# How far must a ball travel to be a home run? Depends on the MLB stadium.



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July 27 at 11:05 a.m.

Baseball is a game of inches.

Unless we're talking about the outfield fences.

In a typical major league ballpark, center field stands 400 feet from home plate. But for a home run in Detroit, you'll have to hit the ball 22 feet farther. In San Francisco a measly 305-footer down the right field line could be a home run. These stadium quirks are beloved. They're called charm.

Parks are listed below alphabetically by nicknames (e.g. "Diamondbacks") rather than city or state ("Arizona") or stadium name ("Chase Field.")

Dodger Stadium in Chavez Ravine is used as the comparative reference because of its prototypical dimensions. Comparisons between some iconic parks (e.g. Yankee Stadium and Fenway Park) are added at the end.

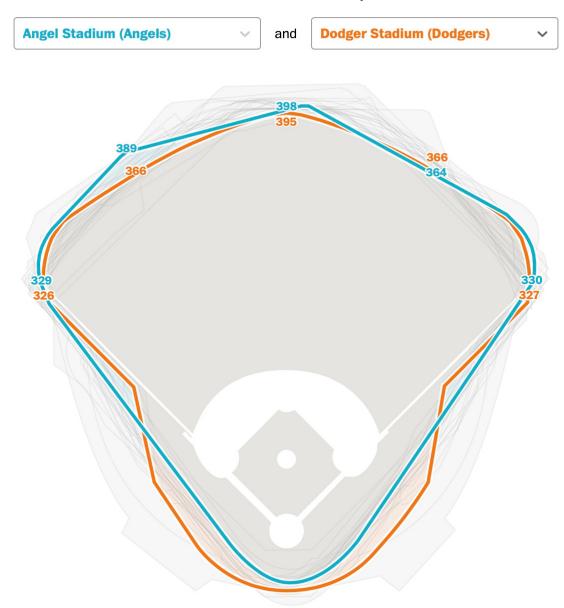
A chart at the end presents the influence of home park dimensions on team home run production. The effect of Angels Stadium on Shohei Ohtani's output is also noted.

Also evident are differences in foul ground, for example between the spacious territory in Oakland Coliseum (where popups go to die, albeit often after sparkling defensive plays) and the tight "bandbox" layout at Citizen's Field in Philadelphia, or at Minute Maid Park in Houston, where offense is prized.

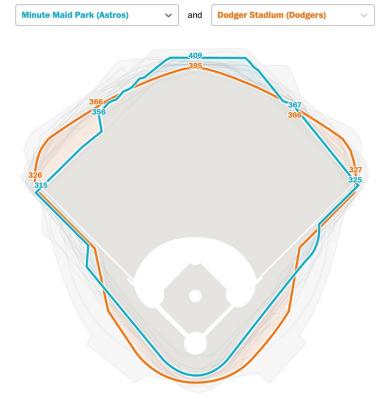
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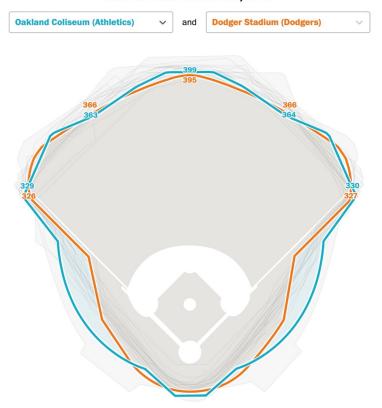
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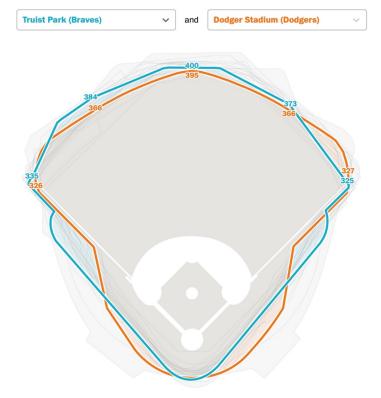
How far is a home run, in ...



