

Baku City Circuit

Home of the Azerbaijan Grand Prix

Since being the first Grand Prix in the Middle East in 2004, the Bahrain GP has been a popular and easily accessible track for fans and teams alike. A track that has plenty of overtaking opportunities, Bahrain also hosts both pre-season tests.

Over the years, Bahrain has witnessed some fantastic on-track battles, such as Hamilton vs Rosberg in 2014 and Verstappen vs Leclerc in 2022. The unique 2020 F1 season also hosted two races at the Bahrain circuit, the second on the outer layout, which saw Sergio Perez take a memorable first win for Racing Point.

All grandstands at the Bahrain circuit are fully covered and have giant screens to keep track of the race.

While each of our Bahrain Grand Prix Packages comes with a pre-defined grandstand ticket, we've created this Bahrain F1 Track guide to help you choose an alternative.

- Circuit Length – 6.00km
- Number of Laps - 51
- Race Distance – 306.05km
- Max Speed – 366.1km/h
- Average Temperature in April – 16c
- Currency – Azerbaijani Manat (AZN)
- Closest Airport – Heydar Aliyev International
- Language – Azerbaijani

HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION

Baku's link to motorsports started in 2012 when an agreement was made to host a street race in Azerbaijan. In 2013, Hermann Tilke was contracted to design the circuit. The inaugural Formula One race at the circuit was the 2016 European Grand Prix, with the circuit hosting the inaugural Azerbaijan Grand Prix in 2017.

The 6.003 km anti-clockwise layout of the circuit was designed by circuit architect Hermann Tilke. The circuit features 20 corners and includes a 2.2 km high-speed straight at the end of the lap.

The circuit starts adjacent to Azadliq Square and loops around Government House before heading west along a 1 km straight to the Palace of the Shirvanshahs and Maiden Tower, with a narrow 7.6 m uphill traversal before circling the Old City.

THE RACING EXPERIENCE FOR F1 DRIVERS

The circuit spans over 6 kilometers with 20 turns, including narrow sections that are only 7.6 meters wide, such as the tricky castle section, providing an adrenaline-pumping challenge.

The circuit combines the narrowest section on the current calendar—the claustrophobic passage through Baku's UNESCO World Heritage Old City—with the sport's second-longest straight where cars exceed 350 km/h along the scenic Caspian Sea waterfront.

The layout ensures that overtaking opportunities are abundant, especially on the long straights. The circuit's defining characteristic is its remarkable contrast between technical precision and raw speed, requiring drivers to navigate from tight, unforgiving corners where the barriers are mere centimeters away, to wide-open straights.

LEGENDARY DRIVERS AT THE CIRCUIT

Daniel Ricciardo won the inaugural Azerbaijan Grand Prix in 2017 with an unexpected victory, starting from 10th on the grid. Lewis Hamilton, Valtteri Bottas, and Fernando Alonso have all secured victories at the venue, establishing themselves as dominant forces on this demanding circuit.

MOST SUCCESSFUL DRIVER AT BAKU CITY CIRCUIT

Sergio Pérez holds the record for the most Azerbaijan Grand Prix victories with two wins, triumphing in Baku in 2021 and again in 2023, showcasing his ability to manage chaos on one of Formula 1's most unpredictable circuits.

Sergio Perez set a new record for most podiums at Baku City Circuit in 2022, recording his fourth top three finish, which he went on to extend to five in 2023.

ICONIC MOMENTS AND MEMORABLE RACES

In 2017, Daniel Ricciardo won for Red Bull with Valtteri Bottas and Lance Stroll securing second and third. The 2018 Azerbaijan Grand Prix saw Daniel Ricciardo and Max Verstappen collide at Turn 1 on lap 41 in a tense battle, taking them both out of the race.

In 2021, Max Verstappen suffered a crash at immense speed on the main straight due to a tire pop, after which Sergio Pérez won the race ahead of Sebastian Vettel and Pierre Gasly. In 2023, Sergio Perez cruised to victory and became the first-ever repeat winner of the Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

WHY DRIVERS LOVE THIS TRACK

Many drivers praised the circuit for the challenge offered by its mixture of long straights, slow technical sections and no margin for error due to the proximity of the walls. Drivers enjoy the fast, flowing nature of the wide boulevards built during Baku's 19th-century oil boom, where neoclassical and baroque mansions stand in an unmistakably eastern setting.

