



Travel



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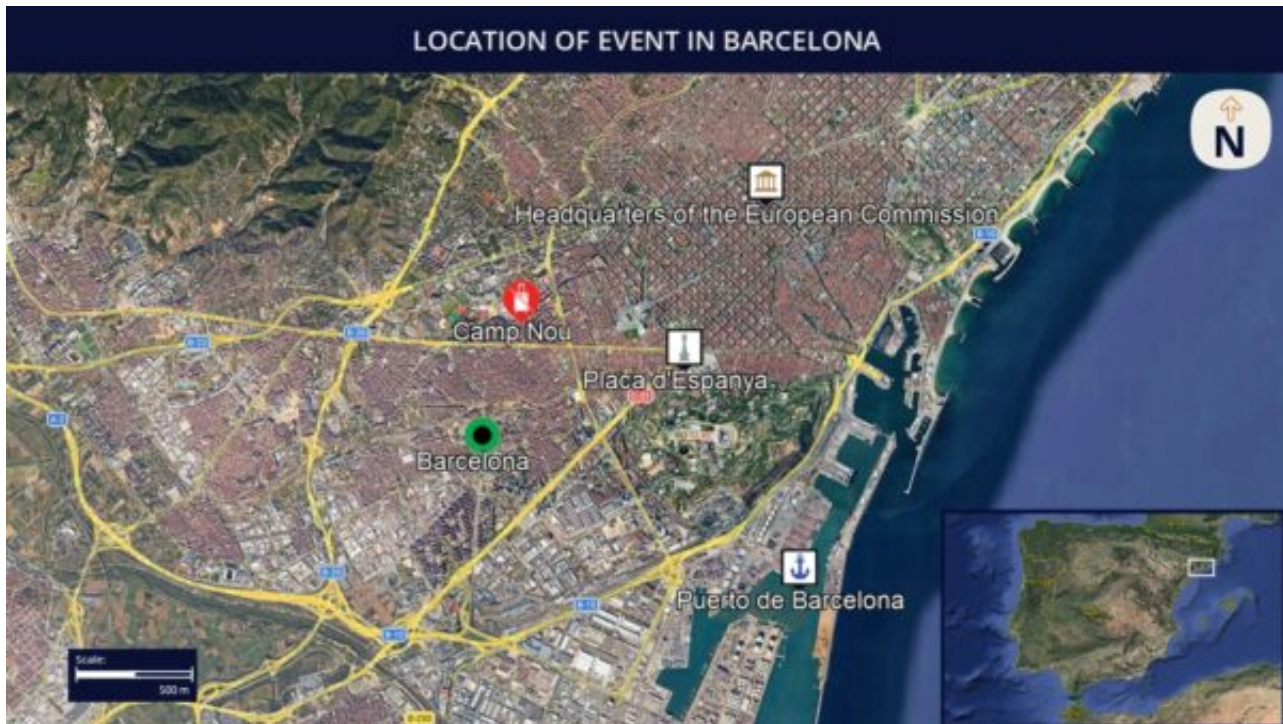
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Spain Tactical: UEFA football match, associated pre-match rally in Barcelona on April 8; avoid nonessential travel

Current Situation

- On April 8, a UEFA Champions League football match between FC Barcelona and Atletico de Madrid will take place at Camp Nou in Barcelona, with kickoff scheduled for 21:00 (local time).
- Authorities have classified the fixture as high-risk, with a full-capacity turnout expected at the stadium. Gates will open at 19:30 to facilitate staggered entry. Pedestrian access will be routed via Avenida Joan XXIII, Travessera de les Corts, and Carrer Aristides Maillol.
- Moreover, a pre-match rally by football fan club, Pena Atletico Metropolitana de Barcelona is slated to be held near Palau Reial, located near Camp Nou, from 15:00.



Source: [FC Barcelona](#)

Assessments & Forecast

1. Based on precedent from previous football fixtures between FC Barcelona and Atletico de Madrid in February 2025 and March 3, coupled with the capacity of Camp Nou, the football match is expected to draw a turnout in the high tens of thousands. Moreover, based on precedent from March 3, coupled with the mobilization capability of the organizer fan club, the pre-match rally near Palau Reial is likely to garner turnout in the high dozens to low hundreds.
2. Given the high-risk classification of the match and the history of tensions surrounding Barca-Atletico fixtures, both pre-match gatherings and the match itself carry a heightened threat of unrest. This risk can further escalate in the presence of rival supporter groups, including Barca ultras such as Boixos Nois and Atletico-linked fan groups. Such unrest can manifest in the form of hostile chanting, use of flares and pyrotechnics, throwing of objects, and clashes between rival supporters or confrontations with security personnel. Indeed, precedent from February 2025, when Atletico's team bus was targeted with thrown cups, cans, and bottles by Barcelona supporters near the stadium perimeter, further supports this assessment.
3. Hooligan groups or disruptive individuals can also employ flares and firecrackers, particularly in high-density areas surrounding the stadium. Precedent from October 2025, when Barcelona ultras clashed with police and threw flares, bottles, and other objects at a visiting team bus while also confronting security personnel, further supports the likelihood of similar tactics. Such unrest could also transpire in nearby pubs, fan gathering points, and transit hubs where rival supporters can mix before and after the match.
4. Inside the stadium, attempts to display banners, flags, or provoke rival supporters could lead to isolated scuffles or removals by security staff. Overall, the heightened risk of unrest increases the potential for spillover violence affecting the bystanders and other spectators.
5. While no specific terrorist threat has been identified in relation to the match, the combination of high attendance, symbolic significance of a UEFA Champions League fixture, and concentration of crowds at various locations to view the match provides attractive targets for extremist actors. Additionally, the large crowds and likely presence of intoxicated individuals increase the risk of petty theft and opportunistic assaults.

6. Therefore, a bolstered security presence of police and emergency services is expected around the stadium and key transit corridors. Authorities are likely to maintain a low threshold for intervention, with measures including controlled access points, crowd management operations, and rapid response units on standby. In the event of escalation, crowd control measures such as dispersal tactics and detentions will likely be implemented.
7. Significant disruptions to pedestrian and vehicular movement are expected, especially in the vicinity of the stadium and along major approach routes. Road restrictions, limited vehicle access, and public transport crowding are likely.

Recommendations

1. Those operating or residing in Barcelona on April 8 are advised to avoid nonessential travel near Camp Nou and Palau Reial de Pedralbes due to the heightened risk of unrest linked to the football match and associated pre-match event.
2. Allot for travel-related disruptions in the vicinity of the stadium and major transit areas.
3. Remain cognizant of updates regarding bolstered security checkpoints and potential road closures.
4. If alerted to potential suspicious activity, inform authorities immediately.