

# Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez

## Home of the Mexico City Grand Prix

A popular location for F1 racing in the 80s and early 90s, the Mexican GP returned to the calendar in 2015 at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City and has not looked back since.

The circuit has been revamped and has provided some exciting racing since its return. Thanks to the ever-increasing popularity of F1 in the Americas and the success of local hero Sergio Perez, the atmosphere at the Mexican GP is among the best on the calendar.

A unique challenge for drivers and teams alike, the track is some 2,240m above sea level and has one of the longest straights on the calendar – the main straight being 1.2km - meaning teams have to juggle engine performance and reliability all weekend long.

- Circuit Length – 4.30km
- Number of Laps – 71
- Race Distance – 305.35km
- Max Speed – 351km/h
- Average Temperature in October – 20c
- Currency – Mexican Peso (MXP)
- Closest Airport – Mexico City International Airport
- Language – Spanish

### **AUTODROMO HERMANOS RODRIGUEZ: HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION**

The Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez was constructed in 1959 within Mexico City's Magdalena Mixhuca Sports Park after being designed by UNAM student Óscar Fernández in 1953 as his thesis project.

The circuit was built on the suggestion of Pedro Rodriguez, an advisor to Mexican President Adolfo López Mateos, who took the initiative to develop a racing circuit using existing internal park roads. Construction was completed in less than a year.

The circuit was originally named Autódromo Magdalena Mixhuca but was renamed Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in 1972 to honor brothers Ricardo and Pedro Rodriguez, Mexico's most famous racing drivers.

Ricardo tragically died during practice for the non-championship Mexican Grand Prix in 1962, while Pedro was killed in a sports car race in Germany in 1971.

Formula One first visited in 1962 for a non-championship race, followed by the inaugural championship Mexican Grand Prix in 1963 won by Jim Clark. The circuit hosted F1 from 1963-1970, then 1986-1992 before returning in 2015 after major renovations by Hermann Tilke.

### **RACING AT AUTODROMO HERMANOS RODRIGUEZ: F1 CARS AND DRIVING EXPERIENCE**

The circuit is located at an extraordinary elevation of 2,285 meters (7,500 feet) above sea level, making it one of the highest Formula One circuits on the calendar. The thin air reduces aerodynamic downforce by approximately 22% and engine power by around 10%, creating a unique paradox where teams run Monaco-level downforce while achieving Monza-esque top speeds exceeding 330 km/h.

The 4.304 km circuit features 17 corners with dramatic elevation changes and bumpy surface characteristics caused by geologically active terrain and shifting soil beneath the track.

The iconic Foro Sol stadium section, built around a converted baseball stadium, creates a spectacular amphitheater-like environment where cars weave through tight corners surrounded by passionate fans.

The thin air also creates physiological challenges for drivers, affecting breathing and physical exertion during the race. Drivers must manage tire temperatures differently and adapt braking strategies due to reduced aerodynamic grip.

### **LEGENDARY DRIVERS AT AUTODROMO HERMANOS RODRIGUEZ**

Jim Clark won the first championship race in 1963 and triumphed again in 1964, establishing himself as an early master of the circuit. Mexican heroes Ricardo and Pedro Rodriguez both raced at their home circuit, with Pedro securing multiple podium finishes.

Alain Prost, Nigel Mansell, Ayrton Senna, and Graham Hill all achieved notable victories at the venue.

## **MEXICO CITY GRAND PRIX: MOST WINS RECORD**

Max Verstappen holds the current record with five wins at the Mexico City Grand Prix (2017, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024), making him the most successful driver at the circuit in the modern era.

Lewis Hamilton has three victories (2016, 2019, and joining other winners), while Alain Prost, Nigel Mansell, Jim Clark, and others each secured two wins at the venue.

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

The 1963 inaugural championship race witnessed Jim Clark's commanding victory, establishing the circuit's competitive nature. The 1970 race became infamous for spectator overcrowding, with approximately 200,000 fans overwhelming safety measures and forcing the Grand Prix off the calendar for 16 years.

Nigel Mansell's 1987 victory is remembered for his daring pass around the outside of Gerhard Berger. Lewis Hamilton's 2016 and 2019 victories demonstrated Mercedes' competitive prowess at the high-altitude venue.

In the modern era, Max Verstappen clinched his 2017 and 2018 world championship titles at Mexico City, with his 2022 victory setting a record with 14 wins in a single season.

