

Circuit Gilles Villeneuve

Home of the Canadian Grand Prix

Named after one of the most exciting F1 racers in history – the late Gilles Villeneuve – Canada's Formula One circuit has provided many memorable moments over the years.

Whether it be the Wall of Champions taking many victims to Lewis Hamilton, Robert Kubica and Daniel Ricciardo's debut victories or Jenson Button's memorable victory in the rain-hit 2011 race, there is never a surprise result far away.

Located in Montreal, the Circuit de Gilles Villeneuve sits on its own island, a short train ride from the city centre.

- Circuit Length – 4.36km
- Number of Laps - 70
- Race Distance – 305.27km
- Max Speed – 342.7km/h
- Average Temperature in June – 24c
- Currency – Canadian Dollar
- Closest Airport – Pierre Elliott-Trudeau International Airport
- Language – French, English

CIRCUIT GILLES VILLENEUVE: HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION

Circuit Gilles Villeneuve was originally named the Île Notre-Dame Circuit and was built and finished in 1978 to host the Formula One Canadian Grand Prix, moving the event from its previous location at Mosport Park near Toronto.

The circuit was designed by Canadian engineer Roger Peart and located on Île Notre-Dame, a man-made island in the St. Lawrence River in Montreal, Quebec.

The man-made island was originally constructed in August 1963 using millions of tons of rock excavated during the construction of Montreal's Metro system. After being completed in mid-

1964, the island hosted the 1967 Expo World's Fair and the rowing events for the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics, before being developed into a racing venue.

In 1982, the circuit was officially renamed Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in honour of Canadian Formula One driver Gilles Villeneuve, who tragically died during qualifying for the Belgian Grand Prix earlier that year. Gilles Villeneuve won the inaugural Canadian Grand Prix race at the circuit in 1978, achieving his first Formula One victory in a Ferrari.

Since then, the track has undergone several modifications, with major renovations in 1987, 2002, and 2018, though the layout has remained mostly unchanged.

RACING AT CIRCUIT GILLES VILLENEUVE: F1 CARS AND DRIVING EXPERIENCE

The Circuit Gilles Villeneuve is a 4.361 km semi-permanent street circuit featuring 14 turns with a unique blend of high-speed straights and technically demanding chicanes. The track is a fast, low-downforce circuit described as "quite stop-start" due to its heavy-braking chicanes and the famous hairpin turn known as L'Epingle in the 3rd sector.

The layout requires high-speed cornering ability and precision, with drivers experiencing challenging braking zones and quick directional changes. Drivers must navigate tight chicanes, technical corners, and unpredictable race conditions characteristic of the Canadian Grand Prix.

The combination of straights, chicanes, and the famous hairpin creates excellent overtaking opportunities, particularly just before the final corner where the long stretch following the hairpin enables pursuing cars to gain a speed advantage.

LEGENDARY DRIVERS AT CIRCUIT GILLES VILLENEUVE

Gilles Villeneuve remains an iconic figure in Canadian motorsport, winning the inaugural Canadian Grand Prix at his home circuit in 1978 in Ferrari. Other legendary drivers who have raced successfully at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve include Michael Schumacher, Lewis Hamilton, Ayrton Senna, Jean Alesi, Nigel Mansell, and Alain Prost.

Jacques Villeneuve, Canada's only Formula One World Champion and son of Gilles, never won the Canadian Grand Prix at the circuit named after his father, with his best result being second place on debut in 1996.

CANADIAN GRAND PRIX: MOST WINS RECORD

Michael Schumacher and Lewis Hamilton share the record for the most Canadian Grand Prix victories, each with seven wins. Schumacher claimed six of his wins with Scuderia Ferrari between 1994 and 2004, making Circuit Gilles Villeneuve one of his most dominant tracks.

Hamilton equalled Schumacher's tally with his seventh victory at the 2019 Canadian Grand Prix. Max Verstappen has since won multiple times at the circuit, with three victories and the record for most consecutive wins alongside Schumacher and Hamilton.

