

DAVIS CUP BY RAKUTEN 2022

WORLD GROUP I AND WORLD GROUP II

15-18 SEPTEMBER – PREVIEW NOTES

WORLD GROUP I

Austria (s) (c)* v Pakistan

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Tulln an der Donau, Austria
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Colombia (s) (c)* v Turkey

Dates: Saturday 17-Sunday 18 September
Venue: Bogota, Colombia
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Israel (c) v Czech Republic (s)

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Tel Aviv, Israel
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: Czech Republic lead 3-1

Uzbekistan (c) v Japan (s)

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: tied 2-2

Ecuador (s) (c) v Switzerland

Dates: Saturday 17-Sunday 18 September
Venue: Salinas, Ecuador
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: Switzerland lead 1-0

Peru (c) v Chile (s)

Dates: Saturday 17-Sunday 18 September
Venue: Lima, Peru
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: Chile lead 6-2

Portugal (c)* v Brazil (s)

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Viana do Castelo, Portugal
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Norway (c)* v India (s)

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Lillehammer, Norway
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Ukraine (c) v Hungary (s)

Dates: Thursday 15-Friday 16 September
Venue: Vilnius, Lithuania**
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: Ukraine lead 2-1

Slovakia (s) (c) v Romania

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Bratislava, Slovakia
Surface: clay, indoors
Head-to-head: tied 1-1

Finland (s) (c)* v New Zealand

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Espoo, Finland
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Bosnia and Herzegovina (s) (c)* v Mexico

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Siroki Brijeg, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

(s) = seed; (c) = choice of ground; * choice of ground was decided by lot;

** due to the conflict in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Tennis Federation has elected to host this tie in Lithuania

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN WORLD GROUP I THIS WEEKEND?

Winning nations in World Group I this weekend will advance to the 2023 Qualifiers, where they will compete alongside the teams finishing in 3rd-16th place at the Davis Cup Finals this year. (NB 2 of those 26 teams will be selected as wild cards for the Davis Cup)

Losing nations in World Group I this weekend will compete in the 2023 World Group I Play-offs alongside the winning nations in World Group II.

WORLD GROUP II

Uruguay (s) (c)* v China, P.R.

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Montevideo, Uruguay
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Lebanon (s) (c)* v Monaco

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Lithuania (s) (c) v Egypt

Dates: Saturday 17-Sunday 18 September
Venue: Vilnius, Lithuania
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: Egypt lead 3-0

Thailand (c)* v Bolivia (s)

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Chinese Taipei (s) (c) v Hong Kong, China

Dates: Saturday 17-Sunday 18 September
Venue: Taipei City, Chinese Taipei
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: Chinese Taipei lead 6-2

Slovenia (s) (c) v Estonia

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Portoroz, Slovenia
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: Slovenia lead 1-0

Tunisia (s) (c) v Greece

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Tunis, Tunisia
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: Greece lead 1-0

El Salvador (c)* v Denmark (s)

Dates: Saturday 17-Sunday 18 September
Venue: San Jose Villanueva, El Salvador
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Poland (s) (c)* v Indonesia

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Inowroclaw, Poland
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Bulgaria (c) v South Africa (s)

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Sofia, Bulgaria
Surface: clay, outdoors
Head-to-head: South Africa lead 2-0

Barbados (s) (c)* v Ireland

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: St Michael, Barbados
Surface: hard, outdoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

Latvia (c)* v Dominican Republic (s)

Dates: Friday 16-Saturday 17 September
Venue: Jurmala, Latvia
Surface: hard, indoors
Head-to-head: first meeting

(s) = seed; (c) = choice of ground; * choice of ground was decided by lot

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN WORLD GROUP II THIS WEEKEND?

Winning nations in World Group II this weekend will advance to the 2023 World Group I Play-offs, where they will compete alongside the losing nations in World Group I.

Losing nations in World Group II this weekend will compete in the 2023 World Group II Play-offs alongside the 12 best-performing nations in regional Group III events this year.

ELSEWHERE IN DAVIS CUP THIS WEEK

The Davis Cup Finals group stage began on Tuesday, with 16 teams in action across 4 European cities. The top 8 teams in the group stage will advance to the Final 8 knockout stage in Malaga on 21-27 November.