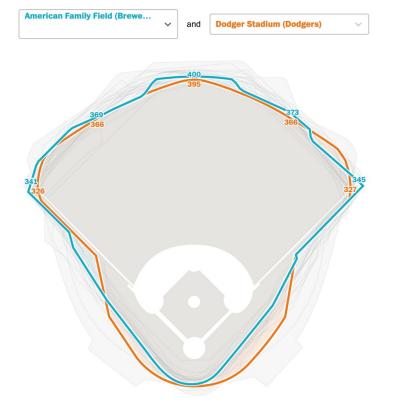
The charm affects outcomes of games, of course. More than 1,000 batted balls this year resulted in outs that would have been a home run in a different ballpark, according to <u>Baseball Savant</u>. Those coulda-beens would have pushed this year's home run total from 3,535 to 4,546, as of July 25.



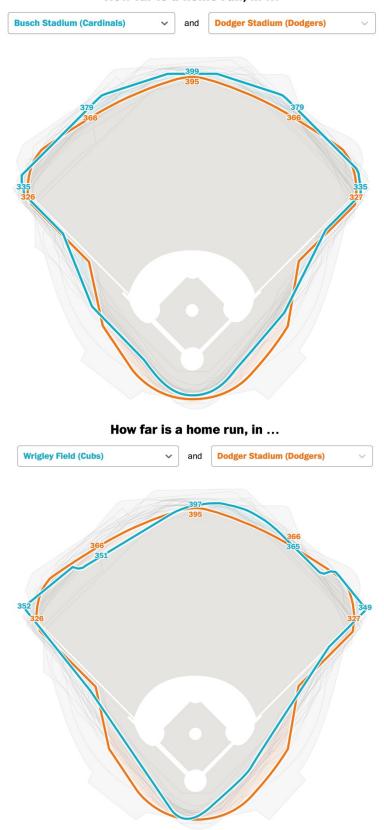




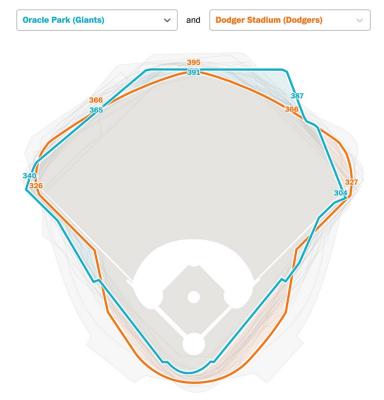
## How far is a home run, in $\dots$

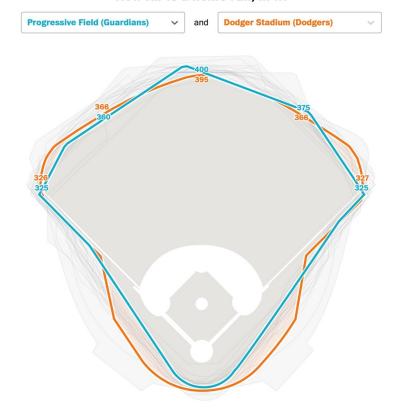


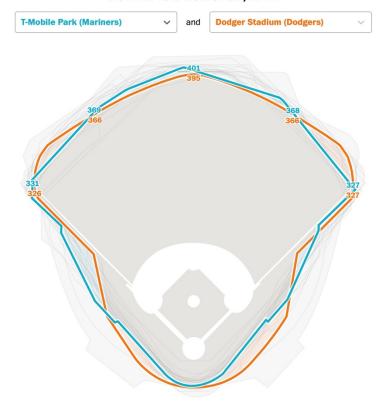
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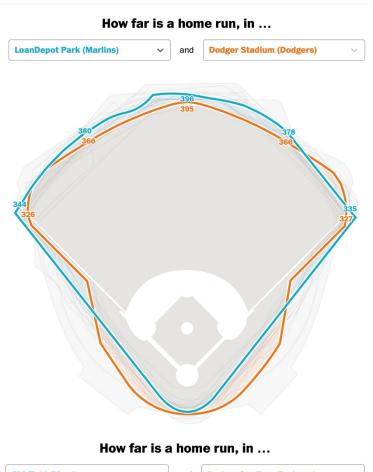


