

Where to Stay: Safe Bases in All 8 Host Cities



Neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood guidance on where women can base themselves comfortably - plus how to vet a listing before you pay for it.

The eight host cities

Matches are spread across eight cities in four very different regions. Where you sleep matters more than what you sleep in - a modest room in a well-lit, busy neighbourhood beats a lovely apartment on a quiet street you cannot walk to at night.

HOST CITY	STADIUM	REGION & FEEL
Rio de Janeiro	Estadio do Maracana	Southeast coast. Beaches, biggest tourist infrastructure, highest visitor volume.
Sao Paulo	Arena Itaquera (Corinthians)	Southeast. Brazil's largest city; best food scene and flight connections.
Brasilia	Estadio Nacional	Central. Planned capital, wide avenues, car-dependent, quieter nights.
Belo Horizonte	Estadio Mineirao	Southeast/inland. Famous for bars, cheese bread and Minas cooking.
Salvador	Arena Fonte Nova	Northeast coast. Afro-Brazilian heart of the country; historic Pelourinho.
Recife	Arena de Pernambuco	Northeast coast. Paired with historic Olinda; strong music culture.
Fortaleza	Arena Castelao	Northeast coast. Long urban beaches, warm all year.
Porto Alegre	Estadio Beira-Rio	South. Coolest weather in June/July - genuinely cold at night.

Five rules that apply everywhere

1. **Pick the neighbourhood first, the property second.** Search the neighbourhood name, then filter. Never the reverse.
2. **Street-level busy is safer than gated and isolated.** You want shops, restaurants and foot traffic within a two-minute walk of your front door, especially after dark.
3. **24-hour reception or a doorman (porteiro)** is worth paying extra for. It means someone knows you came home, and there is help at 3am.

4. **Check the walk from the nearest metro or drop-off point.** Use street view. If the last 300 metres look deserted, book somewhere else.
5. **Read the recent reviews written by women.** Reviews from the last six months only. Filter for the words "safe", "night", "alone", "walk".

BOOK EARLY - AND EXPECT PRICE SURGES

Eight host cities, a month of matches, and hundreds of thousands of visitors. Accommodation in Rio, Salvador and Sao Paulo will be scarce and expensive from roughly mid-June 2027. Book refundable rates as soon as the match schedule is published, then re-book if your plans change. Waiting until spring 2027 will cost you two to three times more, and the cheap rooms left will be the ones in the neighbourhoods you were told to avoid.

City by city

Rio de Janeiro

Maracana

Base yourself in: Copacabana, Ipanema, Leblon, Botafogo, or Barra da Tijuca. The Zona Sul (south zone) is where visitor infrastructure, police presence and English-speaking staff are concentrated. Ipanema and Leblon are calmer and more residential; Copacabana is busier, cheaper and better connected by metro.

Think twice about: anything advertised as a "favela stay" or "authentic hillside experience" unless it is run by a well-established operator with a long review history. Also avoid Centro and Lapa as a *base* - fine to visit, but they empty out and change character at night.

Getting to the stadium: the Maracana has its own metro station on Line 2. Staying anywhere on the metro line makes match nights dramatically easier than relying on cars.

Sao Paulo

Arena Itaquera

Base yourself in: around Avenida Paulista (Bela Vista, Consolacao, Jardins), Vila Madalena, or Pinheiros. Paulista is the safest all-round bet: metro on the doorstep, lit and busy into the evening, hotels at every price point. Vila Madalena and Pinheiros are the nightlife and restaurant districts, good if you want to be out late among crowds.

Think twice about: the area around Luz and the Santa Ifigenia district, and staying in the far east near the stadium itself - it is residential and poorly served after matches.

Getting to the stadium: Arena Itaquera sits next to Corinthians-Itaquera station on metro Line 3 (red). It is a long ride from Paulista - allow 60-75 minutes each way on a match day.

Salvador

Arena Fonte Nova

Base yourself in: Barra, Rio Vermelho, or Ondina. Barra has the lighthouse, beaches and a steady flow of people. Rio Vermelho is the bohemian, restaurant-heavy neighbourhood - lively at night, which is exactly what you want.

Think twice about: sleeping inside the Pelourinho historic centre. It is spectacular and absolutely worth visiting by day and early evening, but the surrounding streets go quiet and become notably less comfortable late at night. Visit, do not base.

