

Shanghai International Circuit

Home of the Chinese Grand Prix

Held at the Shanghai International Circuit, the Herman Tilke-designed track had an uninterrupted position on F1's calendar from 2004 through to 2019 – the most recent edition of the race being Formula One's 1000th.

The Chinese GP was both the scene of Michael Schumacher's final F1 victory in 2006 and German counterpart and fellow World Champion Nico Rosberg's first win in 2012. Since his championship defining DNF in the 2007 race, Lewis Hamilton has dominated the Chinese GP, winning more races than any other driver.

A track that is known for overtaking – thanks in part to the 1.1km back straight – the 2018 Chinese GP was the scene of one of Daniel Ricciardo's greatest ever wins, coining the famous phrase post-race "Sometimes you've just gotta lick the stamp and send it!".

After being postponed during the pandemic, the Chinese GP returned in 2024 and an extension until 2030 signed shortly after.

While there are four ticketed grandstands at the Shanghai circuit, there are also plenty of general admission areas to check out other sections of the track – particularly Zone J at the end of the hairpin.

- Circuit Length – 5.45km
- Number of Laps - 56
- Race Distance – 305.06km
- Max Speed – 348km/h
- Average Temperature in March – 14c
- Currency – Yuan (CNY)
- Closest Airport – Shanghai Hongqiao Airport (SHA)
- Language – Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese)

SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT: HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION

The Shanghai International Circuit was built in 2003 on marshland and former rice paddy fields in the Jiading District of Shanghai, approximately 30 kilometers northwest of downtown Shanghai.

Construction began in April 2003 and was completed in just 18 months by over 3,000 workers daily, making it an extraordinary feat of engineering and logistics.

Designed by renowned German circuit architect Hermann Tilke, the circuit was built at an estimated cost of \$450 million, making it the most expensive Formula One circuit facility at the time until Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina Circuit opened five years later.

The 5.451 km permanent circuit features 16 corners and was specifically designed to resemble the Chinese character "shang" (上), meaning "above" or "ascend," symbolizing China's aspirations in global motorsport.

The inaugural Formula One Chinese Grand Prix took place on 26 September 2004, attracting 260,000 spectators and was won by Rubens Barrichello in a Ferrari. The race hosted the historic 1000th Formula One Grand Prix in 2019 when Lewis Hamilton won for Mercedes, marking a significant milestone in F1 history.

RACING AT SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT: F1 CARS AND DRIVING EXPERIENCE

The Shanghai International Circuit is known for its technical layout combining sweeping high-speed corners with demanding braking zones. The track features one of the trickiest corner combinations on the Formula One calendar: Turn 1 and 2, a demanding 270-degree right-handed corner combination whose radius decreases as the corner progresses.

The 1.2 km long back straight between Turns 13 and 14 is one of the longest straights on the current F1 calendar, providing excellent overtaking opportunities through the DRS zone.

Drivers experience high g-forces through Turns 7 and 8, while the Turn 14 hairpin offers another critical passing zone. The track rewards smooth driving and aerodynamic efficiency over pure horsepower.

LEGENDARY DRIVERS AND HISTORIC MOMENTS AT SHANGHAI

The inaugural 2004 race featured legendary drivers Rubens Barrichello, Jenson Button, and Kimi Räikkönen fighting for supremacy. Michael Schumacher set an official lap record of 1:32.238 in 2004 that stood for 21 years. Other legends who have raced successfully at Shanghai include Fernando Alonso, Sebastian Vettel, Kimi Räikkönen, and Daniel Ricciardo.

SHANGHAI GRAND PRIX: MOST WINS RECORD

Lewis Hamilton is the undisputed king of Shanghai International Circuit with six victories (2008, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019). Hamilton's dominance spans both his McLaren and Mercedes eras, with his first win in 2008 being a masterclass in wet-weather driving during his inaugural championship-winning season.

Fernando Alonso holds the second most wins with two victories (2005 with Renault, 2013 with Ferrari), making him the only driver other than Hamilton to win in China with multiple teams.