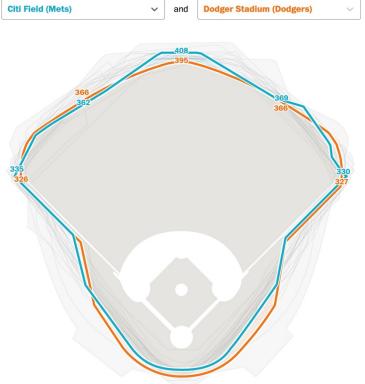
# How far is a home run, in ... Chase Field (Diamondbacks) and Dodger Stadium (Dodgers) 405 375 366 330 330 3326 333 326 3375 366

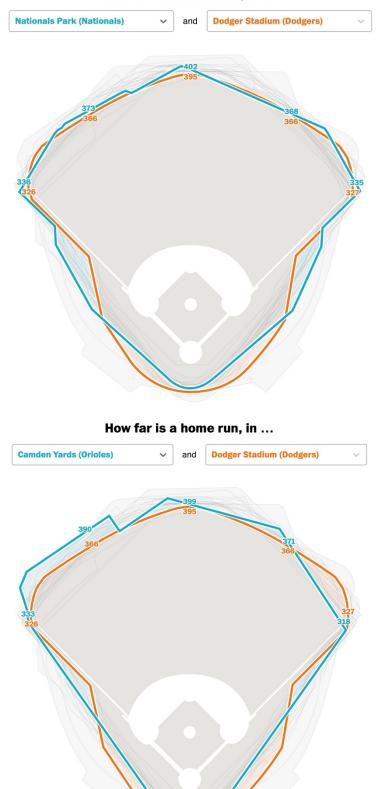


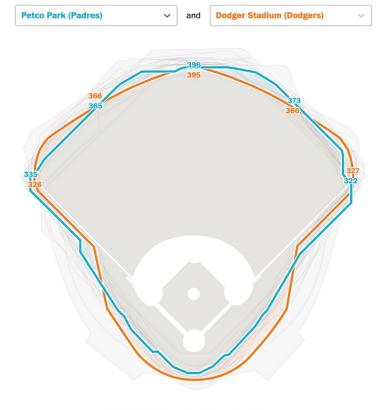


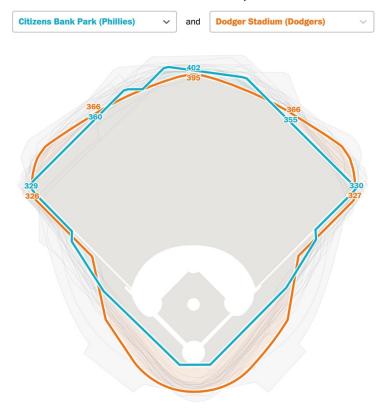


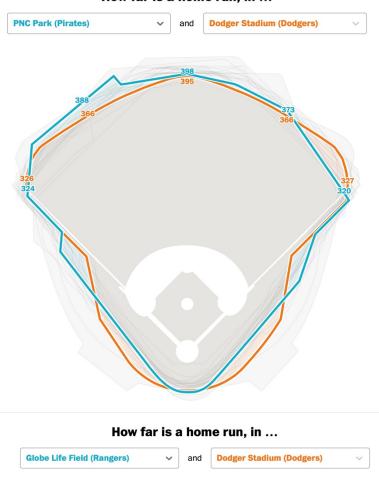


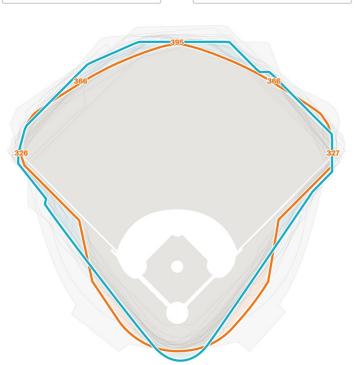




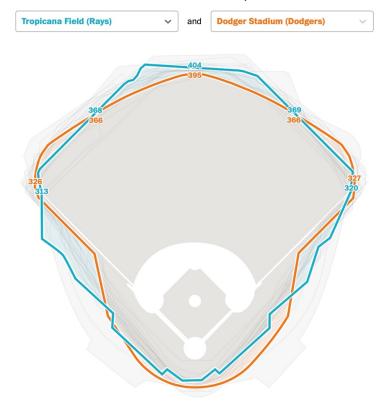