For full preview notes from the Davis Cup Finals group stage, [visit the Davis Cup website](#).

PAST CHAMPIONS

In total, 15 nations have won the Davis Cup, 12 of whom are competing at the Finals this year.

- USA	32
- Australia	28
- France, Great Britain	10
- Sweden	7
- Spain	6
- Germany	3
- Czech Republic, Russia	3
- Croatia	2
- Argentina, Italy, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland	1

NATIONS AND PLAYERS

148 nations entered the Davis Cup in 2022. 732 players have been nominated to represent their nations so far this season.

DAVIS CUP NATIONS RANKING

The Davis Cup Nations Ranking was launched at the end of 2001. It measures success over the preceding 4-year period, with recent performances weighted more heavily. [The full ranking list can be found on the Davis Cup website](#).

Latest Davis Cup Nations Ranking (7 March 2022)

1	Croatia	26	Hungary
2	Spain	27	Slovakia
3	France	28	Finland
4	USA	29	Bosnia and Herzegovina
5	Germany	30	Romania
6	Canada	31	Uzbekistan
7	Italy	32	Norway
8	Great Britain	33	Israel
9	Kazakhstan	34	Peru
10	Belgium	35	Portugal
11	Serbia	36	Mexico
12	Argentina	37	Ukraine
13	Sweden	38	Turkey
14	Russia (suspended)	39	Pakistan
15	Australia	40	New Zealand
16	Austria	41	Uruguay
17	Colombia	42	Lebanon
18	Czech Republic	43	Lithuania
19	Japan	44	Bolivia
20	Netherlands	45	Switzerland
21	Korea, Republic	46	Chinese Taipei
22	Ecuador	47	Slovenia
23	Chile	48	Tunisia
24	Brazil	49	Denmark
25	India	50	Poland

WORLD GROUP I NOTES

Click the link for each tie to see full details of nominated players, captains, head-to-heads and matches once the draws are made.

[Austria v Pakistan](#)

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **AUSTRIA** are bidding to end a 3-tie Davis Cup losing streak and record their first victory in the competition since the 2020 Qualifiers, when they defeated Uruguay. The team subsequently lost both of the ties they contested at the 2021 Davis Cup Finals – falling to both Serbia and Germany – and fell to Korea, Republic in this year's Qualifiers. World No. 137 Jurij Rodionov leads the team this week, and will bid to improve on his 1-4 win-loss record in the competition, with his only Davis Cup victory thus far having come against Germany's Dominik Koepfer at the Finals last year.
- **PAKISTAN** are bidding to reach the Qualifiers for the first time. Although traditionally strong in home ties, the team have struggled in away clashes in recent years – victory this weekend would be their first win in an away tie since 2015, when they defeated Indonesia in Jakarta. Playing captain Aisam Qureshi, the world No. 56 in doubles, is the only member of the team to hold an ATP ranking in either singles or doubles. He also holds the all-time records for most Davis Cup match-wins by a Pakistani player in singles, doubles and overall.

[Colombia v Turkey](#)

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **COLOMBIA** are bidding to return to the Davis Cup Qualifiers for the 4th time, after slipping to defeat against USA in the Qualifiers earlier this year. The team had previously appeared at the Davis Cup Finals in both 2019 and 2021, and will be keen to give themselves a chance to reach the Finals once again in 2023. World No. 75 Daniel Elahi Galan, who has reached the 3rd round at both Wimbledon and the US Open this season, will likely lead the team in singles, with the ever-reliable duo of Juan-Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah providing support in doubles.
- **TURKEY** are bidding to continue the momentum from victories against Latvia in September 2021 and against Uzbekistan in March this year and reach the Qualifiers for the first time. Their No. 1 player, Altug Celikbilek, will be hoping to sustain his good recent form in Davis Cup – the 26-year-old is bidding to extend a 6-match Davis Cup singles winning streak and is unbeaten in singles matches in the competition since 2018.

