



## England vs Mexico: World Cup 2026 Round of 16 Preview – Three Lions Head to the Azteca

### Description

England face one of the toughest tests of this FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign when they travel to the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City to take on the tournament co-hosts in the Round of 16. Kick-off is on Monday 6 July at 1am BST (8am SGT).

The Three Lions arrive in form, with [Harry Kane's brace securing a 2-1 comeback win over DR Congo](#) in the Round of 32. But what awaits in Mexico City is a different proposition entirely – a partisan crowd of 87,000 at one of football's most iconic venues, at altitude, against a side that has been imperious throughout this tournament.

### The Fixture

This is the first World Cup meeting between England and Mexico since 1986 – at the same Azteca ground where Diego Maradona's infamous 'Hand of God' goal ended England's quarter-final run. Forty years on, both nations arrive with very different expectations.

Mexico have been one of the stories of the tournament. As co-hosts alongside Canada and the United States, El Tri have won all four of their matches without conceding a single goal. They defeated Ecuador 2-0 in their last outing, with Julián Quiñones and Raúl Jiménez both on the scoresheet. Quiñones has now scored three goals in the tournament, while Roberto Alvarado leads the competition's assist charts with three of his own.



Kane leads England out at this summer's World Cup. Source: England Football (englandfootball.com)

## England's Campaign So Far

Thomas Tuchel's side navigated a competitive group before overcoming DR Congo in the knockout rounds. Kane's aerial dominance has been England's standout feature – the Bayern Munich striker has scored four headers in this tournament alone, and at 33 years old, he shows no signs of slowing. Jude Bellingham has been creative and combative throughout, while Declan Rice continues to set the tempo in midfield.

In goal, Jordan Pickford stands one clean sheet away from equalling Peter Shilton's England record for World Cup clean sheets. Mexico have yet to concede in the tournament – meaning Pickford's chance at history and Mexico's defensive record are both on the line on Monday night.

Head-to-head form favours England: in their last four meetings across all competitions, the Three Lions won every one, outscoring Mexico 12 goals to four. Whether that record translates to a home World Cup environment at altitude is an entirely different question.

## The Mexican Threat

Captain Edson Álvarez anchors Mexico's midfield with intensity and physicality, breaking up play and quickly recycling possession. Neutralising Álvarez could be key to opening up space for Bellingham and Rice to dictate from deeper positions. Going forward, Quiñones has been dangerous from wide areas, while the experienced Raúl Jiménez leads the line with intelligent movement and a poacher's instinct.

The Aztecas' altitude – roughly 2,240 metres above sea level – will be a significant factor, draining energy reserves faster than at sea level. Tuchel will need to manage the squad carefully, particularly if the match extends to extra time.



Paul Scholes netted against Mexico in a 2001 friendly – England have historically dominated recent meetings with El Tri. Source: England Football (englandfootball.com)

## The Route Ahead

Should England progress past Mexico, Tuchel's squad would travel to Miami where they held their pre-tournament training camp to face the winners of Brazil v Norway on Saturday 11 July at 10pm BST. A potential semi-final in Atlanta on Wednesday 15 July and the final in New York-New Jersey on Sunday 19 July await beyond that.

But the immediate focus is Mexico City. Morgan Rogers captured the mood in the England camp: It's an occasion to remember. Playing at the Azteca against Mexico for this country, there's nothing bigger right now. We're ready. Marcus Rashford added that the squad was looking forward to soaking up the atmosphere, whatever it brings.

For fans in Singapore, the match kicks off at 8am SGT on Monday 6 July. Check local broadcasters carrying FIFA World Cup 2026 rights for viewing options.

Also read: [England 2-1 DR Congo: Kane brace sends Three Lions into Round of 16](#) | [England's World Cup 2026 Round of 32 preview](#)

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