

Suzuka Circuit

Home of the Japanese Grand Prix

The Suzuka circuit in Japan is an iconic circuit on the F1 calendar, hosting all but two Japanese Grands Prix since its inception in 1987.

Located in the Mie Prefecture about one hour south-west of Nagoya, Suzuka has seen only a small number of changes to the track itself over the years – meaning it has remained a driver's favourite. As with 2024, the Japanese GP is being held toward the start of the season in April, meaning cooler conditions overall.

Suzuka for many years hosted the season finale ensuring it has been the host of many memorable title showdowns over the years. Japanese Formula One fans are passionate, knowledgeable and welcoming and whether you sit at the famous 130R or the Esses in sector one, your Japanese F1 experience will be one to remember.

Be sure to take the opportunity to go on the famous (and free) Ferris Wheel behind the main grandstand!

- Circuit Length – 5.81km
- Number of Laps - 53
- Race Distance – 307.47km
- Max Speed – 328km/h
- Average Temperature in September – 28c
- Currency – Japanese Yen (JPY)
- Closest Airport – Chubu Centrair International Airport
- Language – Japanese

SUZUKA INTERNATIONAL RACING COURSE: HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION

Suzuka Circuit was completed in September 1962, originally built as a test track for Honda by Dutch architect John Hugenholtz, the designer of Zandvoort. Soichiro Honda, the founder of Honda, commissioned the circuit's construction to serve as a test facility for developing racing and road car technologies.

The circuit was constructed on farmland outside Suzuka City, with local farmers paid off and given new sites for their fields, allowing construction to proceed without delay.

The Suzuka Circuit is a 5.807 km figure-eight track, making it the only circuit of its kind on the current Formula One calendar. This unique layout features 18 corners including the legendary 130R high-speed section, the challenging Spoon Curve, and the demanding Esses complex.

The circuit's versatility allows it to function as two separate circuits for testing purposes, with two crossover points creating its distinctive figure-eight design.

Formula One made its debut at Suzuka in 1987 when the circuit replaced Fuji Speedway as the host venue for the Japanese Grand Prix. Before the first F1 race, the circuit underwent extensive modifications including the transformation of the Degner Curve into two sharper corners, the addition of crash barriers, and expanded run-off areas.

The circuit has undergone safety improvements over the decades while maintaining its essential technical character.

RACING AT SUZUKA: F1 CARS AND DRIVING EXPERIENCE

Suzuka is widely recognized as one of the most demanding circuits in Formula One, rivaled only by Spa-Francorchamps as the greatest test for modern GP drivers. The circuit combines sweeping high-speed corners with technical chicanes, demanding exceptional precision and commitment from drivers.

The 130R, a legendary flat-out corner taken at speeds exceeding 300 km/h, represents one of motorsport's ultimate challenges, testing both aerodynamics and driver skill to their limits. The Spoon Curve and the fast, flowing S-sections demand rhythmic flow and brave commitment through corners that punish small mistakes mercilessly.

Drivers must navigate technical chicanes, high-speed corners, and challenging weather conditions that often characterize the Japanese Grand Prix.

The circuit's unique figure-eight layout means almost every type of corner is represented in a small space, requiring drivers to adapt rapidly between different corner speeds and characteristics.

LEGENDARY DRIVERS AT SUZUKA CIRCUIT

Suzuka has hosted numerous Formula One legends throughout its history. Ayrton Senna won all three of his drivers' world titles at Suzuka – in 1988, 1990 and 1991, becoming a fan favorite with his daring style and charisma.

The circuit witnessed dramatic championship showdowns between Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost, who collided controversially at Suzuka in both 1989 and 1990.

Other legendary drivers who have succeeded at Suzuka include Michael Schumacher, Lewis Hamilton, Sebastian Vettel, Damon Hill, Mika Häkkinen, Nelson Piquet, and Fernando Alonso. The circuit remains a true test of driver ability and racing skill.

JAPANESE GRAND PRIX: MOST WINS RECORD

Michael Schumacher holds the record for the most victories at the Japanese Grand Prix with six wins (1995, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004), including the 2000 win that ended Ferrari's 21-year championship drought.

Lewis Hamilton follows with five wins (2007, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018), while Sebastian Vettel has four victories at Suzuka (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013). Max Verstappen has recorded three wins at the circuit in recent years.

MOST FAMOUS JAPANESE GRAND PRIX RACES AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS

The 1988 Japanese Grand Prix remains one of the most controversial races in Formula One history. Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna collided at the chicane, with Senna disqualified for the manner in which he rejoined the track after receiving a push start from marshals, handing Prost his third world title.

The 1989 Japanese Grand Prix saw another dramatic collision between Senna and Prost at the same chicane, with Senna remaining in the race and ultimately winning to secure his second world championship amid heated debates.

Kimi Räikkönen's 2005 Japanese Grand Prix victory is heralded as one of the finest in F1 history, where he charged from 17th on the grid to claim victory, showcasing his raw speed and exceptional overtaking prowess. Fernando Alonso's 2008 win marked the final Formula One victory for the Renault manufacturer.