[Israel v Czech Republic](#)

- Head-to-head: Czech Republic lead 3-1
- Last meeting: Europe/Africa Group I second round, Czech Republic defeated Israel 3-1 in Ostrava, Czech Republic
- **ISRAEL** came close to reaching the 2022 Qualifiers, falling to Ukraine in a decisive 5th match at this stage last year, and will bid to record a 2nd Davis Cup victory over Czech Republic en route to the 2023 Qualifiers this year. Israel's sole victory over the Czechs came in 1987, when Amos Mansdorf recorded a famous win in a decisive 5th match, and the home fans this weekend will hope that the current Israeli team can replicate that achievement. Playing captain Jonathan Erlich will likely look to Yshai Oliel, a former Australian Open boys' singles finalist, to take the fight to the Czechs this weekend.
- **CZECH REPUBLIC** are bidding to return to the Qualifiers in 2023, after the team succumbed to a heavy away defeat to Argentina in this year's Qualifiers. The young Czech team had performed admirably at the 2021 Davis Cup Finals, putting in competitive performances against both France and Great Britain, but failed to win a match during their clash against Argentina in Buenos Aires in March. Jiri Lehecka, now a firm fixture in the world's Top 100, is captain Jaroslav Navratil's top-ranked player this weekend – and Navratil, who led the Czech team to back-to-back Davis Cup titles in 2012-13, will hope that the likes of Lehecka, Tomas Machac and Dalibor Svrčina can steer Czech Republic back to the highest level of the competition.

Uzbekistan v Japan

- Head-to-head: tied 2-2
- Last meeting: 2011 Asia/Oceania Group I second round, Japan defeated Uzbekistan 4-1 in Kobe, Japan
- **UZBEKISTAN** are bidding to end a 3-tie Davis Cup losing streak and return to the Qualifiers next year for the first time since 2020. The team have not recorded a victory in the competition since defeating Lebanon in an Asia/Oceania Group I clash in 2019 – and have also lost their last 3 home ties, with their last victory on home soil coming against China, P.R. in July 2016. While Davis Cup veteran Denis Istomin, once a Top 100 star who recorded a famous win against Novak Djokovic at the 2017 Australian Open, has slipped down the rankings of late, the Uzbeks will hope that 21-year-old Sergey Fomin, now the team's No. 1 player, can inspire them to a win this weekend.
- **JAPAN** are bidding to record a victory this weekend which would ensure a 4th consecutive appearance in the Davis Cup Qualifiers. The team came close to victory in the Qualifiers in March this year, with Sweden's Elias Ymer defeating Yosuke Watanuki in a decisive 5th match to deny Japan a place in the Finals this week. The Japanese responded impressively to defeat in the Qualifiers in 2020-21, defeating Pakistan 4-0 in a World Group I tie last year, and will hope for similar response this time. Watanuki is the team's top player this weekend, while 19-year-old former Wimbledon boys' singles champion Shintaro Mochizuki – one of Japan's great hopes for the future – will also hope to gain more Davis Cup experience.

Ecuador v Switzerland

- Head-to-head: Switzerland lead 1-0
- Last meeting: 2013 World Group play-offs, Switzerland defeated Ecuador 4-1 in Neuchatel, Switzerland
- **ECUADOR** are bidding to end a 3-tie Davis Cup losing streak, with the team having not recorded a victory in the competition since defeating Japan in the 2020 Qualifiers. Since then, the team performed admirably in a tough group at the 2021 Finals, falling to both Spain and eventual champions Russian Tennis Federation, before losing to France in the Qualifiers this year. The team has relied on a consistent core of Emilio Gomez and Roberto Quiroz in singles and Gonzalo Escobar and Diego Hidalgo in doubles – and long-serving captain Raul Viver has once again selected that quartet as Ecuador bid to give themselves a chance of reaching the Davis Cup Finals for a 2nd time in 2023.
- **SWITZERLAND** are bidding to record a 3rd consecutive Davis Cup victory, with the team having defeated Estonia in September 2021 and Lebanon in March this year to bounce back from relegation to World Group II in 2020. Those 2 victories were the Swiss team's first wins since 2017, having lost 5 consecutive ties prior to the win against Estonia last year. The team's top player this weekend is world No. 87 Marc-Andrea Huesler, who will hope to carry his good form from the North American hard court season into this tie. Huesler has lost both of the 2 live singles matches he has contested in the competition and, as the highest-ranked player at this tie, will hope to guide his team into the Qualifiers.

