

# Hungaroring Circuit

## Home of the Hungarian Grand Prix

Located just 30 mins north-east of Budapest is the Hungaroring, home of the Hungarian Grand Prix since 1986.

A twisty and dusty track, Hungary has been the scene of some memorable races in F1 history - Damon Hill almost winning in an Arrows in 1997, Jenson Button's emotional first win in 2006 and Esteban Ocon navigating his way to victory through the carnage in 2021 just to name a few.

Overtaking is at a premium at the Hungaroring, with just a single long straight and two DRS Zones prior to a tight infield section. Often the final race before the summer break, the Hungarian GP in 2023 will be a double-header with Belgium at the end of July.

- Circuit Length – 4.38km
- Number of Laps - 70
- Race Distance – 306.63km
- Max Speed – 315km/h
- Average Temperature in July – 28c
- Currency – Hungarian Forint (HUF)
- Closest Airport – Budapest Airport
- Language – Hungarian

### HUNGARORING CIRCUIT: HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION

Construction work started on 1 October 1985 and was completed in just eight months, less time than any other Formula One circuit. The first race was held on 24 March 1986, in memory of János Drapál, the first Hungarian who won motorcycle Grand Prix races.

Bernie Ecclestone pulled off a groundbreaking coup in 1986 by bringing Formula 1 behind the Iron Curtain for the very first time at the newly constructed Hungaroring circuit in the small town of Mogyorod near Budapest.

The Hungarian government had originally considered reviving the old Nepliget park circuit in Budapest, but in the end decided to create a purpose-built facility instead.

Construction had to be modified when an underground spring forced the diversion from the planned course via a series of slow S-bends.

Located in a scenic valley surrounded by rolling hills, the circuit was laid down in less time than any other modern Formula One circuit.

### **RACING AT HUNGARORING: F1 CARS AND DRIVING EXPERIENCE**

The Hungaroring is often compared to a karting circuit due to the lack of straights, with several series of corners to string together, and teams opting for Monaco levels of downforce, with a well-sorted chassis tending to be rewarded over horsepower.

The Hungaroring has been compared to "Monaco without the barriers" due to the lack of straights and difficult overtaking conditions in dry circumstances. The narrow and twisty sections are often marred by dust due to underuse, as the Hungarian Grand Prix is typically very hot and dry at the height of summer, resulting in the circuit usually being very dusty.

The circuit is 4.381 km long, featuring 14 turns with technical characteristics that make qualifying crucial for race performance, as overtaking opportunities are limited due to the lack of long straights.

### **LEGENDARY DRIVERS AT HUNGARORING CIRCUIT**

Michael Schumacher won at Hungaroring in 1994, 1998, 2001 and 2004, finishing second in 2000 and 2002, with his 2001 victory securing his fourth Drivers' Championship. Ayrton Senna, Nigel Mansell, Michael Schumacher, Lewis Hamilton, Max Verstappen and Fernando Alonso claimed to love the track.

Both Nigel Mansell in 1992 and Michael Schumacher in 2001 were crowned World Champions at the Hungaroring, with Mansell securing his only world title there.

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

Lewis Hamilton holds the record for the most victories at the circuit, with eight wins at the Hungaroring and an unmatched nine pole positions. In 2001, Michael Schumacher equalled Alain Prost's then record 51 Grand Prix wins at the Hungaroring.

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

Nelson Piquet won the inaugural Hungarian Grand Prix in 1986, famously taking the outside line to slip past Ayrton Senna at Turn 1 in one of the sport's greatest overtakes. The following year, Piquet returned to win again, overtaking the unfortunate Nigel Mansell who lost a wheel nut when leading with just six laps to go.

Damon Hill's 1997 drive was astonishing, where he nearly delivered an improbable victory for the struggling Arrows team, only to suffer a hydraulic failure on the last lap, costing him the win.

The circuit has a history of hosting maiden victories for drivers, with five drivers taking their first win at the Hungarian Grand Prix, including Damon Hill in 1993, Fernando Alonso in 2003, Jenson Button in 2006, Heikki Kovalainen in 2008, and Esteban Ocon in 2021.

## **WHY DRIVERS LOVE HUNGARORING CIRCUIT**

Finding a good rhythm is key to setting fast lap times at Hungaroring, with the challenge rewarding well-sorted chassis over raw horsepower. The twisting, bumpy track provides a tough fight for overtakes that can prove extremely tricky in dry conditions.