Nico Rosberg praised the circuit after winning the 2016 Grand Prix, calling it a "really exciting racing" venue with a "great track".

FAN EXPERIENCE AND SURROUNDING ACTIVITIES

Tens of thousands flock to the city for the race weekend, with 85,000 spectators in 2018 and an estimated 94,000 in 2019, with seating capacity increased by 35% ahead of the 2024 Grand Prix to meet ticket demand.

From the grandstands near the Old City to the waterfront views and buzzing F1 Fanzone, Baku becomes an all-encompassing Formula 1 festival with cafes and restaurants spilling with racegoers, nightlife taking on the rhythm of race week, and headline concerts keeping celebrations rolling late into the night.

There are no dedicated parking areas at the track, but spectators can find nearby parking areas such as the White Boulevard area, 28 Mall Parking Zone, and other locations. The circuit is well served by local bus routes including Bus 65, Bus 5, and Bus 53, with Icheri Sheher, 28 May and Sahil metro stations operational during race days.

Baku's UNESCO-listed Old City provides a stunning backdrop with ancient architecture, while the futuristic Flame Towers light up in fiery reds and oranges at night, a tribute to Azerbaijan's nickname "The Land of Fire".

GRANDSTANDS SEATING



MAIN

The Main Grandstand is a great option to see the starting grid and pit exit. It is the largest grandstand at the track, and you will feel as close to the action as anywhere else on the circuit here. Sitting in a prime position on the long straight, here you will see the cars at their fastest point, hitting speeds of 320km/h and above as the drivers activate their DRS. Post-race these seats are the best option for a front row seat of the podium celebrations.

Behind the Main Grandstand is where you will find the biggest selection of food and drink options – a must in the desert heat of Sakhir.

TURN 1

Further down the start/finish straight than the Main Grandstand sits the Turn 1 Grandstand. Little introduction is needed – the name of this stand gives away the views offered. Here you will witness some of the best overtaking opportunities on the track as well as pit exit. The pit exit in

Bahrain is a tricky one, with cars coming out right in the middle of the braking zone, which can provide some breathtaking on-track moments.

Here you will see cars exit Turn 1 and flick through Turns 2 and 3 – often in close vicinity to each other. Turn 1 Grandstand is just a short walk to the plentiful refreshment options near the main grandstand.

UNIVERSITY

The triple University Grandstand is located on the second DRS zone at the circuit, just before the overtaking-friendly turn 4. Thanks to the wide nature of the track, you will see F1 cars run close both in overtaking attempts and staunch defending.

Action is almost certain in the opening laps, when the cars are the closest and tyres coldest.

As well as Turn 4, you will also be able to view the opening corner of the track, which also allows for plenty of on-track action as cars exit the pit-lane into the heavy braking zone.

Should you wish for a larger variety of refreshment options, it is around a 15-minute walk to the main food and drink area on the main straight, however you will still find options just behind the University Grandstands.

VICTORY

On the back straight of the track you will find the group of twos Victory Grandstands. Here you will enjoy views of Turn 11, the long back straight and the final corner of Turn 14. Here you will have ample photo opportunities for F1 cars as they attempt to get the best entry into the final corner.

As well as this, the Victory Grandstand also allows you to see two of the most impressive abilities of a F1 car and driver combination – their fastest on a straight, and their impressive braking ability into a corner. It is just a short walk from the Victory Grandstand to the main precinct of the track, where you will find more than enough food and drink options, and the F1 Fanzone.

BATELCO

Sitting on the inside straight and just behind the pit building, the Batelco grandstand provides excellent views of the inside of the track. This section of seating has the third DRS zone on the track as the cars exit a tight downhill left-hand corner into the back straight.

Batelco grandstand also offers fantastic views of Turns 7 through 10 and almost all the views at this grandstand have unhindered views which allows for many photo opportunities. You will be able to see over half of the track from this spot – allowing you to take in all the highlights of this exciting circuit.