Peru v Chile

- Head-to-head: Chile lead 6-2
- Last meeting: 2015 Americas Group I first round, Chile defeated Peru 5-0 in Santiago, Chile
- **PERU** are bidding to continue their excellent recent Davis Cup form, with the team having won 4 of their last 5 ties in the competition. Their only defeat in that time came away in Romania in a World Group I clash last year – but the Peruvians will certainly feel more comfortable playing at home, having not lost a home Davis Cup tie since falling to Venezuela in Arequipa in April 2013. Key to their recent Davis Cup success has been the performances of Juan Pablo Varillas. The 26-year-old, who broke the world's Top 100 for the first time last month, has won 9 of the last 10 Davis Cup matches he has contested, and will hope for more success against Peru's South American rivals this weekend.
- **CHILE** are bidding to add another Davis Cup victory to their name this year, after a 4-0 win over Slovenia in the World Group I Play-offs in March ended a 4-tie Davis Cup losing streak. The team, led by the charismatic Nicolas Massu, boasts 3 strong singles options in Alejandro Tabilo, Cristian Garin and Nicolas Jarry – and they will hope that their collective strength can counter Peru's home advantage this weekend. They have not lost a Davis Cup tie to Peru since 1994, and will hope for another victory this time out, as they aim to ensure a 3rd appearance in the Davis Cup Qualifiers for 2023.

Portugal v Brazil

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **PORTUGAL** are bidding to reach the Qualifiers for the 2nd time, with the team having competed solely in at Group I-level since falling to Kazakhstan in the Qualifiers in 2019. The team fell to Romania in a World Group I tie last September but bounced back to record a comfortable 4-0 victory over Poland in the World Group I Play-offs in March this year. The team's No. 1 player is Joao Sousa, who has firmly re-established his position inside the world's Top 100 this year after dropping as low as No. 182 in October 2021. Sousa will claim sole ownership of the record for most Davis Cup ties played by a Portuguese player this weekend – and will also hope to extend his records for most total Davis Cup matches won and most Davis Cup singles matches won by a Portuguese player.
- **BRAZIL** are bidding to win this weekend and secure a place in the Davis Cup Qualifiers for the 4th time. The team has followed a familiar script in recent seasons – a defeat in the Qualifiers followed by a victory at Group I-level, and they will hope for a similar story this weekend as they bid to give themselves a chance of reaching the Finals for the first time next year. Thiago Monteiro is the Brazilian No. 1 and the 28-year-old will be keen for a victory in the competition this weekend, having lost 3 of the last 4 Davis Cup matches he has played.

Norway v India

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **NORWAY** are bidding to resume their ascent up the Davis Cup pyramid, after their progress towards the top of the competition was halted by Kazakhstan in the Qualifiers earlier this year. The team had previously won 5 consecutive ties to advance from Group II-level to the brink of the Davis Cup Finals. They are playing at home again this weekend for the 7th straight Davis Cup tie – and it will be a chance for the home crowd to welcome new world No. 2 and 2-time Grand Slam finalist Casper Ruud back to Norway. Ruud has been a loyal Davis Cup servant for his nation over the years, and had been on a 10-match Davis Cup singles winning streak until running into an inspired performance from Alexander Bublik in the Qualifiers in March. He will hope to return to winning ways in the competition alongside his compatriots this weekend.
- **INDIA** are bidding to continue the good form they displayed in defeating Denmark in this year's World Group I Play-offs, after a disappointing 2020-21 season saw the team fall to Croatia in the Qualifiers before losing to Finland in World Group I last year. The team will likely look to the experienced duo of Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajnesh Gunneswaran in singles, and can rely on the doubles expertise of the evergreen Rohan Bopanna, who remains the world No. 21 in doubles despite having reached the age of 42 this year.

