

Major Events

Traveler Summary

Introduction

Large-scale international events, such as the Olympic Games or World Cup, create unique environments with elevated safety and security risks. High visitor volumes, global visibility, and dense crowds may attract terrorist or terrorist-inspired individuals, homegrown violent extremists, or even more benign groups (such as protesters or activists) seeking to disrupt, inflict maximum damage, or increase exposure to their cause.

Relevant safety and security considerations are outlined in the Travax destination report for the host country and are supplemented by information in this document.

General

- Carry paper tickets to events when possible (when applicable); entry may be denied in the event of electronic-device malfunctions.
- Note exit routes upon arrival at venues; rapid evacuation may be required in an emergency.
- Leave the area immediately if crowds become unruly; significant safety and security risks can result from staying in the vicinity of unrest, including from the response by security forces.

Transportation

- Plan alternative local travel arrangements in advance; transportation infrastructure can quickly become overloaded when visitor numbers exceed a city's capacity. Protest or violent incidents may result in temporary or complete shutdowns of public transportation.
- Prepare for long waiting periods; additional time may be required for travel to and from event venues.

Communications

- Fully charge devices and carry backup power when possible; large crowds can overwhelm communication infrastructure, rendering services unstable or intermittently unavailable. Devices that continually search for a signal may rapidly drain battery power.
- When traveling in a party, arrange meetup locations in advance in case communication devices stop functioning.

Crime

- Secure all valuables, including passports and important documents; large tourist crowds can facilitate petty theft. Front pockets or zippered bags strapped completely around the body are generally more secure than back pockets or single-shoulder bags.
- Blend into crowds by avoiding expensive or flashy jewelry, watches, or provocative clothing (such as items displaying political messages); standing out may attract unwanted attention from criminals.
- Remain alert and avoid distractions (such as using a phone while walking); criminals may exploit inattention to operate unnoticed.
- Be aware of common local criminal tactics, including coordinated theft; offenders may work in pairs or groups, with 1 person distracting the victim while another attempts to pickpocket.
- Identify local security or police services and report any incidents or suspicious behavior.