Nico Rosberg also secured two wins (2012, 2016), with his 2012 victory marking Mercedes' first win since returning to Formula One in 2010.

MOST FAMOUS CHINESE GRAND PRIX RACES AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS

The 2006 Chinese Grand Prix was Michael Schumacher's final Formula One victory, his 91st win, achieved in mixed weather conditions against Fernando Alonso in his championship battle. The 2007 race became famous for Lewis Hamilton's misfortune when, after leading from pole position, he beached his McLaren in the pit entry as McLaren delayed his pit stop, allowing Kimi Räikkönen to win and claim the championship later that season.

The 2005 Chinese Grand Prix was held as the final round of that season, with Fernando Alonso securing his first world championship title for Renault.

In 2018, Daniel Ricciardo claimed an unexpected victory from 6th on the grid, making daring overtakes and perfectly timing the safety car restart.

The 2019 Chinese Grand Prix was especially historic as it marked Formula One's 1000th championship race. Lewis Hamilton dominated the race, winning comfortably to extend his Shanghai record to six victories.

WHY DRIVERS LOVE SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT

Drivers appreciate the circuit for its technical challenge combining sweeping corners with strategic overtaking opportunities. The demanding Turn 1-2 combination tests driver commitment and precision, while the long back straight provides excellent racing action.

The circuit's location in modern Shanghai, with its iconic pit building complex and unique paddock buildings designed to resemble the ancient Yuyuan Garden, creates an impressive atmosphere. The track surface provides good grip, and the strategic layout rewards both smooth driving and tactical decision-making.

SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT FAN EXPERIENCE

The circuit has a capacity of over 200,000 spectators spread across multiple grandstands. The main grandstand and pit complex can hold 30,000 spectators alone with its distinctive wing-like viewing platforms crossing the circuit. In 2019, over 270,000 fans attended the Chinese Grand Prix weekend.

The circuit is located 30 kilometers southeast of Pudong International Airport and is easily accessible via the Shanghai Metro's Line 11, with the journey taking approximately 60 minutes from downtown Shanghai. The circuit has its own dedicated metro station.

SURROUNDING AREAS AND SHANGHAI ATTRACTIONS

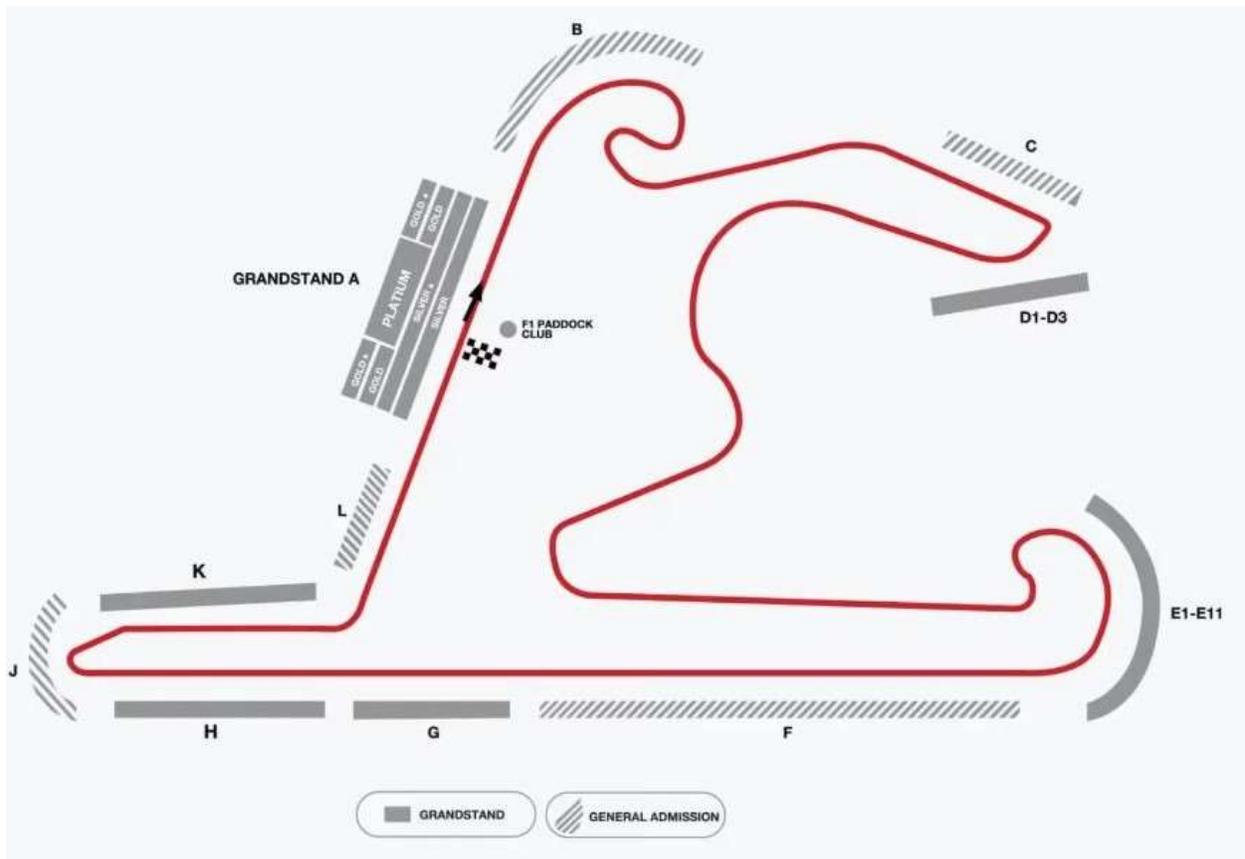
Shanghai is one of the world's most dynamic and lively cities with a population exceeding 24 million. The sprawling Pudong district features world-class bars, restaurants, museums, and shopping experiences.