Ukraine v Hungary

- Head-to-head: Ukraine lead 2-1
- Last meeting: 2019 Europe/Africa Group I, Hungary defeated Ukraine 3-2 in Budapest, Hungary
- **UKRAINE** are bidding to reach the Davis Cup Qualifiers for the first time – as well as continue the momentum from a victory over Barbados in challenging circumstances in the World Group I Play-offs in March this year. That tie took place in Antalya, Turkey due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine – and Ukraine will once again host a tie outside their country this weekend, with this clash against Hungary taking place in Vilnius, Lithuania. The team have won 3 of their last 4 Davis Cup ties and captain Andrei Medvedev has entrusted a youthful squad to attempt to continue their recent good form in this round.
- **HUNGARY** are bidding to end a 3-tie Davis Cup losing streak and ensure that they make their 4th consecutive appearance in the Qualifiers next year. The team acquitted itself well at the Davis Cup Finals in 2021, succumbing to narrow defeats against Australia and Croatia with several members of the squad performing well above their rankings. A subsequent defeat to Australia in this year's Qualifiers meant that they would not reach the Davis Cup Finals for a 2nd straight season, but the team again performed well, with Zsombor Piros ultimately falling to Thanasi Kokkinakis in a decisive 5th match of that tie. With a comparatively strong team in Lithuania to take on Ukraine this weekend, including both Piros and world No. 91 Marton Fucsovics, Hungary will be confident of ending their losing run.

Slovakia v Romania

- Head-to-head: tied 1-1
- Last meeting: 2015 Europe/Africa Group I second round, Slovakia defeated Romania 3-2 in Constanta, Romania
- **SLOVAKIA** are bidding to bounce back after coming agonisingly close to reaching the Davis Cup Finals this year, falling to Italy in a decisive 5th match in the Qualifiers in March. The team's last 3 Davis Cup seasons have all looked very similar, with a defeat in the Qualifiers followed by a victory at Group I-level. A win this weekend will ensure a 4th consecutive appearance in the Qualifiers for the Slovaks – and they will have the advantage of playing in familiar surroundings, given that this will be their 10th consecutive home tie. World No. 45 Alex Molcan will be their No. 1 player this weekend, and the 24-year-old will bid for his first Davis Cup victory after losing his only previous Davis Cup match to Chile's Cristian Garin in a 2021 World Group I tie.
- **ROMANIA** are bidding to return to winning ways after defeat to Spain in the Qualifiers this year ended a 3-tie Davis Cup winning streak. The team had previously recorded consecutive victories against Zimbabwe, Portugal and Peru to ensure their first appearance in the Qualifiers earlier this year. Captain Gabriel Trifu must try to blend youth and experience this weekend, with 19-year-old Nicholas David Ionel, Romania's No. 1 player for this tie, set to make his Davis Cup debut, while Marius Copil, a veteran of 21 Davis Cup ties will also compete for his nation again.

Finland v New Zealand

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **FINLAND** are bidding to return to the Qualifiers in 2023 after coming within one match of reaching the Davis Cup Finals this season. The team fell to Belgium 3-2 in the Qualifiers in March, with Emil Ruusuvuori and Otto Virtanen both falling in the reverse singles matches after a victory in the doubles had left the Finns 2-1 up. The team had enjoyed a successful 2020-21 campaign, recording victories against both Mexico and India to advance to the Qualifiers for the first time. Ruusuvuori and Virtanen once again lead the team, while Harri Heliövaara has enjoyed a superb season and will be an excellent doubles option for captain Jarkko Nieminen to rely on.
- **NEW ZEALAND** are bidding to reach the Qualifiers for the first time – which would represent the team's best Davis Cup performance since reaching the 1999 World Group play-offs, when they fell to Spain. The team defeated Uruguay in a World Group I Play-off in March, and will be determined to back up that victory this weekend. Ajeet Rai and Kiranpal Pannu are their 2 highest singles options, but the team also boasts doubles world No. 7 Michael Venus – and Olympic bronze medallist at Tokyo 2020 last year – among their ranks, while Artem Sitak is another doubles specialist who will pose a formidable challenge to the Finnish team.

Bosnia and Herzegovina v Mexico

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA** are bidding to advance to the Qualifiers for the first time since 2019, when the team fell to Australia in Adelaide. Since then, they have competed solely at Group I-level, but have achieved encouraging results of late, with victories over South Africa last year and Tunisia in March this year and a pair of narrow defeats to Czech Republic in 2019 and Peru in 2021 – both of which were settled in decisive 5th matches. Captain Zoran Zrnic has an extremely experienced squad to pick from – former Top 100 star Damir Dzumhur leads the team, but Nerman Fatic, Mirza Basic and Tomislav Brkic all have considerable history playing at this level. No. 1 Dzumhur has won 5 of his last 6 Davis Cup singles matches – and will contest his 20th Davis Cup tie this weekend.
- **MEXICO** are bidding to reach the Qualifiers in their first tie of the year, having received a walkover in March's World Group I Play-offs due to the suspension of the Belarusian Tennis Federation. The team last competed in March last year, recording an impressive 3-1 away victory against Bulgaria. Gerardo Lopez Villasenor has been the team's top performer in recent years, having won 5 of the last 6 Davis Cup matches he has played, while in Santiago Gonzalez the team have an elite-level doubles specialist who will pose a threat to the Bosnian team in the crucial doubles match this weekend.

