

# FIFA World Cup 2026 in San Francisco Bay Area, California



The San Francisco Bay Area will welcome football fans from around the world as one of the official host regions for the [\*FIFA World Cup 2026 in the USA\*](#). While the tournament is branded as the San Francisco Bay Area, all matches will be played at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, located in the heart of Silicon Valley.

The Bay Area offers far more than world-class football. Visitors can explore the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, Fisherman's Wharf, Napa Valley, Silicon Valley, and the scenic Pacific coastline while enjoying one of the [\*USA's most\*](#)

[\*popular destinations\*](#) with diverse food and culture. With outstanding public transportation, excellent international flight connections, and countless attractions, the Bay Area is expected to be one of the tournament's most popular destinations.

Whether you are attending a single match or planning a week-long California vacation, this guide covers everything you need to know about FIFA World Cup 2026 in the San Francisco Bay Area, including the match schedule, Levi's Stadium, transportation, accommodation, and the best attractions to explore before or after the game.

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## **San Francisco Bay Area FIFA World Cup 2026 at a Glance**

The San Francisco Bay Area is one of the eleven official FIFA World Cup 2026 host regions in the United States. All matches will take place at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, approximately 45 miles (72 km) south of Downtown San Francisco.

The Bay Area will host six FIFA World Cup matches, including group-stage fixtures and a Round of 32 match. Its combination of iconic landmarks, innovative culture, natural beauty, and modern infrastructure makes it one of the most exciting host destinations.

### **Why the San Francisco Bay Area Is One of the Best FIFA Host Regions**

- Hosts **6 FIFA World Cup 2026 matches**
  - Home to **Levi's Stadium**
  - Excellent international flight connections
  - Easy access to San Francisco, Silicon Valley, and San Jose
  - Home to the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz Island
  - Diverse dining and cultural experiences
  - Wide range of hotels across multiple cities
  - Great base for exploring Northern California
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# San Francisco Bay Area FIFA World Cup 2026 Match Schedule

The San Francisco Bay Area will host six FIFA World Cup 2026 matches at Levi's Stadium.

## Tournament Overview

- **Total Matches:** 6
  - **Group Stage:** 5 Matches
  - **Round of 32:** 1 Match
  - **Venue:** Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, California
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## Quick Information

Information	Details
Host Region	San Francisco Bay Area, <a href="#">California</a>
Stadium	<a href="#">Levi's Stadium</a>
Tournament Matches	6
Primary Airport	San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
Other Airports	San Jose Mineta International Airport (SJC), Oakland International Airport (OAK)
Public Transportation	Caltrain, VTA Light Rail, BART, Bus, Ride-share
Best Areas to Stay	Santa Clara, San Jose, Downtown San Francisco, Palo Alto, Mountain View
Stadium Capacity	Approximately 68,500

Time Zone            Pacific Time (PT)

Recommended      4-6 Days  
Stay

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## **About Levi's Stadium**

Located in **Santa Clara**, Levi's Stadium is one of the most technologically advanced sports venues in the United States and will host every FIFA World Cup 2026 match in the San Francisco Bay Area. Opened in 2014, the stadium is home to the NFL's San Francisco 49ers and has hosted international football matches, concerts, and major sporting events.

Its sustainable design, modern facilities, and excellent fan experience make it an outstanding World Cup venue.

### **Stadium Capacity**

Levi's Stadium accommodates approximately **68,500 spectators** for FIFA World Cup matches.

### **Stadium Location**

The stadium is located approximately:

- 6 miles (10 km) from San Jose Mineta International Airport
- 45 miles (72 km) from Downtown San Francisco
- 10 miles (16 km) from Downtown San Jose

### **World-Class Facilities**

Visitors can enjoy:

- Modern seating with excellent sightlines
- Large high-definition video boards
- Premium suites and hospitality lounges

- Official FIFA merchandise stores
- Wide selection of restaurants and concessions
- Mobile ticket entry
- Accessible seating and guest services
- Spacious concourses

### **Match-Day Experience**

Levi's Stadium regularly hosts major international sporting events and delivers a lively match-day atmosphere. During the FIFA World Cup, fans can expect official FIFA fan zones, live entertainment, interactive exhibits, and food vendors representing cuisines from around the world.

### **Accessibility**

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

### **Best Seating Areas**

- **Lower Bowl:** Closest views of the action and the most energetic atmosphere.
- **Club Level:** Premium seating with additional amenities.
- **Upper Level:** Panoramic views at more affordable prices.

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## **How to Reach Levi's Stadium**

The Bay Area offers several transportation options for reaching Levi's Stadium.

### **From San Francisco International Airport (SFO)**

Average travel time:

- **Rental Car:** 40-50 minutes
- **Ride-share:** 45-60 minutes

- **Public Transportation:** Approximately 60-75 minutes

### **From San Jose Mineta International Airport (SJC)**

The closest airport to Levi's Stadium.

