

The World Cup Comes Home ■

Home Soil 2026 — Fan Facts Edition

Everything you need to sound like an expert while watching the biggest tournament in history on home soil.

■ THE BIGGEST WORLD CUP EVER

- **48 teams** (up from 32) — the first expansion since 1998
- **104 matches** total — 32 more than the 2018 & 2022 tournaments
- **3 host countries** for the first time ever: USA, Canada & Mexico
- **16 venues** across North America — the most since the 2002 Korea/Japan co-hosting
- Tournament runs **June 11 – July 19, 2026** (39 days of football)

■ NEW TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- **12 groups of 4 teams** each (instead of 8 groups of 4)
- Every team plays **3 group stage matches**
- Top **2 teams per group** advance automatically
- Plus the **8 best third-placed teams** also advance → Round of 32
- This creates a true 32-team knockout stage for the first time

■ HISTORICAL FIRSTS

- First time a World Cup is hosted by **three countries**
- **Estadio Azteca** (Mexico City) will host its **third World Cup opener** (1970, 1986, 2026)
- **MetLife Stadium** (New York/New Jersey) hosts the Final for the first time in its history
- First World Cup with **48 teams** and a 32-team knockout bracket
- Dallas (AT&T; Stadium) hosts the most matches of any venue: **9 games**

■ FUN NUMBERS

- **72 group stage matches** + 32 knockout matches = 104 total
- Average of **6.5 matches per venue** across the 16 stadiums
- The Final on July 19 will be the **23rd World Cup Final** in history
- Over **5 million tickets** expected to be sold (record numbers)
- Fan Fests and official watch parties planned in all 16 host cities + many more

■ FAN EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Official **FIFA Fan Festival** zones in or near every host city
- Many venues are **new or recently renovated** (SoFi, MetLife upgrades, Azteca renovation)
- **Pick'em Challenges** and fan prediction games running across platforms (including Home Soil)
- Special **limited edition gear** drops celebrating the home-soil tournament
- Expect massive **tailgates, street festivals, and watch parties** across North America