MOST FAMOUS CANADIAN GRAND PRIX RACES AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS

The 2007 Canadian Grand Prix saw rookie Lewis Hamilton take his first Formula One victory, marking the beginning of his illustrious career. In 1999, the "Wall of Champions" lived up to its name when three Formula One World Champions—Damon Hill, Michael Schumacher, and Jacques Villeneuve—all crashed into the wall at the final chicane (Turn 13), highlighting the circuit's notoriously challenging nature.

The wall, officially named "Bienvenue au Québec" (Welcome to Quebec), has also claimed 2009 world champion Jenson Button in 2005.

The 2019 Canadian Grand Prix became controversial when Sebastian Vettel crossed the finish line first but received a time penalty for rejoining the track unsafely after an off-track excursion. The victory was handed to Lewis Hamilton, sparking debates about racing regulations and steward decisions.

In the 1999 race, an unprecedented incident saw multiple world champions crash at the same corner, cementing the wall's notorious reputation and leading to later modifications for driver safety.

WHY DRIVERS LOVE CIRCUIT GILLES VILLENEUVE

Drivers appreciate Circuit Gilles Villeneuve for its unpredictable nature and the excellent racing it produces. The track requires exceptional precision and high-speed cornering ability, rewarding smooth, committed driving. Two-time world champion Emerson Fittipaldi noted that "the track requires a lot of precision, with skill required in applying brakes.

The track has high speed zones with quick braking points," explaining why drivers like Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso consistently perform well at Montreal.

The circuit's unique blend of straights and technical chicanes creates thrilling racing with abundant overtaking opportunities. Drivers praise the challenge of the fast sections contrasted with the demanding low-speed corners and the unpredictable Canadian weather that often adds drama to the race weekend.

CANADIAN GRAND PRIX FAN EXPERIENCE AT CIRCUIT GILLES VILLENEUVE

Circuit Gilles Villeneuve has attracted record-breaking attendance figures for the Canadian Grand Prix. In 2024, the circuit enjoyed a record race day attendance of 164,000 spectators, with a weekend total of 350,000 fans.

In 2025, the event attracted 352,000 fans over the 3-day weekend, with Formula 1 announcing a new four-year extension confirming Montreal's future on the F1 calendar until at least 2035.

With a capacity of 100,000 spectators across multiple viewing areas, the circuit provides a vibrant race day environment. Montreal's Montréal-Trudeau Airport (YUL) is just 26 km from the circuit and serves as the primary international gateway.

Downtown Montreal is only 6 km away, approximately 25 minutes by public transport via the yellow metro line (Number 4) to Saint Helen's Island, with a scenic 25-minute walk to the circuit.

