

# Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya

## Home of the Spanish Grand Prix

Located 30 minutes north of the Spanish capital, the Circuit de Catalunya has hosted the Spanish GP since 1991.

A popular track for fans, the circuit has also been a mainstay of pre-season testing - in recent years sharing this with Bahrain. Predominantly a MotoGP country, the popularity of the Spanish race in the past 20 years has skyrocketed thanks to two-time world champion Fernando Alonso's success and in recent times Ferrari race-winner Carlos Sainz Jr.

The spectator views for fans at the Spanish GP are among the best on the F1 Calendar and combined with the warm spring Spanish weather, this will be a race experience to remember.

- Circuit Length – 4.68km
- Number of Laps - 66
- Race Distance – 308.42km
- Max Speed – 335km/h
- Average Temperature in June – 27c
- Currency – EUR
- Closest Airport – Barcelona El-Prat Airport
- Language – Spanish

### **CIRCUIT DE BARCELONA-CATALUNYA: HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION**

The Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya was built in 1991 and began hosting the Spanish Grand Prix that same year. The circuit was constructed as part of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics development programme, with the foundation stone laid in 1989.

Construction continued through 1990 and into 1991, with the completed course ready for its first event, a round of the 1991 Spanish Touring Car Championship, held on September 10.

The circuit was originally constructed as part of a collaboration between the Catalan government, the Royal Automobile Club of Catalonia (RACC), and Montmeló's local council.

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, the circuit served as the start and finish line for the cycling road team time trial event.

The circuit is located in Montmeló, just north of Barcelona, and was completed in time for its inaugural Spanish Grand Prix just two weeks after the touring car event.

### **RACING AT CIRCUIT DE BARCELONA-CATALUNYA: F1 CARS AND DRIVING EXPERIENCE**

The track is a good mix of high- and low-speed corners, with the challenging Turn 3 right-hander a great chance to evaluate the balance of the car. The circuit spans 4.655 km and consists of 16 corners and two straights, the longest measuring 1.047 km.

When first used, overtaking was frequent as cars could follow closely through the last two corners and slipstream down the long straight. In 2023, the chicane was removed from the final sector, reverting the final corners to a sweeping fast configuration last used in 2006.

Turn 1 is pretty much the only spot you can pass at and is also the trickiest corner, while Turn 4 to 5 is a nasty, downhill braking zone.

### **LEGENDARY DRIVERS AT CIRCUIT DE BARCELONA-CATALUNYA**

Legends from Graham Hill to Jackie Stewart to Michael Schumacher have all raced at Barcelona, with Ayrton Senna and Nigel Mansell featuring in the circuit's memorable inaugural 1991 race.

Michael Schumacher famously claimed his first Ferrari win here in 1996 under torrential rain, and Fernando Alonso's victories at the track electrified Spanish fans during his championship-winning years.

### **SPANISH GRAND PRIX: MOST WINS RECORD**

Michael Schumacher and Lewis Hamilton share the record for the most Spanish Grand Prix victories with 6 wins each. Schumacher won in 1995, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004, while Hamilton claimed victory in 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.

## **MOST FAMOUS SPANISH GRAND PRIX RACES AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS**

In 1991, Ayrton Senna and Nigel Mansell went down the entire front straight side by side while dueling for second place, with Mansell eventually taking the position and ultimately the race itself.

Michael Schumacher's wet-weather performance in 1996 was masterful, with hectic conditions and rain causing plenty of drivers to slide off, while Schumacher set lap times three seconds faster than any other driver and won by over 45 seconds.

Pastor Maldonado's 2012 victory was his one and only Grand Prix win, marking him as the first Venezuelan to win in Formula One history. In 2013, Fernando Alonso sent the Spanish crowd into a frenzy by taking victory at his home race during the centenary celebration of the Spanish Grand Prix.

## **WHY DRIVERS LOVE CIRCUIT DE BARCELONA-CATALUNYA**

Because so much testing is done at this circuit, Formula One drivers and mechanics are extremely familiar with it.