Local note: Salvador is the most Afro-Brazilian city in the country and its cultural calendar is extraordinary. Ask your accommodation which neighbourhood events are on - going with a group from your hostel is the best way to experience them.

Belo Horizonte

Mineirao

Base yourself in: Savassi, Funcionarios, or Lourdes. Savassi is the compact, walkable heart of the city - bars, restaurants, banks, and enough evening foot traffic to feel comfortable.

Think twice about: the far edges of Centro after business hours.

Local note: BH has arguably the best bar culture in Brazil and Minas Gerais cooking is the country's comfort food. This is a very easy city to enjoy.

Brasilia

Estadio Nacional

Base yourself in: Asa Sul or Asa Norte, ideally in one of the hotel sectors (Setor Hoteleiro Sul or Norte), or Lago Sul if you want quiet and are happy to use cars.

Think twice about: assuming you can walk. Brasilia was designed for cars. Distances that look short on a map are long, hot and often without pavements. Budget for ride-hailing.

Getting to the stadium: the Estadio Nacional is centrally located and one of the easiest stadium approaches of the eight.

Recife

Arena de Pernambuco

Base yourself in: Boa Viagem for beachfront and hotels, or historic Olinda (20-30 minutes away) for charm and a gentler pace.

Think twice about: swimming at Boa Viagem beach - there is a genuine shark risk and warning signs are posted. Obey them. For the water, day-trip to Porto de Galinhas instead.

Getting to the stadium: the Arena is in Sao Lourenco da Mata, well outside the city. Plan your match-day transport in advance; do not assume you will find a ride home easily.

Fortaleza

Arena Castelao

Base yourself in: Meireles or Aldeota - the safest and best-served coastal neighbourhoods, with the beachfront promenade and most of the good hotels.

Think twice about: Praia de Iracema late at night, and unlit stretches of beach anywhere after dark.

Porto Alegre

Beira-Rio

Base yourself in: Moinhos de Vento or Cidade Baixa. Moinhos is the upscale, leafy, comfortable option; Cidade Baixa is younger and more nightlife-driven.

Pack for this one: Porto Alegre in June and July is genuinely cold - think 8-18C with rain. If you are also going to Salvador or Recife in the same trip you are packing for two different climates.

How to vet a listing in ten minutes

- **Drop the address into satellite and street view.** Look for shops, lighting, and whether the street connects to a main road.
- **Sort reviews by most recent.** Ignore anything older than a year - neighbourhoods change.
- **Search reviews for "safe", "night", "walk", "alone", "taxi".**
- **Check the host's response rate and history.** A brand-new listing at a suspiciously good price during a World Cup is a scam pattern.
- **Never pay outside the platform.** If a host asks for a bank transfer or Pix to "avoid fees", walk away and report the listing.
- **Message the host a real question** before booking. How they answer tells you a lot.

Hostels, hotels or apartments?

OPTION	BEST FOR	WATCH OUT FOR
Female-only hostel dorm	Solo travellers who want instant company and people to go to matches with. Cheapest safe option.	Book the women-only room specifically; confirm it has lockers big enough for a daypack.
Mid-range hotel	Anyone who wants a locked door, a safe, and staff on duty at 3am. The single easiest choice.	Price surges hard around match dates.
Apartment rental	Groups, longer stays, self-catering.	No reception desk. Verify the building has a porteiro and controlled entry.
Aparthotel / flat service	The sweet spot for many - apartment space plus a staffed lobby.	Common in Brazil, under-searched by foreigners. Try the term "flat" or "apart-hotel".

ON ARRIVAL, DO THESE FOUR THINGS

- Take a photo of the property's business card or address and pin the location offline.
- Ask reception directly: "Which streets should I avoid at night?" They will tell you honestly.
- Put the property's phone number in your phone.
- Message someone at home with the address and your dates.

Please double-check before you fly. This guide was written in August 2026 for the FIFA Women's World Cup Brazil 2027 (24 June - 25 July 2027). Visa rules, prices, and safety conditions change. Always confirm with your own government's travel advisory, the Brazilian consulate for your country, and the official FIFA tournament site before booking or travelling. Safe Passage Brasil 2027 is an independent travel resource and is not affiliated with FIFA, CBF, or any government body.