

Circuit of the Americas

Home of the US Grand Prix

The 2026 season will see the 15th edition of the US GP at the COTA circuit in Austin, Texas with the track a popular one for drivers and fans alike.

A track known for overtaking and very good racing, both local and travelling fans make for a great atmosphere all weekend long. Whether it was Kimi Raikkonen's final win in F1 or the heated teammate battle in 2015 between Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg, there have been plenty of highlights over the years.

A particular highlight of the circuit is the 133m rise from the main straight into turn 1. Thanks to a USA driver being on the grid for the first time since 2015 in Logan Sargeant, the atmosphere is set to step up in 2023.

- Circuit Length – 5.51km
- Number of Laps - 56
- Race Distance – 308.41km
- Max Speed – 325km/h
- Average Temperature in October – 28c
- Currency – USD
- Closest Airport – Austin-Bergstrom International Airport
- Language – English

CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS: HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION

The Circuit of the Americas (COTA) was the first Formula One circuit specifically designed and purpose-built in the United States. The project was conceived in 2010 by promoter Tavo Hellmund and World Motorcycle Champion Kevin Schwantz, with design assistance from renowned German architect Hermann Tilke.

Construction began on 31 December 2010 and the circuit officially opened on 21 October 2012, just 21 months later.

The circuit was constructed on approximately 900 acres of undeveloped land in southeast Travis County near Austin, Texas, about 10 miles southeast of Austin city centre with backing from Texas billionaire Red McCombs.

The project cost over \$300 million, utilizing GPS-based 3D paving equipment and specialized paving machinery to meet FIA specifications. The first layer of asphalt was completed on 3 August 2012, with the final layer finished on 21 September 2012.

The inaugural Formula One United States Grand Prix took place on 18 November 2012, marking F1's return to the United States after a five-year absence, won by Lewis Hamilton driving for McLaren-Mercedes.

RACING AT CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS: F1 CARS AND DRIVING EXPERIENCE

The Circuit of the Americas is a 3.426-mile (5.514 km) permanent circuit featuring 20 turns with dramatic elevation changes totaling 133 feet (41 meters). The circuit is known for its demanding uphill Turn 1, a sharp blind left-hander at the crest of the steepest climb, which has become one of the most distinctive and photographed corners in modern Formula One.

The track features a mix of high-speed corners inspired by legendary circuits worldwide, including Silverstone's Maggotts-Becketts-Chapel complex at Turns 3-5, Suzuka's Esses, and Nürburgring-style sections.

The 0.62-mile back straight provides excellent overtaking opportunities through the DRS zone, with cars reaching speeds over 200 mph (322 km/h).

Counter-clockwise layout and technical corners demand precise driving and setup optimization, testing car balance and driver commitment. The bumpy track surface, created by the soft soil beneath the circuit, has been a persistent characteristic requiring drivers to adapt their driving style.

LEGENDARY DRIVERS AT CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS

Formula One legends who have raced at COTA include Sebastian Vettel, who won the inaugural 2013 race, Fernando Alonso, Kimi Räikkönen, Valtteri Bottas, and Nico Rosberg. The circuit has hosted many historic driver battles and championship-deciding moments throughout its history.

US GRAND PRIX: MOST WINS RECORD

Lewis Hamilton holds the record for most wins at Circuit of the Americas with five victories (2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019), including four consecutive wins from 2014 to 2017. Hamilton clinched the drivers' championship twice at COTA, in 2015 and 2019, cementing his status as the circuit's most successful driver.

Max Verstappen has won three times at COTA, while Charles Leclerc claimed his first COTA victory in 2024. Kimi Räikkönen won in 2018 after a 114-race winless streak dating back to 2013.

MOST FAMOUS US GRAND PRIX RACES AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS

The inaugural 2012 race saw Lewis Hamilton snatch victory from Sebastian Vettel in the final stages, establishing the circuit's reputation for thrilling racing. The 2015 US Grand Prix was a championship decider, with rain-soaked conditions and Hamilton's brilliant start from Turn 1 securing his third world title.

The 2018 US Grand Prix was highlighted by Kimi Räikkönen's emotional comeback victory after a 2,044-day gap since his last win, the longest drought between victories in F1 history.

The 2021 race featured an intense battle between title contenders Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton, with Verstappen's pole position and superior start setting the tone for a dominant performance.