Average travel time:

- **Rental Car:** 10-15 minutes
- **Ride-share:** 15-20 minutes

### **From Oakland International Airport (OAK)**

Average travel time:

- **Rental Car:** 45-60 minutes
- **Public Transportation:** Approximately 75-90 minutes

### **By Caltrain and VTA Light Rail**

Many visitors can reach the stadium by combining Caltrain with VTA Light Rail, which provides direct service to stations within walking distance of Levi's Stadium on major event days.

### **By Car**

Drivers can reach the stadium via U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 880. Official parking should be reserved before match day.

### **Ride-Sharing Services**

Uber and Lyft operate throughout the Bay Area and offer designated pickup and drop-off zones near Levi's Stadium.

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## **Best Areas to Stay in SF Bay Area**

The Bay Area offers accommodations across several cities, each providing different advantages for FIFA visitors.

### **Santa Clara**

The closest city to Levi's Stadium, making it the most convenient option for match-day travel.

#### **Best for:**

- Football fans
  - Families
  - Stadium convenience
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### **San Jose**

California's third-largest city offers excellent hotels, restaurants, museums, and easy access to Levi's Stadium.

#### **Best for:**

- First-time visitors
  - Business travelers
  - Families
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### **Downtown San Francisco**

Perfect for visitors wanting to combine the FIFA World Cup with iconic attractions like Fisherman's Wharf, Union Square, and the Golden Gate Bridge.

#### **Best for:**

- Sightseeing
- Couples
- International travelers

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## **Palo Alto**

Home to Stanford University, Palo Alto offers upscale hotels, excellent restaurants, and a quieter atmosphere.

### **Best for:**

- Luxury travelers
  - Couples
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## **Mountain View**

Located in Silicon Valley, Mountain View provides modern hotels, vibrant dining, and convenient transportation connections.

### **Best for:**

- Families
  - Longer stays
  - Technology enthusiasts
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## **Best Hotels Near Levi's Stadium**

The Bay Area offers accommodations for every travel style and budget.

### **Santa Clara Marriott**

Located just minutes from Levi's Stadium, this hotel is one of the most convenient choices for FIFA visitors.

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

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## **Hyatt Regency Santa Clara**

Situated next to the Santa Clara Convention Center and within walking distance of Levi's Stadium.

**Best for:** Football fans and families.

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## **Hilton Santa Clara**

A modern hotel offering spacious rooms and one of the shortest commutes to the stadium.

**Best for:** Couples and business travelers.

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## **Signia by Hilton San Jose**

A luxury hotel in Downtown San Jose with premium amenities and convenient transportation access.

**Best for:** Luxury travelers.

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## **Hotel Valencia Santana Row**

Located in San Jose's upscale Santana Row district, this boutique hotel combines shopping, dining, and luxury accommodations.

**Best for:** Couples and food lovers.

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## **The Westin San Jose**

A historic luxury hotel offering elegant accommodations near Downtown San Jose's restaurants and attractions.

**Best for:** Business travelers and extended stays.

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### **Palace Hotel, San Francisco**

One of San Francisco's most iconic luxury hotels, ideal for visitors planning to explore the city's famous attractions while attending World Cup matches.

**Best for:** Sightseeing and luxury vacations.

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

The San Francisco Bay Area offers some of California's most famous attractions, making it easy to combine football with unforgettable sightseeing.

### **Walk Across the Golden Gate Bridge**

Experience one of the world's most recognizable landmarks while enjoying panoramic views of San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz Island, and the Pacific Ocean.

### **Visit Alcatraz Island**

Take a ferry to the historic former federal prison and explore one of America's most popular tourist attractions.

### **Explore Fisherman's Wharf**

Enjoy fresh seafood, waterfront restaurants, souvenir shops, street performers, and views of San Francisco Bay.

### **Ride a Historic Cable Car**

Travel through San Francisco aboard the city's famous cable cars while exploring neighborhoods such as Nob Hill and Union Square.

### **Discover Silicon Valley**

Visit the heart of the global technology industry, home to leading companies, innovation centers, museums, and university campuses.

### **Visit Golden Gate Park**

Spend time exploring gardens, museums, walking trails, lakes, and open spaces in one of America's largest urban parks.

### **Explore Santana Row**

Enjoy luxury shopping, outdoor dining, cafés, and nightlife in one of San Jose's most popular entertainment districts.

### **Take a Day Trip to Napa Valley**

If your schedule allows, visit California's famous wine country to experience scenic vineyards, award-winning restaurants, and beautiful countryside before returning for World Cup action.

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

Planning ahead ensures a stress-free arrival at Levi's Stadium.