For more information on each team, visit the [team profile pages](#) on the Davis Cup website. For information on individual players' Davis Cup records, use the [player search tool](#) on the Davis Cup website.

WORLD GROUP II NOTES

Click the link for each tie to see full details of nominated players, captains, head-to-heads and matches once the draws are made.

[Uruguay v China, P.R.](#)

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **URUGUAY** are bidding to end a 3-tie Davis Cup losing streak and record their first victory since defeating Dominican Republic in a 2019 Americas Group I clash. Since then, the team have fallen to Austria, Netherlands and New Zealand and find themselves competing at Group II-level for the first time since 2018. The team are without Pablo Cuevas this weekend, but still have his brother Martin to lead them against China, P.R. The younger Cuevas brother will contest his 23rd Davis Cup tie this weekend.
- **CHINA, P.R.** are bidding to begin their ascent back up the Davis Cup ladder, having been forced to give walkovers in their last 3 ties due to travel restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. The team are also bidding to end a 3-tie losing streak, having lost their 3 most-recent ties to India, Japan and Korea, Republic in 2018-19. Their last Davis Cup victory came against New Zealand in February 2018. Leading the team this weekend will be Zhang Zhizhen and Wu Yibing, who are both closing in on the Top 100.

[Lebanon v Monaco](#)

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **LEBANON** are bidding to bounce back from consecutive defeats to Brazil and Switzerland, and record their first Davis Cup victory since they overcame Thailand in a World Group I Play-off March 2020. The team are competing at Group II-level for the first time since 2018, but had been on an impressive rise up the Davis Cup pyramid, having gone from Asia/Oceania Group III to World Group I between 2017 and 2020. Benjamin Hassan, who has won 9 of the 12 Davis Cup singles matches he has played, leads the team this weekend.
- **MONACO** are bidding to consolidate their position in World Group II, having won promotion from Europe Group III in 2021 before defeating Morocco 4-0 in the World Group II Play-offs in March this year. They are looking to extend a 6-tie winning streak this weekend, having not lost since falling to Greece in September 2019. Valentin Vacherot and Lucas Catarina are likely to lead the line in singles, while in Hugo Nys and Romain Arneodo the team boasts an extremely strong doubles pair.

[Lithuania v Egypt](#)

- Head-to-head: Egypt lead 3-0
- Last meeting: 2007 Europe/Africa Group III, Egypt defeated Lithuania 2-1 in Cairo, Egypt
- **LITHUANIA** are bidding to hit back after a narrow defeat away to Pakistan in March saw them drop down to World Group II for this round of ties. Ricardas Berankis, a former Wimbledon junior champion who has had an extremely admirable professional career, leads the Lithuanian team once again – and he will record his 40th Davis Cup match-win should he claim one victory this weekend.
- **EGYPT** are bidding to extend a 4-tie Davis Cup winning streak, having won 3 ties to claim promotion from Africa Group III in 2021 before defeating Cyprus 4-1 in the World Group II Play-offs in March. The Egyptians have never played at Group I-level since the current format was introduced in 1980s, meaning that a victory this weekend and another in the World Group I Play-offs next year would see them compete at the highest-level since they played alongside the world's elite teams in the 1970s.

[Thailand v Bolivia](#)

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **THAILAND** are bidding to end a 3-tie losing streak and record their first Davis Cup victory since April 2019, when they defeated Philippines in an Asia/Oceania Group II tie. Their most-recent defeat came against Latvia in March this year, when former Grand Slam semifinalist Ernests Gulbis guided the Latvians to victory. The team will be keen to avoid another defeat this weekend, as it would leave them just one tie away from regional Group III – a level that Thailand have never played at.
- **BOLIVIA** are bidding to recover from back-to-back defeats to Belgium and Peru and record their first victory since 2020. The team came within touching distance of the 2022 Qualifiers this time last year, before Belgium recovered from 0-2 down to win. The team are without their No. 1 player, Hugo Dellien, this weekend – but they do still have Dellien's brother, Murkel, in the squad and he is the highest-ranked player at this weekend's tie.