## **WHY DRIVERS LOVE AUTODROMO HERMANOS RODRIGUEZ**

Drivers appreciate the unique challenge posed by the extreme altitude and its aerodynamic paradoxes. The passionate Mexican fanbase creates an electric atmosphere unmatched at other venues, with Sergio Pérez stating: "The atmosphere in Mexico is unreal. Nothing else comes close."

The technical layout combining high-speed flowing sections with tight stadium passages provides an engaging driving experience. The bumpy surface and elevation changes demand precise car control and commitment, rewarding smooth, skilled driving.

## **MEXICO CITY GRAND PRIX FAN EXPERIENCE**

The circuit hosts one of Formula One's most passionate and colorful crowds, with record attendance figures exceeding 400,000 spectators over race weekends.

The Foro Sol stadium section provides one of motorsport's most unique viewing experiences, with fans jam-packed into stands creating an electric amphitheater atmosphere.

The circuit is conveniently located within the Magdalena Mixhuca Sports Park, just east of Mexico City's centre, approximately 10 kilometers from downtown Mexico City and near Mexico City's international airport. Easy metro access connects downtown Mexico City to the circuit area.

## **SURROUNDING AREAS AND MEXICO CITY ATTRACTIONS**

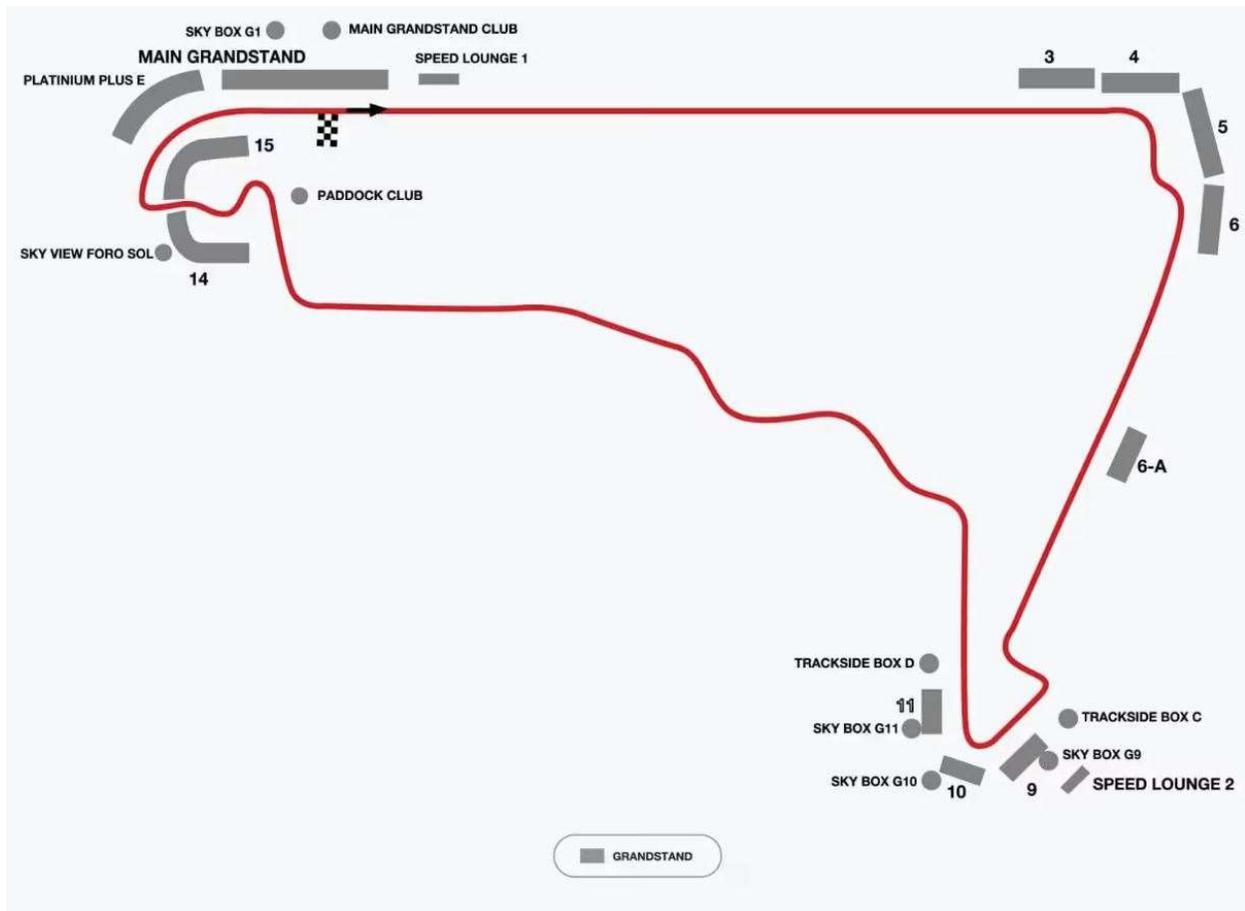
Mexico City is one of the world's most vibrant metropolises offering world-class attractions including the historic Zócalo, ancient temples, world-renowned museums, and exceptional culinary experiences.