In 2014, Jules Bianchi suffered a devastating accident at Suzuka following a collision with a recovery vehicle, ultimately leading to his death nine months later and prompting major safety reforms including the introduction of the Virtual Safety Car.

WHY DRIVERS LOVE SUZUKA CIRCUIT

Suzuka is highly rated by drivers as one of the few circuits that still throws a serious challenge to them. The figure-eight layout provides an uncompromising test of precision, bravery, and technical excellence, with every corner demanding respect.

Drivers praise the circuit for its technical demands and flowing layout that rewards driving skill above raw horsepower.

The combination of history, challenge, and pure racing excitement makes Suzuka a favorite among Formula One drivers. The passion of Japanese fans, reflected in orange flags and enthusiastic spectator support, adds to the unique atmosphere at this legendary venue.

JAPANESE GRAND PRIX FAN EXPERIENCE AT SUZUKA

Suzuka has consistently attracted impressive attendance figures, regularly exceeding 300,000 fans over each Japanese Grand Prix weekend. The circuit offers excellent viewing from multiple grandstands and general admission areas located throughout the venue.

The Suzuka International Racing Course is located in Suzuka City, Mie Prefecture, Japan, approximately 360 kilometers west of Tokyo and 80 kilometers south of Nagoya.

The circuit is set within a complex that includes an amusement park, hotel, spa, and other facilities, creating a comprehensive entertainment destination.

Public transport access to the circuit is excellent, with shuttle buses and train connections available from major cities. The circuit's location provides easy access to the historic city of Nagoya and the surrounding Kii Peninsula region.

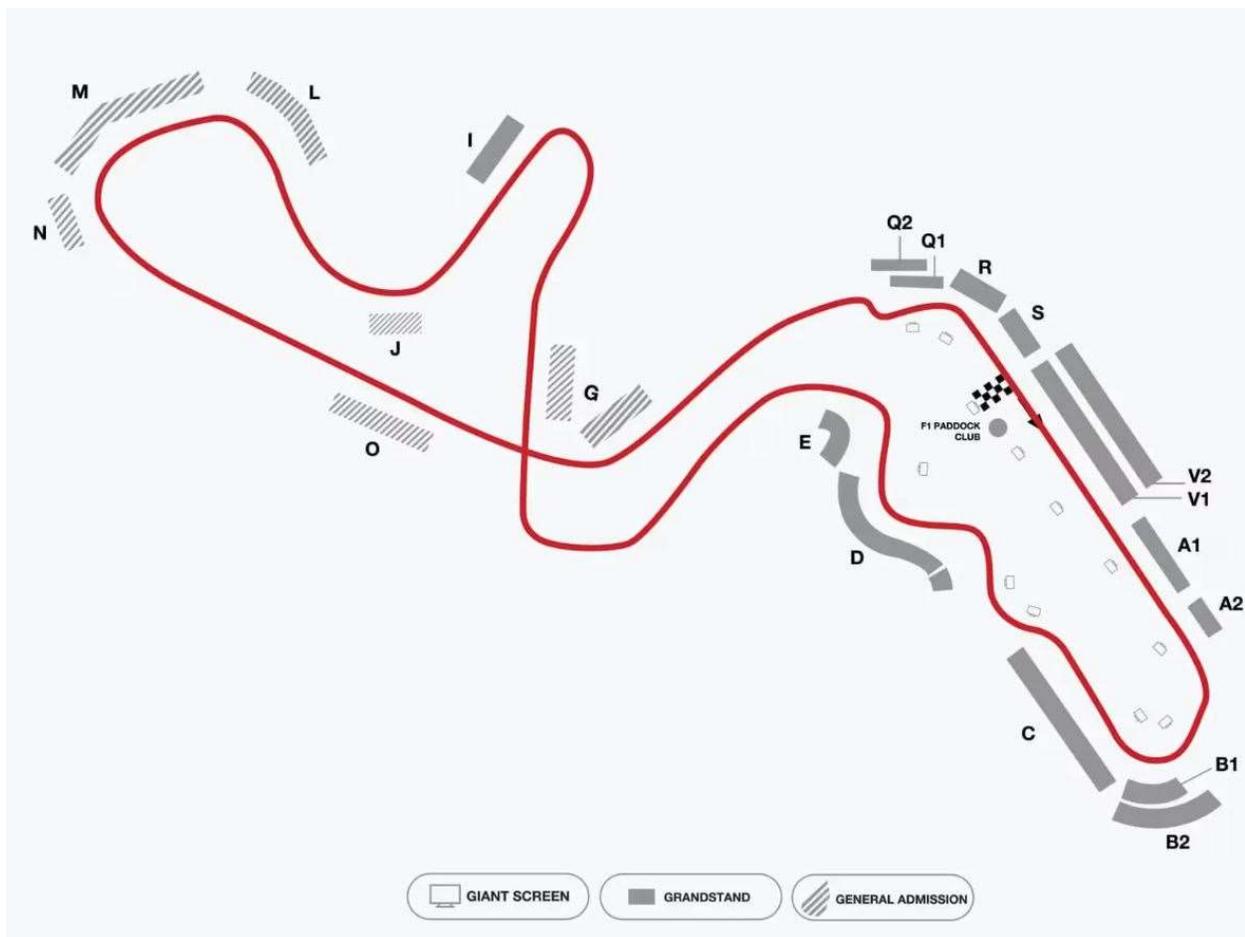
SURROUNDING AREAS AND ATTRACTIONS

Suzuka is embedded in the Japanese countryside, offering a unique Grand Prix experience combining motorsport action with cultural and leisure activities. The complex housing the circuit includes themed attractions alongside the racing venue.