The circuit is really flowing and tough on the neck and the body because of the long corners coming through Turns 3 to 4 and Turn 9, with high tyre wear on the front-left due to the abrasive tarmac.

The drivers love the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, which has historically been Formula 1's pre-season testing venue of choice due to its comprehensive test of a car's capabilities.

## **SPANISH GRAND PRIX FAN EXPERIENCE AT CIRCUIT DE BARCELONA-CATALUNYA**

The circuit can accommodate large crowds, hosting over 110,000 spectators during race weekends. The circuit is located at Montmeló, 25 km north of Barcelona city centre, approximately 40 km from Barcelona Airport and 70 km from Girona Airport.

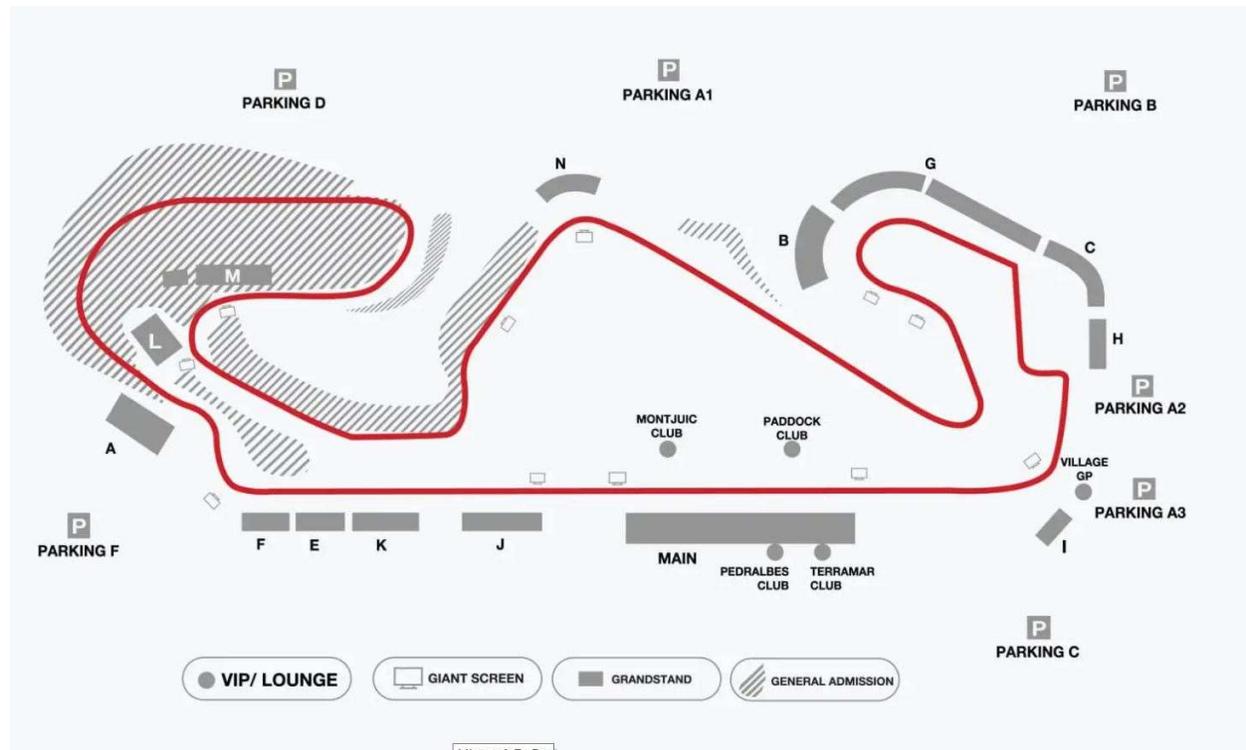
There are 32,000 parking spaces at the circuit, and there is a good rail link with trains running every half hour from Barcelona at weekends, with the journey to Montmeló taking 30 minutes.