Nico Rosberg's 2016 victory and Valtteri Bottas' 2019 win added to the circuit's roll of honour, showcasing competitive racing across multiple eras and team configurations.

WHY DRIVERS LOVE CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS

Drivers appreciate COTA for its challenging blend of high-speed flowing sections and technical corners that reward smooth, committed driving.

The dramatic elevation changes create unique racing characteristics not found on many circuits, with the uphill Turn 1 providing spectacular overtaking opportunities.

The circuit's design draws inspiration from iconic corners worldwide, creating a technically interesting and engaging lap that tests all aspects of driver skill and car performance.

US GRAND PRIX FAN EXPERIENCE AT CIRCUIT OF THE AMERICAS

The circuit offers impressive spectator amenities including multiple stadium grandstands and spectator mounds with sightlines of the majority of the track. A striking 251-foot (77-meter) tall observation tower provides 360-degree views of the entire circuit and Austin skyline.

Attendance figures have consistently exceeded 220,000 spectators per weekend, with record attendance reaching 269,889 in 2016.

The festival atmosphere combines world-class motorsport with the vibrant culture of Austin, featuring concerts, entertainment, and off-track activities throughout the Grand Prix weekend.

The circuit has a confirmed contract to host the US Grand Prix through at least 2026, ensuring its long-term presence on the Formula One calendar.

SURROUNDING AREAS AND AUSTIN ATTRACTIONS

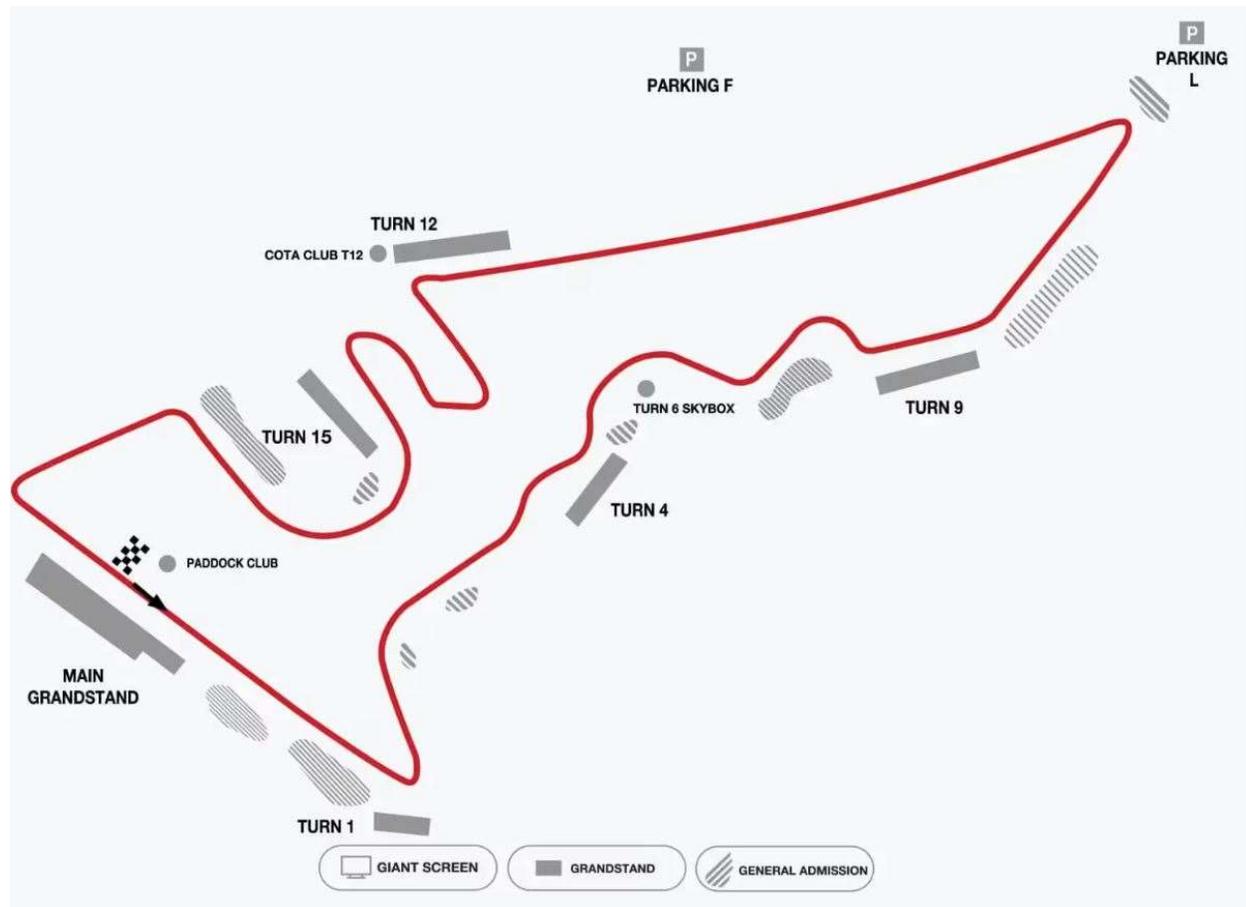
Circuit of the Americas is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Austin city centre, about 2 miles from Austin Bergstrom International Airport, with easy accessibility from downtown Austin. The venue sits within scenic parkland with views of the Austin skyline and downtown area.

