

Spa-Francorchamps

Home of the Belgian Grand Prix

As far as circuits on the Formula One calendar go, Spa is a must-visit for casual and hardcore fans alike. Situated in the picturesque Ardennes Forest, Spa has maintained the integrity of times past of fast, dangerous and challenging tracks.

Whether it be the mini climates on different parts of the circuit or the incredible views at the top of Raidillon, this is a race not to be missed.

Spa Francorchamps has hosted many memorable races over Formula One's history, witnessing events such as the Jordan team's first win, Michael Schumacher's memorable debut and one of the greatest overtakes of all time by Mika Hakkinen on Schumacher.

- Circuit Length – 7.004km
- Number of Laps - 44
- Race Distance – 308.05km
- Max Speed – 319.6km/h
- Average Temperature in August: 16c
- Currency – EUR
- Closest Airport – Maastricht Aachen Airport
- Language – Dutch, French, German

CIRCUIT DE SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION

The original Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps is a famous circuit that hosts the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix, with the original 15 km long triangular-shaped circuit designed and constructed by Jules de Theire and Henri Langlois Van Ophem on public roads between the Belgian municipalities of Francorchamps, Malmedy, and Stavelot.

The Belgian Grand Prix was first run at Spa-Francorchamps in 1925, won by Antonio Ascari.

The original Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps was the site of 18 Belgian Grand Prix before it was boycotted by Formula One in 1968 and redesigned in the late 1970s. In 1979, the circuit was dramatically shortened to create a new 6.9 km track, with parts including the pits and main grandstand demolished, before it was rebuilt with a new 6.947 km permanent circuit.

For 2007, a new pit lane and buildings were built for the entire paddock, and the famous Bus Stop passage was rebuilt, including the entrance to the finishing straight, with the current track length measuring 7004 m.

RACING AT SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: F1 CARS AND DRIVING EXPERIENCE

The current circuit is a fast and hilly track through the Ardennes, where speeds often climb to 330 km/h. Most current F1 drivers say that, along with Suzuka in Japan, it presents one of the biggest challenges for drivers worldwide, with Spa-Francorchamps demonstrating the importance of driver skill more than any other circuit.

The Eau Rouge and Blanchimont corners demonstrate driver skill particularly well, as both have to be driven very steeply to make the exit onto the following long straights, which helps drivers' lap times and overtaking.

According to F1 racing statistics, Spa-Francorchamps has the greatest difference between its high and low elevation points - 102.2 meters.

LEGENDARY DRIVERS AT SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Many Formula One legends have raced successfully at the Belgian Grand Prix circuit. Many Formula 1 drivers have had memorable battles and victories here, including Ayrton Senna, Michael Schumacher, Damon Hill, Mika Häkkinen and Kimi Räikkönen.

Michael Schumacher made his Grand Prix debut for Jordan in 1991 at Spa, qualifying in an excellent seventh place, and one year later he recorded the first of his 91 Grand Prix victories at Spa.

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: MOST WINS RECORD

Michael Schumacher holds the record with six Belgian GP victories at Spa-Francorchamps, followed by Ayrton Senna with five wins, and Lewis Hamilton with four wins, tied with Jim Clark and Kimi Raikkonen. In the current driver era, Lewis Hamilton is the highest-placed driver with four wins at the Belgian Grand Prix.

MOST FAMOUS BELGIAN GRAND PRIX RACES AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Ayrton Senna secured the 25th pole position in his career in 1988 in Belgium, becoming the record holder for the largest number of poles in the '80s. In 1989, Senna was dominant all weekend with a pole position and a win from start to finish on a wet track, known as "the King of Rain".

The 1998 Belgian Grand Prix saw a dramatic first-lap crash involving 13 cars with atrocious racing conditions, from which Damon Hill led home his teammate Ralf Schumacher for a Jordan one-two, the team's first ever F1 victory.

In 1995, Michael Schumacher won from 16th on the grid at the Belgian Grand Prix, demonstrating an incredible wet-weather performance.

At the 2011 Belgian Grand Prix, Mark Webber pulled off one of the most memorable overtakes in modern F1, heading into Eau Rouge going side by side with Fernando Alonso and completing the move up through Raidillon without lifting off the throttle.