## SURROUNDING AREAS AND BARCELONA ATTRACTIONS

Barcelona is one of the world's great cities, offering world-class attractions and vibrant culture. The city features historic architecture, art museums, beaches, and world-renowned dining experiences reflecting its Mediterranean location and diverse population.

From 2026 onwards, the Spanish Grand Prix will move to a new circuit in Madrid built around the IFEMA exhibition centre in Campo de las Naciones. However, from 2026 to 2025, the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya continues to host the Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix alongside other racing events.

## GRANDSTANDS SEATING



## MAIN

The Main Grandstand provides unrivalled views of the long start/finish straight in Spain. A large grandstand with an incredible atmosphere all weekend long, the Main Grandstand is covered – a welcome addition in the hot and humid Spanish summer.

Here you will see the grid, pit-lane, podium and thanks to the nature of this grandstand – you will feel right on top of the action. The start/finish straight in Spain is one of the fastest on the

calendar, and this grandstand will not disappoint if seeing F1 cars at full speed is what you are looking for.

## J

A little further down the main straight is the J Grandstand. Here you will see the cars at their peak speed, reaching as high as 335kph during the weekend. Right on pit exit and directly across from the J Grandstand is the iconic scoreboard tower and you are in a prime spot to catch the race start and overtakes into turn 1. J Grandstand is located close to plenty of food and drink options situated right behind the stand.

Due to the nature of the circuit, you will also be able to see the cars in the infield section of track in Turns 6 and 7.

## K-E-F

Perched on the entry into turn 1 are the trio of Grandstands K, E and F. The Circuit de Catalunya is a tricky one for overtakes, and this is the main overtaking spots on the circuit. Here you will see the cars come slightly downhill on the main straight in a DRS zone.

These three grandstands feel incredibly close to the action, and due to the open nature of the circuit you will also be able to see the cars flick through the infield section. As with the previous two main straight grandstands, you are never far away from food, drink and merchandise options.

## A

Sat on the outside of Turns 2 and 3, the A Grandstand overlooks the first corner face-on as well as the pit-exit and the exit of turns 2 and 3. You won't feel as close to the action as some of A's neighbours but this is a good all-round option as you not only witness cars flying down the main straight but navigate the tricky second and third bends at low speed.

As this stand is set further back, the fencing will not get in the way of photos – allowing you unobstructed photo ops of your favourite cars and drivers.

## L

Grandstand L is opposite A Grandstand, on the inside of the track. As an all-round option of seeing most of the circuit, Grandstand L is the best option.

Here you will not only be able to see the Turn 5 hairpin, you will also have great views of the main straight and first three corners. Thanks to the vast amount of viewing options, Grandstand L is one of the most popular and fastest to sell out.

## N

Further along the track is the N Grandstand which is located on the outside of a fast right hander “Camps Corner” – which is turn 9. Here you will see cars exit this fast corner onto the back straight, into the second and final DRS zone before the start/finish straight.

Here you will find some of the most passionate fans on the calendar, the N Grandstand being home to many Fernando Alonso fan clubs.

## STADIUM SECTION – B, C, G, H

In the final section of the track known as the Stadium Section is the home of four large grandstands. It is here that the atmosphere is party-like for the entire weekend. The cars travel through this section at relatively low speed meaning that you will have plenty of chances to take some very good photos of the cars throughout the weekend.

While overtaking isn't renowned in these corners, a late braking maneuver into the final chicane can't be ruled out. Grandstand G in particular is a massively popular stand with fans – being the largest in the set of four stands it is here you will be able to soak in the atmosphere of the passionate Spanish F1 fans.

The sharp downhill chicane into the final corner and pit entry is also a highlight of these grandstands' views.

## I

One of two covered grandstands at the circuit, Grandstand I allows you to watch the cars come through the final corner and accelerate up the long straight. It is here you will see the drivers activate the DRS during practice, qualifying and when close enough to the car in front during the race.

An important section of track, you will also see the cars come through the final chicane prior to the straight, with views of pit entry also seen from your seats in the I Grandstand.