Nearby Nagoya offers world-class attractions including historic temples, museums, shopping, and exceptional Japanese cuisine. The Kii Peninsula region features scenic mountain landscapes, traditional villages, and cultural heritage sites.

The circuit's 36-year hosting agreement through 2029 ensures Suzuka's continued prominence on the Formula One calendar as Japan's premier motorsport venue.

GRANDSTANDS SEATING



V1-V2

The biggest stands on the track, the V1-2 Grandstands are covered and sit directly in front of the pits and grid. With giant screens in front of you and the F1 fanzone directly behind these stands, you are central to the action.

From your seats you will be able to see turn one as well as a section of the first sector. To the right of the V Grandstands is the giant Ferris Wheel, which is free for all ticket holders and will give you incredible views of the entire track from the top.

A1-A2

Adjacent to the V Grandstands sit the A1-2 stands, which will give you a great view of the cars heading into turn 1. A flat-out corner prior to the second apex, views of Turn 1 provide overtaking opportunities for the cars as well as all the first lap mayhem.

There has been plenty of action at this corner over the years, most memorably the Senna/Prost collision and Kimi Raikkonen's final lap overtake of Giancarlo Fisichella in 2005. Your seats give you the best views of the uphill run through the first few corners which are as iconic as any on the F1 calendar. As with the V stands, the main fanzone is situated just behind your seats.

B1-B2

On the outside of Turn 2, the pair of B1-2 grandstands will give you a great overall view of the first sector of the track. Due to the large gravel trap on the exit of Turns 1 and 2, this grandstand is set a fair way back from the track itself, but this does not come at an expense of the view.

Whether it is B1 or B2, you will still have a feel of being close to the track, and thanks to the undulating nature of the Suzuka circuit, you will have a few of the first few 'S' corners and see the cars disappear further uphill into the opening sector. This is also one of the more popular overtaking spots of the track.

C

Directly adjacent to the B grandstands is the popular C Grandstand. Just on the exit of the opening two corners, you are close to plenty of amenities just behind your seats, with only a 10–15-minute walk to the main fanzone.

Similarly with the B stands, you will see plenty of wheel-to-wheel action, the opening corners being a common overtaking spot. While this grandstand is uncovered, there are two giant screens directly across from the seats, ensuring you will never miss a minute of the track action.

D&E

Similar to Eau Rouge in Spa and Parabolica in Monza, the 'S' corners of Suzuka are iconic and are a must-see for F1 fans to experience.

In that respect, the D & E grandstands are the best options to witness this set of corners. Here you will see exactly why Suzuka is one of the driver's favourite tracks, the first sector being a true challenge.

With grass and gravel on either side of these corners, there is little margin for error. The atmosphere all weekend long is electric both local and international fans cheering from the first green light in practice long past the chequered flag.

The seating in these stands are wooden bleacher-style seats, and there is no roof so you will need to prepare for the topsy-turvy weather that can hit Suzuka at any time.

I

Right on the exit of the famous hairpin, the I Grandstand comes with the bonus of seeing the main overtaking point on the entire circuit. Here the cars come through at low-speed meaning there will be photo opportunities aplenty – particularly on the opening lap.

I Grandstand is a popular choice for many that want to witness overtaking.

While you are around a 30-minute walk from the main entrance and fanzone, there are still plenty of smaller amenities near this stand. I Grandstand is uncovered and there is no giant screen viewable from your seats.

Q1-Q2

The set of two Q Grandstands are along the final chicane just at the exit of 130R. Here you will have some of the best views of the track, look to your right and you will enjoy the F1 cars at full throttle coming out of the famous 130R corner before they brake for the last chicane.

To your left is the final corner and main straight, and as these stands are elevated, you will also have a clear view of the first sector.

While there are food and drink stalls directly behind the Q stands, a 10-minute walk along the start/finish straight leads you to the main F1 fanzone.

R&S

The final two grandstands before the start/finish straight itself, R&S Grandstands are located at the exit of the final chicane and last corner. Here you will be able to see one of the more common overtaking spots on the track at the chicane, as well as both pit entry and the DRS activation zone.

Watch as the chequered flag is waved, with the finish line directly in front of your seats.

A short 5-minute walk to the main fan area ensures you will never be far away from drinks, traditional Japanese cuisine and all teams' merchandise tents.