

ATLANTA WORLD CUP 2026

Planning Guide

Hotels, matchdays, transportation, neighborhoods, watch parties and VIP tips for smarter Atlanta planning.

Fans

Locals

VIP Groups

Atlanta Businesses

Use this guide to make faster Atlanta decisions.

Atlanta will be one of the highest-demand U.S. host cities during World Cup 2026. The right plan depends on where you stay, how you move, when your match starts and what you want to do before and after the game.

01

Where to stay

Choose by route, timing, and neighborhood fit - not just distance.

02

How to move

MARTA, rideshare, walking and parking each need an exit plan.

03

Where to go

Watch parties, restaurants and nightlife depend on timing and crowd fit.

04

VIP planning

Premium groups need earlier hotels, transport and hospitality decisions.

ATL.report Rule

Do not plan your Atlanta trip around distance alone. Plan around route, timing, neighborhood fit and post-match exit strategy.

Join Atlanta Alerts

Get hotel, transportation, watch party and VIP updates.

ATL.report

Atlanta hosts eight FIFA World Cup 2026 matches.

Atlanta's official host-city schedule lists eight matches at Atlanta's Stadium, including five group-stage matches, a Round of 32 match, a Round of 16 match and a semifinal.

8

ATLANTA MATCHES

5

GROUP STAGE

3

KNOCKOUT MATCHES

1

SEMIFINAL

Date	Time	Match	Stage
June 15	12:00 PM ET	Spain v. Cabo Verde	Group H
June 18	12:00 PM ET	Czechia v. South Africa	Group A
June 21	12:00 PM ET	Spain v. Saudi Arabia	Group H
June 24	6:00 PM ET	Morocco v. Haiti	Group C
June 27	7:30 PM ET	Congo DR v. Uzbekistan	Group K
July 1	12:00 PM ET	1L v. 3E/H/I/J/K	Round of 32
July 7	12:00 PM ET	W86 v. W88	Round of 16
July 15	3:00 PM ET	W99 v. W100	Semifinal

Timing note

Gates are currently listed as opening three hours before each Atlanta match. Build hotel, transportation, dining and exit plans around that window.

Source: Atlanta FIFA World Cup 2026 Host Committee official match schedule; FIFA host city pages.

Plan your matchday in windows, not guesses.

The best Atlanta matchday plan has three parts: arrive early, avoid last-minute cross-town movement, and know exactly what your group does after the final whistle.

6+ hrs before

Eat early, confirm your route, charge phones, and avoid late cross-town movement.

3 hrs before

Use this as your arrival planning window; gates are listed as opening three hours before match time.

90 min before

Be near the stadium area. Do not rely on a final-minute drop-off.

Final whistle +30

Let the first wave move. Use your planned meetup, restaurant, bar, hotel route or pickup zone.

Plan the exit before the entrance

Download updates and watch party notes at [ATL.report](#).

ATL.report

Where you stay changes your whole Atlanta trip.

The best hotel zone depends on your match schedule, nightlife plans, transportation comfort, group size and whether you value convenience, luxury or Atlanta energy.

Area	Best for	Stadium	Nightlife	Luxury
Downtown	Shortest stadium logistics	10/10	6/10	7/10
Midtown	Dining, rail, balanced trip	8/10	9/10	8/10
Buckhead	Luxury hotels, upscale dining	7/10	8/10	10/10
West Midtown	Groups, restaurants, social plans	7/10	9/10	8/10
Old Fourth Ward	BeltLine, food halls, local feel	6/10	8/10	7/10

Fast Decision Rule

Downtown for convenience. Midtown for balance. Buckhead for luxury. West Midtown for social plans. Old Fourth Ward for local energy.

CTA: Join Atlanta Alerts for hotel-zone updates and watch party announcements.

Do not choose a hotel only because it appears close on a map.

During World Cup demand, nearby does not always mean easy. Choose a hotel based on your route, neighborhood comfort, transit access and post-match plan.

HOTEL ZONE

Downtown

Choose if you want the simplest stadium day and shortest movement.

HOTEL ZONE

Midtown

Choose if you want restaurants, MARTA access and a better all-around stay.

HOTEL ZONE

Buckhead

Choose if you want luxury hotels, upscale dining and a polished trip.

Hotel Booking Checklist

- Check stadium route
- Check late-night return plan
- Review cancellation policy
- Identify post-match food nearby
- Check MARTA access
- Check walkability after dark
- Book earlier for semifinal week
- Save hotel address offline

Need help choosing a zone?

Use ATL.report neighborhood and hotel updates.

ATL.report

Downtown and Midtown are the core visitor decision.

These are the most likely stay zones for visitors who want stadium access, restaurants, transit, nightlife and a balanced Atlanta experience.

Downtown Atlanta

BEST FOR

Stadium access, short stays, event-first visitors

VIBE

Practical, busy, high-traffic

BEST MOVE

Stay here if your top priority is a simple matchday plan.

WATCH OUT FOR

Crowds, limited post-match vibe in some pockets and nighttime route comfort.

ATL.report neighborhood updates

Midtown Atlanta

BEST FOR

Restaurants, bars, MARTA, visitor balance

VIBE

Central, energetic, polished

BEST MOVE

Stay here if you want convenience plus a better all-around trip.

WATCH OUT FOR

Not every block feels the same late at night; choose hotel location carefully.

ATL.report neighborhood updates

Buckhead, West Midtown and Old Fourth Ward fit different visitor types.

These zones can be excellent, but they require more intentional transportation planning than a purely stadium-adjacent stay.

