

# Interlagos Circuit

## Home of the Brazilian Grand Prix

Located in Sao Paulo, the Interlagos circuit has been a mainstay on the F1 calendar since returning in 1990.

Over the years, Brazilian heroes – none more so than the late great Ayrton Senna; but also Rubens Barrichello and Felipe Massa – have ensured the atmosphere among the crowd to be the most passionate outside of Ferrari's Tifosi and Max Verstappen's travelling support.

Despite no Brazilians being on the grid in recent years, this has not deterred the support that the Brazilian GP gets year in, year out. Now the third-last race of the season, Interlagos as the final race has been the scene of many epic title showdowns over the years – Kimi Raikkonen in 2007, Lewis Hamilton in 2008 and Sebastian Vettel in 2012 just to name three in recent times.

- Circuit Length – 4.31km
- Number of Laps - 71
- Race Distance – 305.87km
- Max Speed – 339km/h
- Average Temperature in November – 25c
- Currency – Brazilian Real (BRL)
- Closest Airport – Guarulhos International Airport
- Language – Portuguese

### **AUTODROMO JOSÉ CARLOS PACE: HISTORY AND CONSTRUCTION**

The Autodromo José Carlos Pace, commonly known as Interlagos, was constructed beginning in 1938 and officially inaugurated on 12 May 1940. Construction began in 1938 and the track was opened in May 1940.

The circuit's name "Interlagos" literally means "between lakes," derived from its location between two large artificial lakes, Guarapiranga and Billings, built in the early 20th century to provide São Paulo with water and electricity.

The track designers took their inspiration from Roosevelt Raceway in the USA, Brooklands in the United Kingdom, and Montlhéry in France. Originally featuring a 7.96 km layout with 26 turns, the circuit underwent major renovations when it returned to Formula One in 1990, reducing to its current 4.309 km with 15 turns.

In 1985, the circuit was renamed Autódromo José Carlos Pace to honor Brazilian Formula One driver José Carlos Pace, who died in a plane crash in 1977.

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

Interlagos is known for its challenging characteristics that test both driver skill and car capabilities. The circuit features dramatic elevation changes and follows the ups and downs of hilly ground, which makes it harder to drive and demands more power from the car's engines.

The circuit is known for its bumpy surface, which can cause damage on F1 cars with very low ride heights, making races physically tough on drivers with neck stress from the many right-hand turns. The counter-clockwise layout combined with fast-flowing sections and tight technical corners creates an unpredictable racing environment where weather changes dramatically affect strategy and outcomes.

The circuit features iconic corners with evocative Portuguese names including "Senna's S" (Turns 1-3), "Bico de Pato" (Duck Bill), "Mergulho" (Dive), and "Curva do Sol" (Sun Turn), reflecting the track's old-school character.

### **LEGENDARY DRIVERS AT INTERLAGOS**

In 1973, the first World Championship Brazilian Grand Prix was held at Interlagos, won by defending Formula One World Champion and local hero Emerson Fittipaldi. Fittipaldi won again in 1974, while Brazilian driver José Carlos Pace secured his one and only Formula One victory at Interlagos in 1975.

Other legendary drivers who achieved success at the circuit include Michael Schumacher, Alain Prost, Ayrton Senna, Nelson Piquet, and Felipe Massa, with many making their mark during dramatic championship-deciding moments.

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

Alain Prost holds the record for the most Brazilian Grand Prix victories with six wins at Interlagos and Jacarepaguá combined (1982, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1990), while Michael Schumacher has four wins at the current circuit (1994, 1995, 2000, 2002).

Among current drivers, Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel each have three victories, with Max Verstappen claiming three wins in recent years (2019, 2023, 2024).

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

Ayrton Senna's 1991 victory at his home race was one of F1's most emotional and dramatic moments, with Senna losing third gear in the closing laps and having to use only sixth gear in the final four laps while experiencing muscle cramps and fever, requiring him to be lifted from the car.

In 1993, Senna produced a spectacular wet-weather performance, overtaking multiple cars and holding off challenges despite severe weather with nine accidents and three collisions, with the crowd storming the track to celebrate his victory.

The 2008 Brazilian Grand Prix saw Felipe Massa win for Ferrari in wet conditions, but Lewis Hamilton dramatically overtook Timo Glock in the final corners to claim his first world championship title, beating Massa by just one point.

## **WHY DRIVERS LOVE INTERLAGOS CIRCUIT**

Drivers appreciate Interlagos for its technical challenge, unpredictable weather, and passionate Brazilian fan support. The circuit's old-school character combined with significant elevation changes creates an engaging driving experience that rewards skill and bravery.

The circuit has hosted six drivers' championship battles, primarily because Brazil was previously the final race on the F1 calendar, adding drama and significance to performances at the venue.

## **BRAZILIAN GRAND PRIX FAN EXPERIENCE**

The circuit's spectator stands hold a capacity of approximately 60,000 spectators, with additional general admission areas. In recent years, the race has moved to an end-of-season slot in November, creating dramatic championship-deciding moments with passionate crowds.