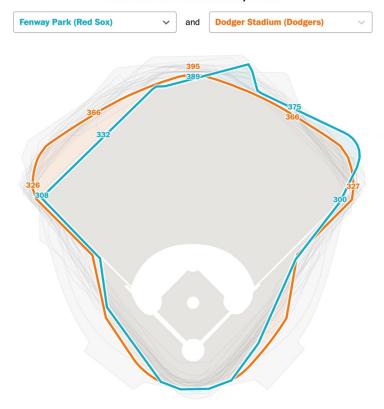




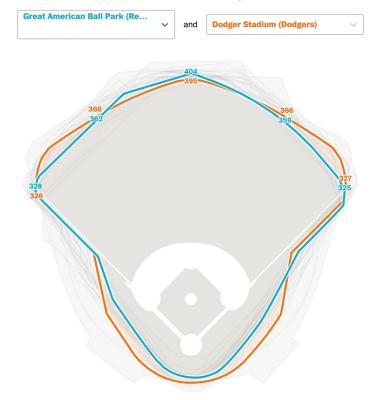
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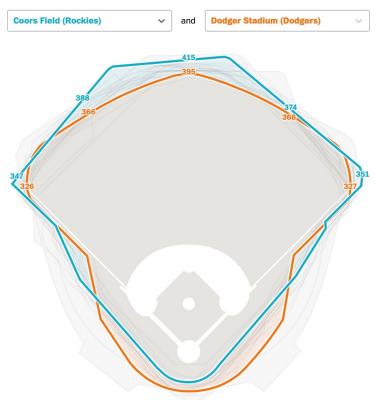


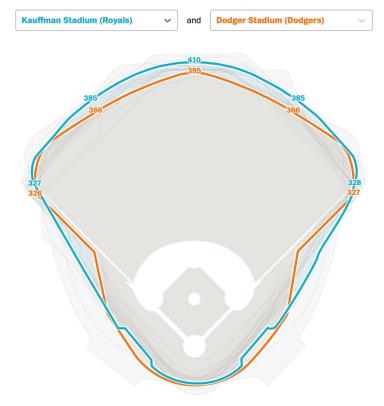
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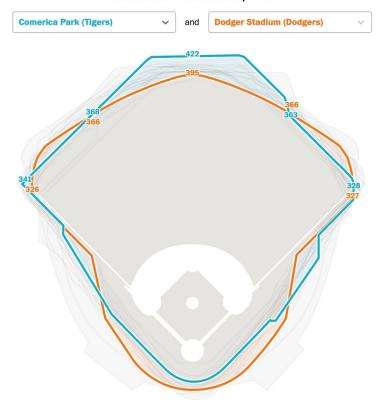


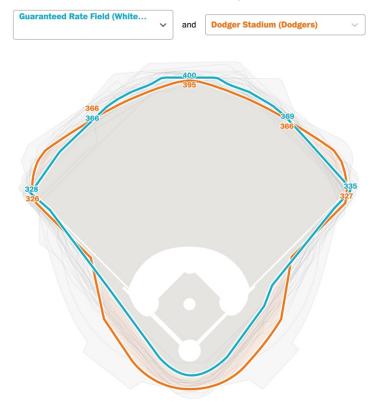
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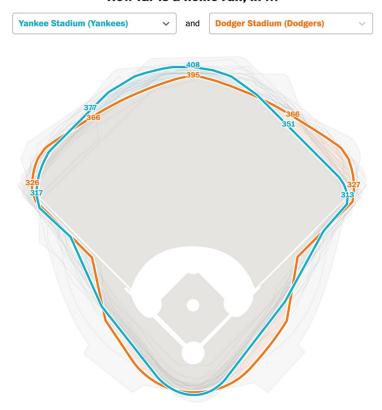