Buckhead

Best for: Luxury hotels, upscale restaurants, shopping and corporate travelers.

Plan note: Strong for comfort and premium stays; build in more matchday travel time.

Luxury 10/10

West Midtown

Best for: Restaurants, stylish groups, nightlife-adjacent plans.

Plan note: Great for curated experiences, but transportation needs to be intentional.

Dining 9/10

Old Fourth Ward

Best for: BeltLine, food halls, casual nightlife and local Atlanta energy.

Plan note: Strong for daytime-to-evening plans, not always the simplest stadium logistics.

Local feel 9/10

Decision rule: Choose your neighborhood based on your full itinerary, not just the match.

Your return plan matters more than your arrival plan.

MARTA, rideshare, walking and parking can all work. The right move depends on your hotel zone, group size, timing and comfort with crowds.

Near MARTA?

Use MARTA if station access and timing work.

Staying Downtown?

Walking may work if the route is comfortable and planned.

Group of 4+?

Rideshare or private transport may make sense; avoid the densest pickup zones.

Driving?

Reserve parking early and choose based on exit route, not just proximity.

Transportation updates

Join Atlanta Alerts for route notes and crowd reminders.

ATL.report

The friction point is leaving with thousands of people at once.

Build a 30-minute plan for the first wave after the match: walk, eat, wait, ride or meet.

Avoid	Do this instead
Calling rideshare at final whistle	Walk to a planned pickup zone
Choosing a restaurant after the match	Pick your post-match stop before kickoff
Assuming the group stays together	Set a clear meetup point
Checking MARTA timing late	Know your return station early
Parking without exit plan	Choose lot by exit route, not proximity

The 30-Minute Plan

Have one planned action for the first 30 minutes after the final whistle. Even waiting somewhere intentional is better than guessing in a crowd.

Know where the match is actually worth watching.

Atlanta watch parties will matter for locals, visitors without tickets and fans following other matches around the tournament.

VENUE TYPE

Sports Bars

Casual viewing, groups and predictable energy.

VENUE TYPE

Rooftops

Premium views, social groups and nightlife-adjacent experiences.

VENUE TYPE

Fan Zones

Atmosphere, large crowds and tournament energy.

VENUE TYPE

Breweries

Daytime matches, relaxed crowds and group-friendly plans.

VENUE TYPE

Lounges

VIP-style viewing and late-night transitions.

VENUE TYPE

Private Events

Corporate groups, sponsors and curated hospitality.

Official host-city materials highlight the FIFA Fan Festival at Centennial Olympic Park. Watch for local bars, restaurants and venues to announce additional matchday programming as the tournament approaches.

Sources: Atlanta FIFA World Cup 2026 Host Committee; official host-city fan hub pages.

Plan by timing and neighborhood.

Matchdays compress demand into narrow windows. The best move is to decide before the crowd starts moving.

TIMING

Before the match

Choose restaurants close to your hotel or stadium route. Avoid cross-town meals too close to kickoff.

TIMING

After the match

Pick your post-match stop before the game starts. Nearby venues may fill quickly.

TIMING

Late night

Choose nightlife based on transportation reality, group size, dress code and crowd fit.

Need	Consider
Simple stadium-adjacent plan	Downtown
Balanced dinner + nightlife	Midtown
Upscale dinner/lounge	Buckhead
Social group dinner	West Midtown
Casual local energy	Old Fourth Ward

Get dining and nightlife drops

Join Atlanta Alerts for event updates.

ATL.report

Premium Atlanta plans need earlier decisions.

World Cup 2026 Atlanta will create premium demand across hotels, transportation, restaurants, clubs, private events and corporate hospitality.

VIP Checklist

- Luxury hotel zone selected
- Restaurant reservations confirmed
- Private group details organized
- Backup plan for delays and crowds
- Matchday transport arranged
- Nightlife/table requests started
- Corporate hospitality needs identified
- Point person assigned

Area	VIP fit
Buckhead	Luxury hotels and upscale dining
Midtown	Central access and restaurants
Downtown	Maximum stadium convenience

Request VIP planning help

Visit [ATL.report](https://atl.report) for VIP Atlanta requests.

[ATL.report](https://atl.report)

Visitors decide before they arrive.

They search, compare, ask AI tools, scan guides and choose where to stay, eat, drink, celebrate and move around the city. ATL.report helps connect high-intent demand with useful Atlanta options.

- Bars
- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Clubs/Lounges
- Transport
- Promoters
- Sponsors
- Event Producers

Business type	Opportunity
Restaurant	Pre-match and post-match dining
Bar	Watch parties and fan gatherings
Hotel	Visitor stay recommendations
Club/Lounge	VIP and after-match demand
Transportation	Matchday and private group routing
Sponsor	Brand placement and local visibility

Get listed on ATL.report

Business listing requests go directly to ATL.report.

ATL.report

FINAL CHECKLIST

Get Atlanta World Cup Updates

Scan the QR code or visit ATL.report to get matchday, hotel, transportation, watch party, nightlife and VIP updates.



JOIN ATLANTA ALERTS

Before Your Trip

- Confirm your match date and kickoff time
- Save your stadium route
- Reserve restaurants early
- Track watch party announcements
- Join Atlanta Alerts
- Choose your hotel area
- Identify MARTA station or rideshare plan
- Pick a post-match meetup point
- Plan VIP requests early

ATL.report is an independent planning guide and is not affiliated with FIFA, the City of Atlanta, Mercedes-Benz Stadium or official event organizers unless a partnership is clearly disclosed.