WHY DRIVERS LOVE SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS CIRCUIT

Fans and drivers love the races at Spa-Francorchamps, and a boring race here is very rare, with the circuit becoming known for its unpredictable and changeable weather, where situations can occur where one part of the track is dry while another part can have rain.

The Eau Rouge and Blanchimont corners demonstrate the importance of driver skill particularly well, with both corners having to be driven very steeply to make the exit onto the following long straights.

Drivers appreciate the technical challenge and the fast, flowing nature of the 7 km circuit through the Ardennes forest.

BELGIAN GRAND PRIX FAN EXPERIENCE AT SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Green Camping at Spa is the largest and most popular campsite located outside the circuit near Les Combes, Malmedy, and Bruxelles corners, with easy access to the Les Combes spectator entrance and Spa Green parking area.

Glamping options are offered for a 4-day weekend, starting at €980 for a group of 4 people sharing one tent.

The Yellow section is located in the village of Francorchamps, around a 20 minute walk to the Le Source entrance of the circuit, recommended for bronze General Admission and Bronze ticket holders.

The Young Village is for 17-27 year olds at Spa for racing all day and partying all night, located just 500 metres from the Stavelot Entrance.

Located in the Ardennes forest, the area around Spa has a strong micro-climate where it can be sunny in one part of the track and rainy in another, so bring layered clothing for the weekend to easily adjust to changing conditions.