Austin is known as a vibrant cultural and tech hub offering world-class attractions including live music venues on 6th Street, Lady Bird Lake waterfront activities, tech company headquarters, and innovative dining experiences.

The city's reputation for exceptional food trucks, craft breweries, and nightlife makes it an ideal destination for combining Formula One racing with a broader Austin experience.

The surrounding Texas Hill Country offers scenic natural attractions, outdoor recreation, and cultural heritage within short driving distance of the circuit.

GRANDSTANDS SEATING



MAIN

Situated on the start/finish straight, the main grandstand will give you views of the pitlane, all the pre-race build up on the grid as well as the post-race podium celebrations. Being central to the action, everything you need facility-wise is situated directly behind these stands, with the food options in particular being a highlight if grilled meat is your choice.

Giant screens are located all along the straight, meaning you won't miss any of the other action across the rest of the track.

TURN 1

View-wise, it is hard to go past the Turn 1 Grandstand thanks to the unique steep climb from the start/finish straight to the first corner. This is the place to be for the start of the race, witnessing all 20 cars fight for position at the 90-degree Turn 1, all while climbing a 133-metre rise.

You will have front-on view of the starting grid and the main straight, while also being able to see cars exit pitlane into the apex of the first corner. The seats at Turn 1 come with backs and cupholders.

TURN 4

A smaller and more budget-friendly stand, Turn 4 is situated in the fast and twisty section of turns toward the end of the first sector. While you won't see many overtakes, Turn 4 stand will still have plenty of photo opportunities, with the famous observation tower close by as well as the Stars & Stripes run-off at these corners.

You will have three large screens visible from the seats, meaning you can keep track of the weekend proceedings.

TURN 6

The newest stand at the COTA and the sole grandstand on the infield section, Turn 6 Grandstand will give you a fantastic view of the esses. While in a similar position to Turn 4 Grandstand, Turn 6 will give you a front-on view of the cars coming through this fast section of track which is modelled after the famous Maggots and Becketts section at Silverstone.

TURN 9

Sat on the outside of the track, the elevated Turn 9 Grandstand gives you a vast view of multiple corners. From these seats, you will be able to see cars exit Turn 7 and descend into the next few corners before entering the Turn 11 hairpin and onto the back straight. There is a giant screen directly in front of the Turn 9 Grandstand.

TURN 12

One of the most popular stands at COTA, Turn 12 is perched right at the end of the long back straight. Thanks to the nature of the circuit, you can see the majority of the track from this grandstand, particularly if you are seated in the higher rows.

Here you will have views of overtakes into Turn 12 and this stand is only a short 5-10 minute walk from the F1 Fanzone where you will have plenty of activities to keep you entertained between sessions.

TURN 15

Along with Turn 12, the Turn 15 Grandstand will also give you views of a large amount of the circuit, albeit from a distance. Closest to your seats, you will be able to see overtakes into Turn 12 as well as the following three corners which is often the site of on-track battles and incidents.

Like Turn 12, Turn 15 has a giant screen and is a short walk from the main fanzone.

TURN 19

A relatively new stand added in recent years, Turn 19 Grandstand's seating comes with backs and cupholders. Here you will see the cars come downhill on the exit of Turn 18 and take the flat-out left hander before entering the final corner on the main straight.

Turn 19 Grandstand is also located close to the F1 fanzone so you are never far away from anything you need refreshment or activity-wise.