Drivers like Ayrton Senna, Nigel Mansell, Michael Schumacher, Lewis Hamilton, Max Verstappen and Fernando Alonso have claimed to love the Hungaroring, appreciating the technical challenge it presents.

## **HUNGARIAN GRAND PRIX FAN EXPERIENCE AT HUNGARORING**

The inaugural 1986 Hungarian Grand Prix drew a crowd of 200,000 people, which was an outstanding number considering the steep ticket prices at the time. Recent attendance figures show the event's enduring popularity: 290,000 across the weekend in 2022, 303,000 in 2023 and a new record of 310,000 in 2024.

The venue is located in a natural bowl offering spectacular views for the spectators, with higher vantage points allowing fans to see around 80% of the circuit.

The Grand Prix has since become a magnet for fans across Europe, particularly Finnish and Polish supporters, with the support still very enthusiastic particularly from fans outside Hungary.

During Robert Kubica's initial F1 stint, the event was affectionately dubbed the Polish Grand Prix, with up to 25,000 Polish fans travelling annually.

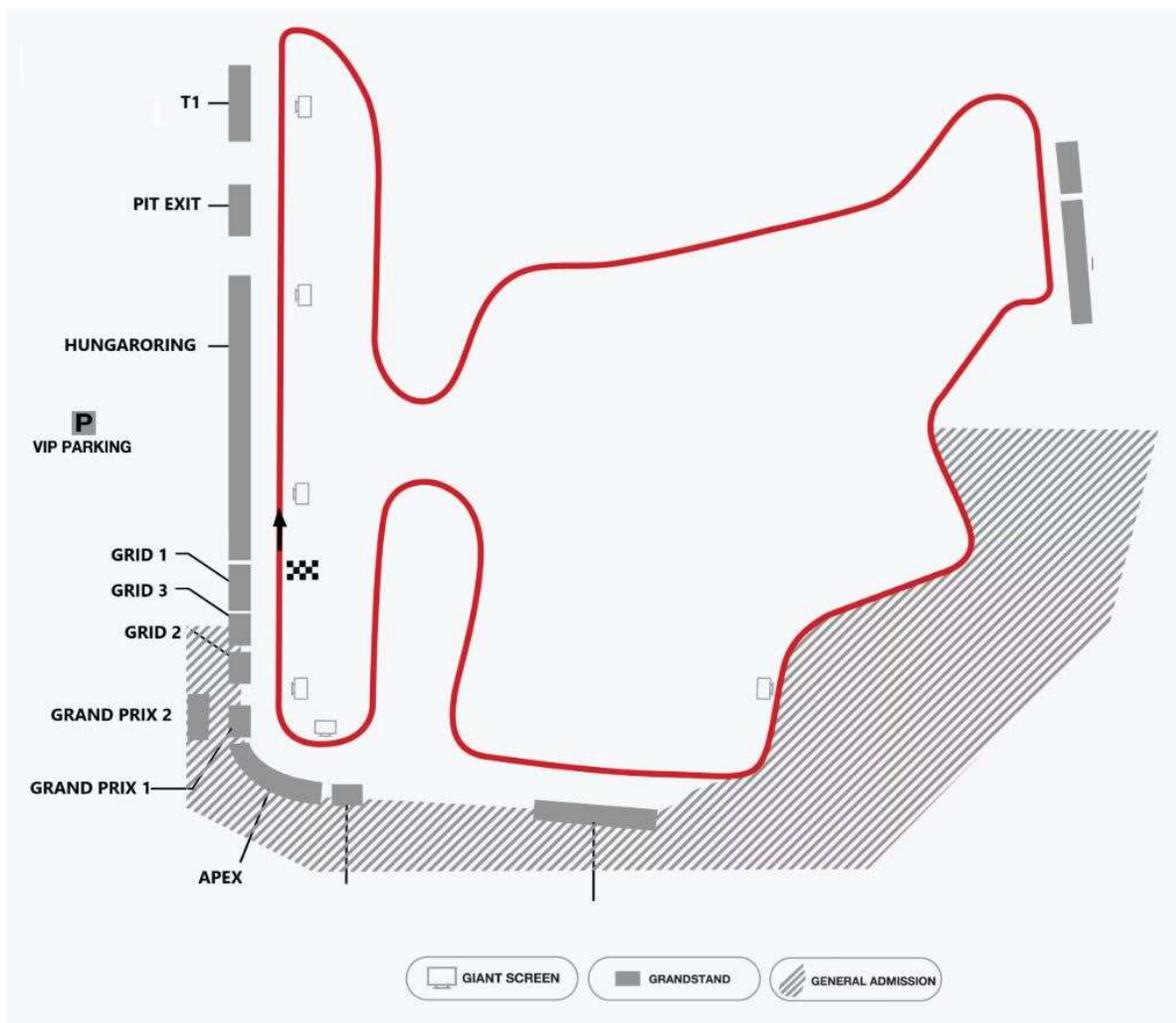
## SURROUNDING AREAS AND BUDAPEST ATTRACTIONS