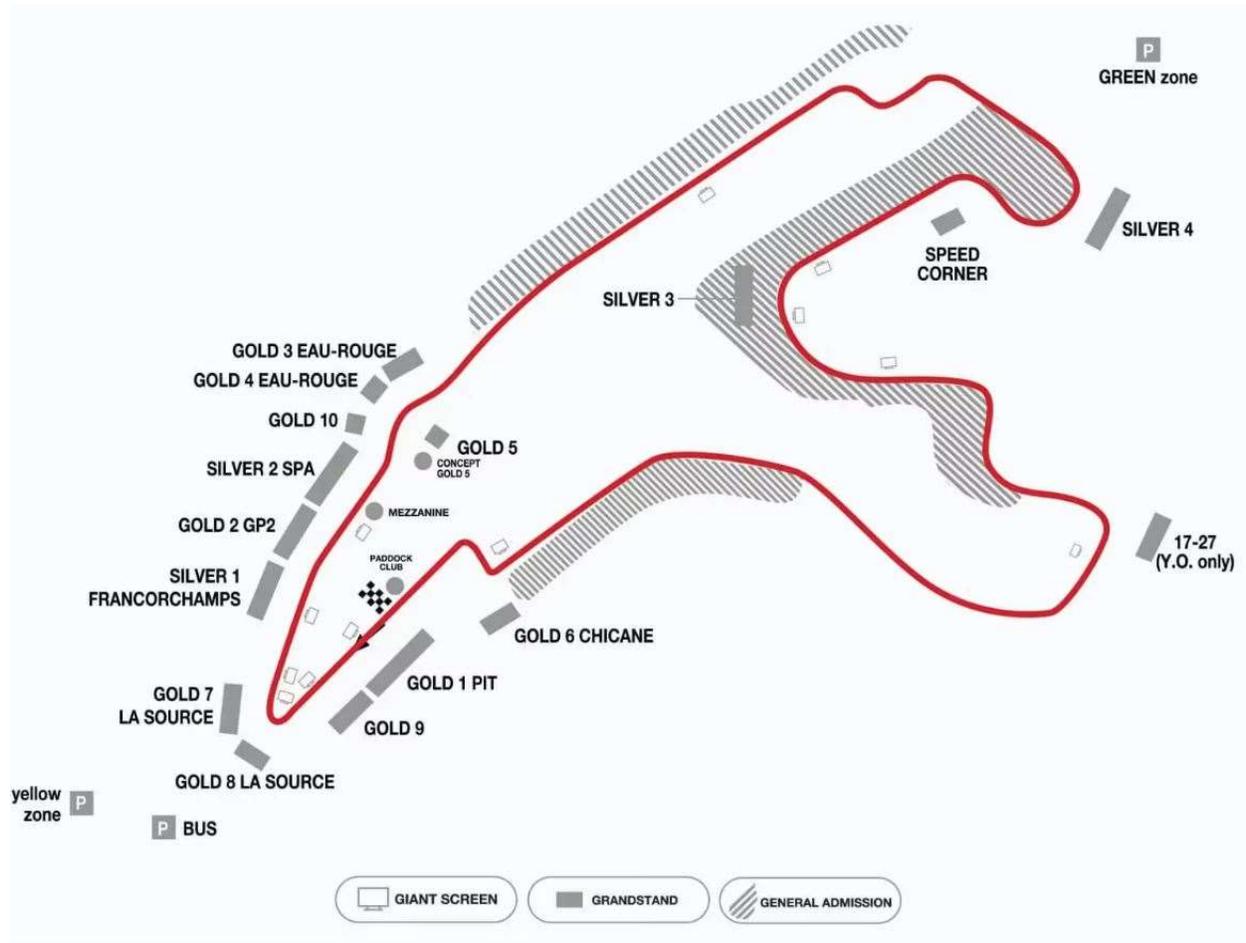
SURROUNDING AREAS AND ATTRACTIONS

The Belgian Grand Prix is held in the majestic Ardennes forest, with the circuit weaving through roads in the forested region, nestled among the natural beauty of the Belgian landscape.

The original Spa circuit can be visited by car or bike, offering a fascinating and chilling section of road that was once the old Spa circuit with publicly accessible pathways through the surrounding towns of Francorchamps, Malmedy and Stavelot.

Brussels, Belgium is accessible from Spa-Francorchamps, whilst the daily commute takes at least 2-3 hours each way, the capital offers a much better selection of accommodation at more affordable prices, and better dining options and nightlife.

GRANDSTANDS SEATING



GOLD 8: LA SOURCE

Sitting at the apex of turn 1's La Source hairpin, Grandstand Gold 8 gives you the perfect view of the race start as the cars accelerate into their short run into the first corner. Throughout the race, you will be able to see cars from a front-on perspective, fully appreciating the braking ability of a Formula One car. You will also be able to see the cars accelerate out of La Source and into the downhill run to Eau Rouge.

Some spots at Gold 8 will also allow you to witness the teams' pit crew engage in their race strategy with a view of the pit lane and exit.

Whether it be overtakes into turn one at the end of a DRS zone, multiple pit stops or Lap 1 incidents such as 1998, 2012 and 2018 – action is all but guaranteed in this grandstand.

Gold 8 is a covered grandstand and has a giant screen to help follow the race.

GOLD 7: LA SOURCE

Adjacent to Gold 8, Gold 7 Grandstand provides views of the La Source hairpin as well as the straight into the downhill run to Eau Rouge. The steep drop into the uphill of Eau Rouge is something that needs to be seen to be believed. With cars often side-by-side on the exit of La Source, this section of track is well-known for iconic overtakes and driver bravery such as Mark Webber's epic overtake on Fernando Alonso in 2011.

The atmosphere in Gold 7 is electric as crowds witness and react to the race build-up, overtakes and pit-stops.

Gold 7 is a covered grandstand and has a giant screen to help follow the race.

SILVER 1: FRANCORCHAMPS

Situated on the downhill straight before Eau Rouge, sitting in Silver 1 will allow you witness cars accelerate to speeds of up to 300kph and stay flat to the floor through Raidillon and Eau Rouge.

Directly behind Silver 1 sits the F1 Fan Zone, where you will find plenty of food and drink options, as well as opportunities to test your skills on the F1 simulator or changing an F1 tyre.

Silver 1 is an uncovered grandstand and has a giant screen to help follow the race.

GOLD 2: GP2

Next to Silver 1, the Gold 2 provides similar views of the downhill straight out of La Source into Eau Rouge with the added benefit of cover to help deal with Spa's inclement weather. As well as this, you will have a direct view of the F2 and F3 pits as the teams and cars prepare for their races.

Like Silver 1, behind Gold 2 sits the F1 Fan Zone with all available amenities.

Gold 2 is a covered grandstand and has a giant screen to help follow the race.

SILVER 2: SPA

As we head further down the first sector of Spa, Silver 2 sits next to the previous two grandstands as the gradient of the track begins to move upwards to Eau Rouge. You will without doubt be impressed to watch the F1 and indeed the support series' cars go all-out to get the best entry and exit into Eau Rouge.

Silver 2 gives you a distant view of turn one at La Source allowing you to not miss a moment of the first lap action, as well as the inevitable Safety Car restarts.

Silver 2 is an uncovered grandstand and has a giant screen to help follow the race.