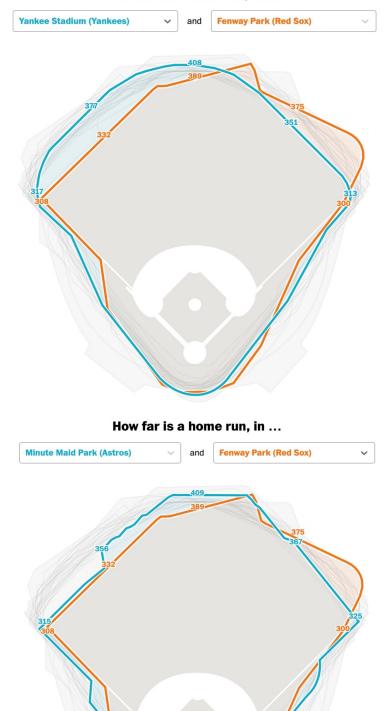


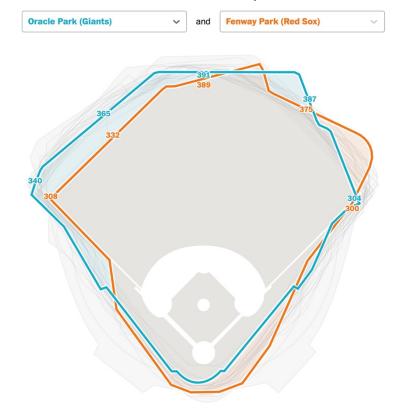


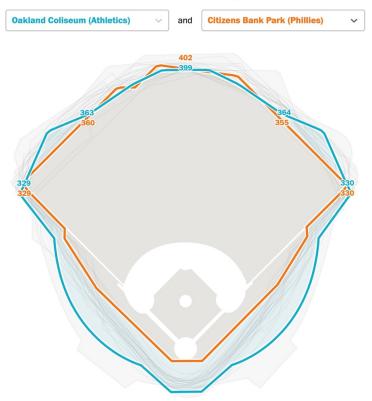












#### The teams helped and hurt most by where they hit long balls

Expected home runs considers factors including fence dimensions, air temperature and ballpark altitude. Data as of July 24.

TEAM	HOME RUNS	EXPECTED HOME RUNS	DIFFERENCE FROM EXPECTED ▼
Rays	149	130.0	+19.0
D-backs	118	102.1	+15.9
Reds	114	99.0	+15.0
Braves	187	174.2	+12.8
Padres	127	115.2	+11.8
Phillies	109	99.3	+9.7
Angels	163	154.0	+9.0
Cubs	109	102.0	+7.0
Yankees	140	133.2	+6.8
White Sox	112	106.7	+5.3
Brewers	106	100.7	+5.3
Mets	119	114.8	+4.2
Dodgers	166	162.6	+3.4
Mariners	117	113.7	+3.3
Astros	125	122.0	+3.0
Rockies	94	92.2	+1.8
Nationals	90	89.9	+0.1
Tigers	93	93.3	-0.3
Marlins	91	91.5	-0.5
Blue Jays	114	114.6	-0.6
Orioles	119	120.0	-1.0
Twins	133	135.2	-2.2
Giants	117	119.8	-2.8
Rangers	139	144.5	-5.5
Cardinals	137	143.1	-6.1
Pirates	94	100.6	-6.6
Athletics	96	104.4	-8.4
Red Sox	111	123.5	-12.5
Guardians	74	88.3	-14.3
Royals	91	109.4	-18.4

Source: Baseball Savant

The Angels' superstar Shohei Ohtani leads MLB with 36 home runs so far -3.5 more than expected because of favorable stadium factors. Ohtani will be a free agent after this season and could be headed to a new team and ballpark. If he played every game in San Francisco, he would only <u>have</u> 25 home runs. Shohei, if you're listening, don't go to the Giants.