The city offers Michelin-starred dining, traditional Chinese cuisine, and international gastronomy reflecting its cosmopolitan character.

Major attractions include the iconic Oriental Pearl Tower, the Bund's historic architecture, world-class museums, and scenic riverside views of the Huangpu River.

The city combines futuristic skyscrapers with traditional Chinese culture, making it an ideal destination for motorsport fans extending their Grand Prix experience into a wider Shanghai city break.

GRANDSTANDS SEATING



A

A massive grandstand along the start/finish straight, Grandstand A is a covered stand with fantastic views of the grid and pit-lane. Dependent on the seats, higher up you will be able to see the majority of the circuit – being able to follow the cars throughout the entertaining midfield section of the track, while the lower rows gives you a close-up feel to the cars on the grid and along the main straight.

Irrespective of your seats, directly across from your seats you will be able to view any of the multiple giant video screens.

A look to the right and you will be able to catch the cars navigate the almost-flat final corner as well as the tricky pit entry, while to the left you will have views of cars entering the unique opening set of corners.

B

Situated just past Grandstand A and into turns 1-3 is Grandstand B. While lower down on the track means you won't see as much past the pit exit, this stand will give you a very good viewpoint of the twisty opening corners, where often there are passes and incidents – particularly on the opening Lap.

Grandstand B is completely uncovered and as mentioned lower than Grandstand A, however there is a large screen meaning you will still see all the action. Grandstand B is a short 5 minute walk to the Fanzone as well as all food and refreshment options.

H

Grandstand H is perched at the end of one of the longest straights on the F1 calendar – all but assuring plenty of overtaking action during the race. Here you will witness F1 cars at their slipstreaming best, with plenty of room and run-off at the hairpin at the end of the straight.

A covered stand Grandstand H also looks directly at Grandstand K on the exit of the hairpin. Seats in Grandstand H also have a giant screen visible and will give you distant views of the final corner and pit entry.

K

Directly across from Grandstand H on the exit of the hairpin, Grandstand K will provide similar views to Grandstand H, while also being closer to the Main Grandstand and conveniently located to the majority of the food, drink and merchandising options.

While also catching the second half of any overtakes into the hairpin, you will also have a lot of great photo opportunities of the cars at low-speed here. Grandstand K is covered and has a giant screen visible from your seats.