Chinese Taipei v Hong Kong, China

- Head-to-head: Chinese Taipei lead 6-2
- Last meeting: 2019 Asia/Oceania Group I, Chinese Taipei defeated Hong Kong, China 4-0 in Hong Kong, China
- **CHINESE TAIPEI** are bidding to record back-to-back Davis Cup victories, after a convincing performance against Guatemala in the World Group II Play-offs in March. The team was forced to give a walkover to Morocco at this stage last year due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and will be determined to prove that they belong at Group I-level over their next 2 ties. The team's top 4 players are all ranked above Hong Kong's top singles player – with world No. 185 Wu Tung-Lin leading the way for Chinese Taipei.
- **HONG KONG, CHINA** are bidding to extend a 4-tie Davis Cup winning streak, having won promotion from Asia/Oceania Group III in 2021 before defeating Benin in the World Group II Play-offs in March. Victory here and again in the World Group I Play-offs next year would see the team rise to Group I-level for the first time since 1995. Their No. 1 player this weekend is talented junior Coleman Wong, who has enjoyed a strong season on the junior tour and seems well-positioned to make inroads in the professional game.

Slovenia v Estonia

- Head-to-head: Slovenia lead 1-0
- Last meeting: 2007 Europe/Africa Group II first round, Slovenia defeated Estonia 3-2 in Tallinn, Estonia
- **SLOVENIA** are bidding to recover from a heavy defeat to Chile in the World Group I Play-offs in March, as they aim to return to Group I-level for the first time since 2015. They have performed well in home ties in recent years, having won 4 of their last 5 Davis Cup clashes on home soil. The team is spearheaded by Aljaz Bedene, who makes his first Davis Cup appearance since 2019 – and it will also be his last, with the 33-year-old having announced he intends to retire after this tie.
- **ESTONIA** are bidding to record back-to-back Davis Cup victories, after the team overcame Pacific Oceania 4-0 in the World Group II Play-offs in March. The team have never competed at Group I-level – but victory this weekend would see them take a step closer to doing so for the first time. 19-year-old Mark Lajal, who enjoyed a proficient junior career, leads the team this weekend, having made his first Davis Cup appearance during the victory over Pacific Oceania earlier this year.

Tunisia v Greece

- Head-to-head: Greece lead 1-0
- Last meeting: 1993 Europe/Africa Group II first round, Greece defeated Tunisia 5-0 in Athens, Greece
- **TUNISIA** are bidding to resume their recent strong Davis Cup form, with their World Group I Play-off defeat to Bosnia and Herzegovina in March having ended a 7-tie winning streak in the competition. The Tunisians were competing in Africa Group III just 3 years ago, winning promotion in 2019 before recording 3 victories during the 2020-21 season. Malek Jaziri, who could contest his 48th Davis Cup tie this weekend, will bid to inspire his team to victory in his new role as playing-captain.
- **GREECE** are bidding to continue the momentum from a victory over Jamaica in a World Group II Play-off in March, in which the team recovered from 0-2 down to record a momentous 3-2 triumph. The team is able to welcome back world No. 6 Stefanos Tsitsipas, who is unbeaten in all 6 Davis Cup singles matches he has contested. Michail Pervolarakis is likely to be the support act in singles, while Petros Tsitsipas, Stefanos' younger brother, is steadily improving his doubles ranking and looks a solid option alongside his older sibling for the doubles match.

El Salvador v Denmark

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **EL SALVADOR** are bidding to record a 2nd Davis Cup victory this season as they aim to reach Group I-level for the first time in their history. A win this weekend would leave the team just one more victory away from Group I status – and should they defeat Denmark this weekend, Marcelo Arevalo is likely to be at the heart of it. The Roland Garros men's doubles champion has been ever-present in his nation's Davis Cup team since 2005 and could record his 50th Davis Cup match-win this weekend.
- **DENMARK** are bidding to hit back after a heavy away defeat to India in the World Group I Play-offs in March. The team enjoyed a strong Davis Cup season in 2020-21, recording victories against Puerto Rico, Thailand and Morocco, and will hope to return to winning ways as they bid to reach Group I-level for the first time since 2015. August Holmgren, their No. 1 player this weekend, will bid to maintain his unbeaten Davis Cup record, having won all 5 matches he has contested in the competition to date.

