-sharing services, or take hotel shuttle transportation where available.

### **Where should I stay for the FIFA World Cup in Houston?**

Downtown Houston is ideal for sightseeing and nightlife, while the Texas Medical Center and NRG Park areas offer the shortest travel time to the stadium. The Galleria is an excellent option for luxury hotels and shopping.

### **What are the best attractions near NRG Stadium?**

Popular attractions include Space Center Houston, Houston Museum District, Houston Zoo, Hermann Park, Discovery Green, Buffalo Bayou Park, and The Galleria.

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

Plan to arrive at least three hours before kickoff to allow time for transportation, security screening, and exploring the fan zones around NRG Stadium.

### **Is Houston a good city for international football fans?**

Yes. Houston is one of the most convenient FIFA host cities thanks to its international airports, direct METRORail access to NRG Stadium, extensive hotel options, diverse food scene, and world-class attractions.