SURROUNDING AREAS AND MONTREAL ATTRACTIONS

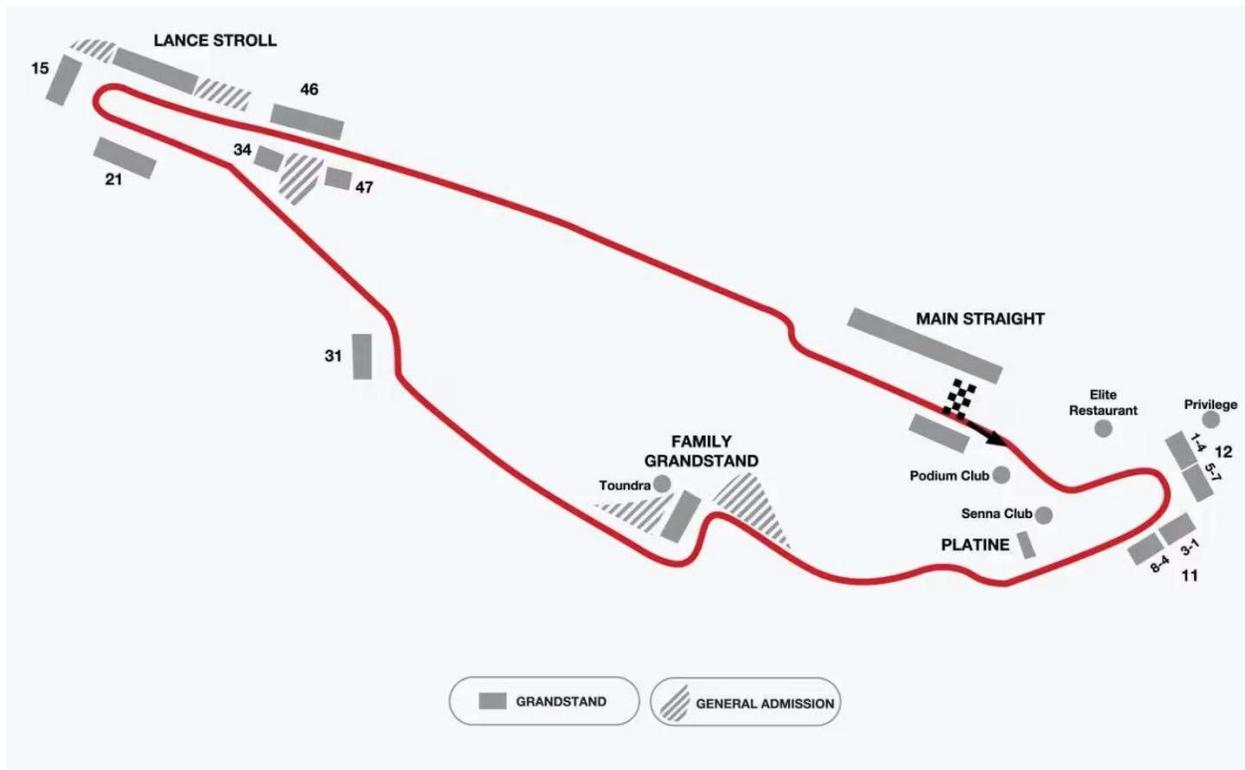
Circuit Gilles Villeneuve is located in Parc Jean-Drapeau on Île Notre-Dame in the heart of Montreal, offering spectators easy access to the vibrant city. The park provides a peaceful setting throughout the year for walking, running, cycling, and in-line skating when not hosting racing events.

Montreal offers world-class attractions including the historic Old Montreal district with cobblestone streets and heritage architecture, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Biodôme, and the iconic Montreal Skyline views.

The city is renowned for its multicultural dining scene, featuring French cuisine, bagel shops, poutine restaurants, and diverse international options. Downtown Montreal provides excellent accommodation, shopping, and nightlife options within easy access via public transport to the circuit.

During Grand Prix weekend, the city transforms into a motorsport celebration with festivals, concerts, and festivities throughout the downtown core.

GRANDSTANDS SEATING



16

Directly opposite the Main Grandstand is Grandstand 16. It is Grandstand 16 that will provide you with the best views of the famous Wall of Champions, the exit of the last chicane that has caught out so many of the best drivers in the world over the years. Grandstand 16 also gives you the best view of the pit entry, as cars fly in at full speed into the pits from the back straight.

There are giant screens all along the pit lane, meaning you won't miss a minute of the action from your seats.

1

Next to Grandstand 16 right on the start/finish line is Grandstand 1. Sitting further along the main straight, it is here you will have a prime viewing position of the pre-race build up on the grid and the post-race podium celebrations.

As spectators are typically allowed on the track at the completion of the race, if this is not your thing – rest assured you won't miss a second of the champagne being sprayed by the top three

finishers from your seats. There are giant screens all along the pit lane, meaning you won't miss a minute of the action from your seats.

12

Turn 1 at Canada has been the scene of many incidents – not just on the first lap. As the cars fly down the main straight into the left/right combination of Turns 1 and 2, it is the pairing of Grandstands 11 and 12 that provide the perfect views of this.

Sat on the outside of the corner with the picturesque water and Montreal skyline behind you, Grandstand 12 will also give you views of the cars exiting the pits at full speed – sometimes sharing the same piece of track with another driver starting their lap!