GOLD 10

Situated right at the foot of Eau Rouge, Gold 10 is the first of three grandstands that will present you with unrivalled views of the drivers showing full commitment and trust in their car as they enter the fearsome Eau Rouge at full throttle.

This part of the circuit is crucial for lap time, as a poor entry and exit out of this series of corners will compromise a driver's run up the following Kemmel straight. As such, you will see drivers going all-out for the perfect line through this corner, especially during qualifying on Saturday.

Gold 10 is a covered grandstand and has a giant screen to help follow the race.

GOLD 3 & 4: EAU ROUGE

New for the 2022 season, grandstands Gold 3 and 4 sit at the top of Eau Rouge. Sitting here gives you not only the best view of cars entering Eau Rouge but sitting at such an elevated position you will also be able to see parts of the final Bus Stop chicane on the far end of the track and a distant view of turn 1.

Eau Rouge has to be seen to be believed, walking through the track that leads into these set of grandstands is an incredible experience that can only be truly appreciated in person.

As an added bonus, conveniently Gold 3 and 4 you will have multiple options for food, drink and amenities at the base of each stairway without having to leave either grandstand.

Opposite this grandstand is a DJ booth where music will play to keep you entertained between sessions, and is only a short walk into the F1 fan zone.

Gold 3 is a covered grandstand and has a giant screen opposite to help follow the race.

LES COMBES

Situated at the end of the Kemmel straight, the Combes grandstand gives you an opportunity to see side-by-side action as the cars draw close to each other at the end of the longest DRS zone on the track.

With views of the circuit undulations and the picturesque Ardennes forest as a backdrop, the Combes grandstand encapsulates the essence of Spa-Francorchamps. The view of Combes descends all the way to turn 13 as the cars navigate the tricky yet fast second sector of Spa.

Combes is an uncovered grandstand and has a giant screen to help follow the race.

SILVER 4

Perched at the top of Turn 10, here you will see the cars navigate the tricky Les Combes chicane and exit into the sweeping downhill corner of turn 10. This is an elevated section of the track and

allows you to take in an Instagram-friendly view of the circuit and cars, especially as the sun begins to get lower and lower.

Silver 4 is a covered grandstand and has a giant screen to help follow the race.

SPEED CORNER

Aptly named, Speed Corner grandstand sits on the exits of one of the fastest viewable sections of the track. This grandstand gives you an authentic experience of the Spa circuit. You will witness the cars glued to the track as drivers endeavor to get the best exit out of the speed corner and into the rapid sector 3.

Visibility wise, the lack of catch fencing is also a bonus as the grandstand is sat at a safe distance from the track, allowing you an unobstructed view of the cars which allows for some stunning photo opportunities.

Speed Corner grandstand is uncovered and has no screen.

GOLD 6: CHICANE

Gold 6 sits at the final corner of the track known as the Bus Stop chicane. Over the years this section of track has seen many different versions and remodeling, and now features a heavy braking right hand corner into a tight left hander onto the start/finish straight.

Gold 6 allows you to witness cars hit the brakes into the final chicane and is one of many overtaking spots at Spa. This grandstand also provides views of the tight entry into the Spa pitlane.

Gold 6 is a covered grandstand and has a screen to help follow the race.

GOLD 1 & 9: MAIN STRAIGHT

Sitting at the main straight, Golds 1 and 9 give you the best view of the starting grid while also looking directly into the pit lane. Whether it is Free Practice, Qualifying or the race proper, you will be able to appreciate the teams at their frenetic best, working on the cars and executing sub-3 second pit-stops.

Sitting on the main straight will allow you to also witness the start procedure for the race as the teams prepare their cars for battle, as well as a direct view of the podium celebrations.

One of the shorter main straights on the calendar, the Gold 1 and 9 grandstands allow you to see not only the start/finish line but also the exit of the final corner as the cars activate their DRS for the short run into La Source.

Gold 1 & 9 are a covered grandstands and have a giant screen to help follow the race.

17-27: YOUTH STAND

Set aside specifically for those aged 17-27, this grandstand will give you a fantastic view overlooking the Blanchimont section of the track as the cars enter the fast third sector of the Spa circuit.

Similar to grandstands Gold 3 & 4, there is a DJ booth playing music between sessions which adds to the already electric atmosphere.

17-27 stand is an uncovered grandstand and has a giant screen to help follow the race. The seating is unreserved.