The Hungaroring circuit is situated 20 kilometres north of Budapest, alongside the M3 motorway, with the nearest international airport being Budapest's Ferenc Liszt International Airport, 24 kilometres south east of the city and approximately half-an-hour's drive from the circuit.

On F1 race weekends, organisers lay on buses from Budapest to the Hungaroring, though taxis and self-driving are also easy alternatives, with parking available at the circuit for ticket holders.

Budapest offers world-class attractions including the historic Danube River views, thermal baths, museums, and vibrant nightlife. The city's cuisine, cultural heritage, and central European charm make it an ideal destination for Formula One fans combining the Hungarian Grand Prix with a city break.

## GRANDSTANDS SEATING



## **SUPER GOLD, GOLD 1-2**

Sat midway down the main straight looking toward turn 1, Super Gold and Gold 1-2 Grandstands is guaranteed to provide you with some of the best views of the entire circuit. Here you will be able to soak in the pre-race atmosphere and see the winner cross the line.

You will be able to see the cars on the downhill main straight into turn 1, where the majority of overtakes at Hungary are completed. Super Gold is the only covered grandstand at the Hungaroring with giant screens ensuring you won't miss any of the race unfold.

These are also central to the F1 fanzone as well as food, drink and merchandise stalls.

## **GOLD 3-4**

Further along from Super Gold sits Golds 3 and 4, where here you will be sat in the braking zone for turn 1. Overtakes and pit exit are the order of the day in these grandstands, as the cars enter turn 1 eager to overtake on the tight twisty circuit. Turn 1 at Hungary has been the scene of much action over the years, whether it be Daniel Ricciardo pulling off late-braking heroics in the Red Bull or Valtteri Bottas causing carnage in the wet in 2021.

Thanks to the elevation of Hungary, you will be able to see turn 1 as well as the run into the second DRS zone at turn 3. As with Super Gold, major food locations are all near Golds 3-4.

See the start of the 2019 Hungarian Grand Prix from the Gold 4 Grandstand [here](#).

## **BRONZE 1-2, SUPER BRONZE**

Bronze 1-2 Grandstands are sat in the twisty infield section of the Hungaroring on the turns 6 & 7 chicane. While you will not see many overtakes in this position, the views of Bronze 1-2 are of the cars coming toward you, which will give you plenty of great photo opportunities.

Super Bronze is set further back from Bronze 1-2 and will give you a more panoramic view of the track. There are large screens viewable from your seats, as well as ample food and drink options.

## **SILVER 5**

Silver 5 Grandstand is one of the smaller grandstands at the Hungaroring and while it may feel isolated, you will have decent views of the short straight between turns 11 and 12. Being the only grandstand in this section of track, you will be able to enjoy shorter queues for food and drinks while also having a large screen opposite this grandstand.

## **SILVER 3 & 6**

Grandstands Silver 3 & 6 sit on the all-important final turn of the track. Here you will be able to see the cars dive into the tight pitlane or navigate the sweeping right-hander. Often cars will have

moments of oversteer in this corner, grip being a premium at the Hungaroring. Here you will also have a rear-on view of the starting grid, with a simple look to your left giving you a sweeping view of the start/finish straight.

### **RED BULL, SILVER 1-2, GRID, PODIUM**

Sat in a group of grandstands along the final corner and main straight, you will have some of the most impressive views of the entire track. A combination of the sweeping final corner, the pit-lane and the start/finish straight means guaranteed action wherever you look.

Due to the elevated nature of the circuit, these grandstands also provide a view of the straight between Turns 11 and 12. Giant screens means you will never miss a second of the action, and all amenities are close by.

### **SILVER 4**

Adjacent to the Red Bull, Silver 1-2, Grid and Podium Grandstands is Silver 4. While you will have similar views – the difference here is the elevated seats.

You will not have a higher view of the action anywhere else on track than you will at Silver 4, which opens up your viewing experience to parts of the track not seen in other grandstands on the main straight and final turn – such as the twisty infield of sector 2.