Overview
Salvador De Bahia is a gem, a dynamic, edgy city that has preserved in legacy as centre of the slave trade. It's the centre of Afro-Brazilian culture and known for its music, cuisine, fine buildings and stunning scenery. Salvador is rightfully know as the ‘capital of happiness’. The annual carnival at the end of February is the largest in Brazil. However, street crime is a significant problem and will be a concern during the World Cup. Its Brazil's third largest city and capital of the North East.

City Facts and figures
- Population: 3m
- Time Zone: GMT -3
- Portuguese pronunciation: ‘saludor”
- Elevation: 8m
- Weather June/July: Av temp of 24c but could be wet, expect up to 20mm per day

The Stadium - Itaipava Fonte Nova
Capacity of 53,700. Home to Esporte Clube Bahia, new stadium. Stadium used and tested during Confederations Cup.
Matches: 13/6 - Group B; Spain v Holland, 16/6 - Group G; Germany v Portugal, 20/6 - Group E; Switzerland v France, 25/6 - Group F; Bosnia & Herzegovina v Iran
1/7 - Round 16; 1H v 2G
5/7 - Quarter Final - W51 v W 52 @17:00

Stadium Transport and infrastructure
The stadium is close to the historic centre of Salvador, the high city (Cuidad Alto) which is called the Pelourinho or Pelo for short. Its a short, 15 minutes, walk but the route must be closely selected as there are some rough areas in between, especially around the market area which is home to many crack addicts

The stadium is surrounded by a residential area on most sides although is easily accessible. From the Barra beach resort and hotel area to the south allow up to 1 hour to get the stadium.

Buses run along Av Joana Angelica to the west of the stadium. There is very limited parking.

Safety Issues/ Areas to Avoid and Scams
Salvador has a reputation for crime but visitors to the World Cup should not be put off, just sensible. Always minimse what to you take out, ideally only cash or one card, cameras hidden away. The historic area has a good police presence.
In the day time keep to the well used public areas. The tourist office suggests keeping to those pedestrian roads marked in ‘yellow’ on their maps. Its very easy go off route. When crossing Av JJ Seabra, which is enroute to the stadium, go with a group and check route from your hotel or military police .
If you photograph Capoeira displays you will be expected to pay. Watch out for pick pockets and endless people/children trying to sell you ribbons and souvenirs.
The Airport - To and From
Luis Eduardo Magalhaes (SSA) airport, 32 km to north of city. Good 24 hr english spoken tourist info centre.
Taxis cost approximately R$90 to historic centre. A/c executive bus service to city centre every 30 mins, red in colour, calls at many high end hotels. More direct but crowded local Onibus number 841 and others goes from Praca de Se to airport (scenic route along Barra coast but allow 1 1/2 hrs, cost R$2.70!)

Hotels
The majority of hotels are in the Barra and the coastal area along to Vermelho. Smaller selection of hotels and pousadas (guest houses) in the central area.

Local interests and Fun
The Pelourinho (Pelo) is the historic centre of the city with many fine colonial buildings, most impressive church is Convento do Sao Francisco with incredibly amount of gold. Fine building around the Praca de Se and Terreiro de Jesus.

Excellent local music and dance. Local displays of Capoeira, a fighting dance originating from resistance to the slave trade.

Fine beaches along the south coast stretching from Barra (light house and fort) all the way along to Vermelho and Pitbuba.

Elevador Lacerda, 19th Century lift, linking low town to higher city, top at the Camara Municipal.

Carnival - end of Feb annually - most popular in Brazil and claimed to be the World’s largest.

Taxis and Public Transport
Good taxi and bus service through out the city. Taxi meter should start at around the R$ 4.40, perhaps slightly less for some journeys and at night some additional charges may occur. Always check that the driver has reset the meter. English and Spanish not that common so ensure you have destination written down and an idea of directions, distance and what it might cost.

Support Services
Local Dialling Code: + 55 71
Hospital Espanhul, Tel 34218000, Av 7 de Septembro

Tourist Police: Deltur Tel 3322 7155, Cruizeiro de Sao Francisco 14, Peloainho.

Tourist information at airport and very help office in Pelo on corner of Ruas Joao de Deus and Rue das Laranjeiras

Summary
Venue Score: 9/10
‘+’
Good stadium; tried and test
Good airport
Historic town with good hotels, beaches, centre of Afro - brazilian culture
‘-’