11

Next to Grandstand 12 is the dual-grandstand 11. You will share similar views to Grandstand 12 with the difference being that Grandstand 11 sits on the apex of turn 2 facing the start/finish straight, which gives a broader view of the run into the first two corners of the track.

Grandstand 11 gives you a prime position to see the likely overtakes into turn 1, and both Grandstands 11 and 12 have large screens visible from your seats.

PLATINE

The Platine stand is in the same section of track as Grandstands 11 and 12 but with a few key differences. Platine is perched on the inside of the track, sitting alongside the main straight. Platine is a higher-budget option with a roof to protect you from the elements, with large and more comfortable seats than other grandstands at the track, which offer bleacher seating.

To the left of Platine is a large screen, with plenty of food and drink options close by.

FAMILY GRANDSTAND

As the name suggests, the Family Grandstand is a great option for a family-friendly seating option. Here you will catch all the action at the tight left-hand corner of turn 6, where like so many other sections of this circuit has been the scene of action and incidents, particularly on the opening lap.

The Family Grandstand gives you a front-on view of the cars as they hurtle toward the corner, often a spot for overtakes. Not only will you have a fantastic view of the track, look to your left and you will have a stunning view of the Montreal skyline and Ile Notre-Dame.

31

Overlooking turns 8 and 9 is Grandstand 31. Here you will see the cars coming down a short straight with a DRS zone, meaning overtaking opportunities are a chance here. F1 cars enter a hard braking zone with a large run-off area here, meaning you will see them take more risks into this fast section of track.

You will have great photo opportunities here, as the F1 cars come through the back straight under the famous bridge. And if you're fortunate enough – you may even catch some brave local wildlife running across the track!

34

Another excellent option in this exciting section of track is Grandstand 34. What makes 34 unique to its neighbours is the fact that this grandstand is on the inside of the track, whereas others are on the outside of the circuit.

Sitting in Grandstand 34 you will feel right on top of the action, looking directly at the apex of the Eingle Hairpin – a top overtaking spot on the track.

21

The first of four grandstands in the hairpin section is Grandstand 21 – here you will catch the cars enter the heavy braking zone for the hairpin, the scene of Robert Kubica's horrifying crash in 2007.

One of – if not the – most popular overtaking points of the track, you are always guaranteed action and a festival-like atmosphere with so many surrounding grandstands. Multiple large screens also ensure you won't miss a thing throughout the weekend.

15

Directly across from Grandstand 34 is Grandstand 15 where here you will have incredible views of F1 cars at their aerodynamic best. Flying down the short straight into the tight hairpin, Grandstand 15 is where you will truly be able to appreciate the cars and drivers in tune as they brake heavily into the hairpin.

Amenities are close and with three other grandstands nearby, the atmosphere at this section of track is unrivalled.

LANCE STROLL

Named after the local hero of the same name – Lance Stroll Grandstand is the direct opposite to Grandstand 21. This stand is a fan favourite, with a party-like atmosphere all weekend long.

You will have an almost totally unobstructed view of the hairpin, one of the most popular spots on the track for pure racing. Looking slightly to your left you will also be able to see cars hit the throttle as early as possible as they enter the long back straight.

Photo opportunities are endless, with the Montreal skyline and the 1967 Expo Biosphere – an iconic addition of the track.

47

Similar to Grandstand 34, Grandstand 47 is one of two smaller grandstands sat on the inside of the hairpin section. While you will have your back to the entry to the hairpin, you will enjoy views of the cars to your left as they exit the hairpin and accelerate up the long back straight.

Like all other grandstands in this section, the atmosphere is outstanding all weekend long.

46

Heading toward the last and fast section of the circuit sits Grandstand 46. This stand is located at the exit of the hairpin and a little down the straight from the Lance Stroll Grandstand. While not as on top of the action as the other grandstands at the hairpin, Grandstand 46 still gives you excellent views of both the entry and exit of the hairpin.

Here you will also see the cars at full power as they fly down the straight into the long DRS zone before the final chicane. Right in front of Grandstand 46 is the famous 1967 Expo Biosphere, which is a must see.