- **Arrive at Least Three Hours Before Kickoff:** This provides enough time for transportation, security screening, and locating your seat.
- **Use Public Transportation Whenever Possible:** VTA Light Rail and Caltrain are generally faster and more convenient than driving during major events.
- **Visit the FIFA Fan Festival:** Arrive early to enjoy entertainment, cultural performances, sponsor activations, official merchandise, and international food vendors.
- **Download Your Mobile Tickets:** Save tickets offline and ensure your smartphone is fully charged before leaving your hotel.
- **Check Transportation Updates:** Review Caltrain, VTA, or BART schedules before departure, especially if traveling during peak hours.

- **Dress in Layers:** Bay Area weather can change throughout the day. Even during summer, evenings can become cool, particularly in San Francisco.
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## **Practical Travel Tips for FIFA Fans**

These practical recommendations will help you enjoy a memorable FIFA World Cup experience in the San Francisco Bay Area.

- **Reserve Hotels Early:** Hotels in Santa Clara, San Jose, and San Francisco are expected to fill quickly during the tournament.
  - **Choose Accommodation Based on Your Priorities:** Stay in Santa Clara for quick stadium access, San Jose for convenience and value, or San Francisco for sightseeing and nightlife.
  - **Carry a Portable Phone Charger:** Your phone will be essential for digital tickets, maps, ride-sharing, and payments.
  - **Purchase Transit Passes:** If using public transportation frequently, consider transit passes that simplify travel across the Bay Area.
  - **Wear Comfortable Walking Shoes:** Many attractions, including Fisherman's Wharf, Golden Gate Park, and downtown San Jose, are best explored on foot.
  - **Experience Local Cuisine:** Try fresh Dungeness crab (season permitting), sourdough bread, Mission-style burritos, Asian cuisine, farm-to-table restaurants, and fresh seafood from the Bay Area.
  - **Plan Extra Sightseeing Time:** Many visitors combine World Cup matches with trips to Napa Valley, Muir Woods, Monterey, Carmel-by-the-Sea, or Yosemite National Park.
  - **Review Stadium Policies Before Arrival:** Check FIFA's latest regulations regarding bags, prohibited items, and stadium entry procedures before heading to Levi's Stadium.
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## **Conclusion**

The San Francisco Bay Area offers one of the most diverse and memorable FIFA World Cup 2026 experiences. With six exciting matches at Levi's Stadium, iconic landmarks like the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz Island, world-renowned food, innovative culture, and beautiful Northern California scenery, the region is an outstanding destination for football fans from around the world.

Whether you are watching your favorite national team, exploring San Francisco's famous neighborhoods, discovering Silicon Valley, or taking a scenic drive along the California coast, the Bay Area delivers an unforgettable World Cup adventure.

**Download our FREE San Francisco Bay Area FIFA World Cup 2026 Travel Guide PDF for match schedules, stadium information, hotel recommendations, transportation tips, and top attractions, all in one convenient guide.**

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**How many FIFA World Cup 2026 matches will be played in the San Francisco Bay Area?**

The San Francisco Bay Area will host six FIFA World Cup 2026 matches at Levi's Stadium, including five group-stage matches and one Round of 32 match.

**Which stadium will host the FIFA World Cup in the San Francisco Bay Area?**

All FIFA World Cup 2026 matches in the San Francisco Bay Area will be played at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

**Is Levi's Stadium located in San Francisco?**

No. Levi's Stadium is located in Santa Clara, approximately 45 miles (72 km) south of Downtown San Francisco. It serves as the official stadium for the San Francisco Bay Area host region.

**What is the closest airport to Levi's Stadium?**

San Jose Mineta International Airport (SJC) is the closest airport, located approximately 6 miles (10 km) from Levi's Stadium. San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and Oakland International Airport (OAK) are also convenient options.

### **Where should I stay during the FIFA World Cup in the San Francisco Bay Area?**

Santa Clara is ideal for stadium access, while San Jose offers excellent value. Downtown San Francisco is perfect for sightseeing, and Palo Alto and Mountain View provide upscale accommodations in Silicon Valley.

### **What are the best attractions near Levi's Stadium?**

Popular attractions include the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, Fisherman's Wharf, Golden Gate Park, Silicon Valley, Santana Row, and Napa Valley.

### **What is the best way to get to Levi's Stadium?**

The combination of Caltrain and VTA Light Rail is one of the easiest and most efficient ways to reach Levi's Stadium on match days. Ride-sharing services are also widely available.

### **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 enjoying the official FIFA fan experiences around the stadium.

### **Is the San Francisco Bay Area a good destination for international football fans?**

Yes. The Bay Area combines world-class football with iconic landmarks, excellent transportation, outstanding dining, beautiful scenery, and easy access to Northern California's most popular destinations.