The city blends pre-Columbian heritage with modern culture, featuring Michelin-starred restaurants, traditional markets, and vibrant nightlife.

Nearby attractions include the Frida Kahlo Museum, the Metropolitan Cathedral, and the historic Teotihuacan pyramids.

The city's reputation for exceptional food, cultural events, and welcoming atmosphere makes it an ideal destination for combining Formula One racing with broader cultural experiences in one of the Americas' greatest cities.

## GRANDSTANDS SEATING



## MAIN

Perched right at the beginning of the lap and directly opposite the entire pit building, the Main Grandstand is a giant stand that gives you amazing views of the 1.2km start/finish straight and pitlane.

Due to the steep seating on this stand, views in the Main Grandstand outshine most other stands – with the higher the seats, the better view of the pitlane. Don't be disappointed if you are in the lower seats however, with most rows many metres above the catch fencing which will allow plenty of unobstructed photo opportunities of the cars.

Almost all seats at the Main Grandstand are covered, and being the main section of track, all amenities are located directly behind the stand.

### 3-6

Outside of Grandstands 14 and 15, these stands known as the “Blue Grandstands” are the place to be for your optimal Mexican GP experience. Here you will have the stadium-type feel of 14 and 15 with the added bonus of seeing plenty of on-track action.

Located at the end of one of the longest straights on the calendar, you will have views of cars slipstreaming along the start/finish straight and the most popular overtaking spot on track into turns 1 and 2. Lap 1 particularly is a highlight, seeing all 20 cars jostling for position into these two corners.

### 5A

Directly across from grandstands 3-6 is 5a, the difference being Grandstand 5a is the sole stand on the inside of the track. Located at the exit of turn 3, here you will have close-up views of cars battling for positions, often with a pass and re-pass being completed between two cars.

A view to your right allows you to see the cars exit turn 3 and into the shorter second straight, while a look to your left gives you some views of Turns 1-2. Food and drinks are found in close proximity to Grandstand 5a.

### 6A

Grandstand 6a sits somewhat isolated from the other stands on this circuit, but its views of the action are fantastic here. Sat on the second straight you will have a full view of cars battling for position, being a DRS zone.

You won't likely see many on track overtakes completed from these seats, you will find plenty of amenities close by your seats.

### 9-11

Grandstands 9-11 are located in the twisty complex of Turns 4-6. All three are smaller stands, and you will have plenty of photo opportunities of the cars at slow speed through these corners.

Coming at the end of the second DRS zone, overtakes are known to happen in this part of the track, while also plenty of incidents are possible as over-ambitious moves often end in tears for one or both drivers.

As with all the stands at the Mexican GP, the atmosphere is electric all weekend long – particularly when local hero Sergio Perez passes by. While not as many food and drink options as stands earlier in the lap, there are still plenty of options and entry gates are only a short walk from your seats.

## 14&15

Quite possibly the most unique pair of stands on the entire F1 calendar – Grandstands 14 and 15 are located at the former baseball stadium section of track. From an on-track perspective, here you will see cars navigate a slow, three corner section before heading underneath both stands and onto the main straight.

Grandstand 15 also will give you a view of Turn 12 just before the cars enter the stadium section. While not an overtaking spot, the highlight of these stands are most definitely the atmosphere.

Due to the stadium style seating, you will feel right on top of the cars, with a large section of tables and seating directly in front of the stadium, ensuring you can leave your seats for food or drink and not miss a minute of the on-track action.

Another added bonus is the location of the podium, typically on the start/finish straight at each circuit, it is located opposite Stands 14 and 15. Post-race, the driver interviews are staged here prior to the podium as well as the top 3 finisher's cars, and after the podium the party will continue long into the evening with a DJ playing music into the night.