Poland v Indonesia

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **POLAND** are bidding to bounce back from a defeat to Portugal in the World Group I Play-offs in March which ended a 9-tie Davis Cup winning streak. The Poles had previously recorded victories against both Hong Kong, China and El Salvador in 2020-21 to return to the brink a place in World Group I. The team this weekend includes Kamil Majchrzak and Kacper Zuk, who are both edging towards the top of the game, while Lukasz Kubot remains an excellent choice in doubles.
- **INDONESIA** are bidding to record back-to-back Davis Cup victories for the first time since 2012 as they continue their campaign to reach Group I-level for the first time since 2013. The team eased to a 3-0 victory over Venezuela in March and will hope to carry that form into this weekend's tricky away tie against Poland. Christopher Rungkat, who holds a number of Indonesian Davis Cup records, including most total match-wins and most singles match-wins by an Indonesian player, is once again in the squad.

Bulgaria v South Africa

- Head-to-head: South Africa lead 2-0
- Last meeting: 2019 Europe/Africa Group II, South Africa defeated Bulgaria 4-1 in Cape Town, South Africa
- **BULGARIA** are bidding to continue their journey towards World Group I – a level they last appeared at in 1988 – after recording an impressive victory against Paraguay earlier this year. It was a welcome result for the Bulgarians, who had suffered a disappointing defeat at home to Mexico in World Group II last year. All 4 members of their squad this weekend have a higher singles ranking than the top-ranked South African players – including Dimitar Kuzmanov, who reached a career-high ranking of No. 159 last month and plays here just 3 places lower at No. 162.
- **SOUTH AFRICA** are bidding to return to the World Group I Play-offs after suffering defeats at that stage in both of the last 2 Davis Cup seasons – falling to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2020-21 and to Israel earlier this year. In between those 2 results, the team did manage a solid 4-0 victory over Venezuela. Their top singles player this weekend is the young prospect Phillip Henning, while Raven Klaasen provides much-needed experience in doubles.

Barbados v Ireland

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **BARBADOS** are bidding to end a run of recent bad form and ensure their place in the World Group I Play-offs for the 3rd consecutive season. The team have lost 6 of their last 7 Davis Cup ties, with only a World Group II victory over Indonesia this time last year breaking the losing streak. Darian King once again leads the team this weekend – and while recent results have not been the best, he still has 43 Davis Cup match-wins to his name.
- **IRELAND** are bidding to complete a rapid rise up the Davis Cup pyramid, having been competing in Europe Group IV as recently as 2019. The team are contesting their first tie since June last year, having earned a walkover against China, P.R. in the World Group II Play-offs in March. Simon Carr, a 22-year-old who has already recorded 10 victories in Davis Cup, is the Irish team's leading player this weekend.

Latvia v Dominican Republic

- Head-to-head: first meeting
- **LATVIA** are bidding to continue their journey towards World Group I, having last competed at that level in 2014. The team had Ernests Gulbis to thank for leading them to victory against Thailand in March this year – and Gulbis, who holds the record for most Davis Cup match-wins by a Latvian player, returns to the team again this weekend. He will be supported by Robert Strombachs as well as Karlis Ozolins, who had a promising junior career, and will hope to enjoy plenty of Davis Cup success as he makes the transition to the professional game.
- **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** are bidding to continue the momentum from a 3-0 win over Vietnam in the World Group II Play-offs in March, a result which ended the team's 3-tie Davis Cup losing streak. They have named just 3 players in their quest to reach the World Group I Play-offs – and there are more than 20 years between the oldest and youngest, with 21-year-old Nick Hardt lining up alongside 42-year-old Victor Estrella Burgos, with the latter still hoping to add to his long list of Dominican Davis Cup records.

For more information on each team, visit the [team profile pages](#) on the Davis Cup website. For information on individual players' Davis Cup records, use the [player search tool](#) on the Davis Cup website.