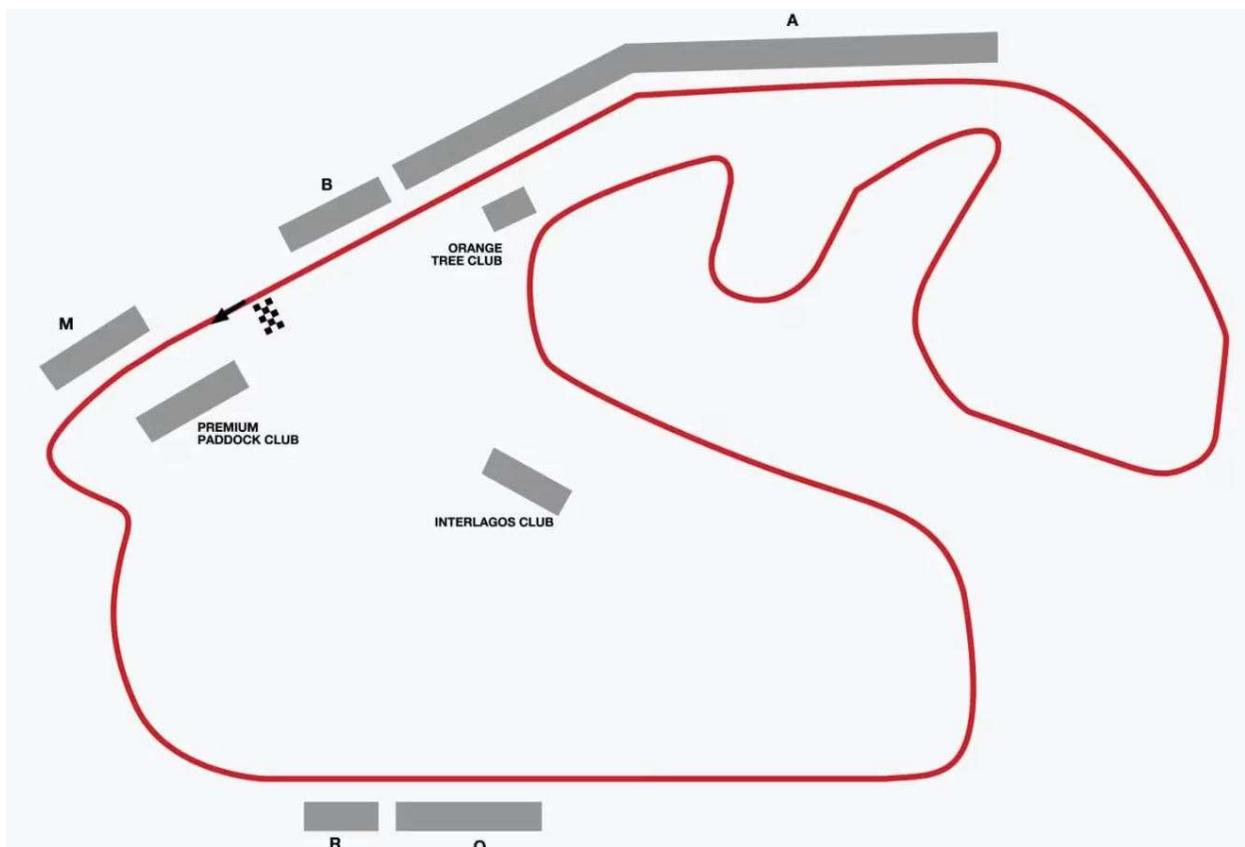
The circuit is located in the Interlagos neighborhood of São Paulo, easily accessible via public transport and approximately 10 kilometers south of downtown São Paulo. The venue features modern facilities alongside its historic racing pedigree.

## SURROUNDING AREAS AND SÃO PAULO ATTRACTIONS

Interlagos is situated within São Paulo, Brazil's largest city and a major global metropolis. The city offers world-class attractions including historic architecture, museums, galleries, and vibrant cultural experiences. São Paulo is renowned for its exceptional cuisine, nightlife, and cosmopolitan atmosphere.

The circuit's location provides fans easy access to downtown São Paulo's attractions, restaurants, and entertainment venues, making the Grand Prix weekend part of a larger São Paulo experience. The passionate Brazilian motorsport culture and enthusiastic local support make Interlagos a unique and memorable Formula One venue.

## GRANDSTANDS SEATING



## M

Sat on the outside of Turn 1, M Grandstand will give you the best views of one of F1's most famous first corners. The overtaking spot on Interlagos, you will see plenty of battles for position into the downhill corner, often late dives paying off by a driver braver on their brakes.

The atmosphere is electric and the sprint race format ensures you will be able to see not one, but two race starts into this iconic first corner. Toilets are located within your grandstand, ensuring a convenient walk downstairs to use these amenities, while there are a lot of good food and drink options at the rear of the stand.

You will also catch glimpses of Turns 2 and 3 from your seats within this stand.

## D&H

Located at the iconic "Senna S" Turns 1 and 2, the D & H Grandstands will give you epic views of all the action into the first two corners. Both Grandstands are covered and you will have giant screens visible, ensuring you don't miss a minute of the action. As with all stands along the main straight and opening corners, the atmosphere all weekend long is unrivalled.

## R

Sat on the outside of Turn 3, the R Grandstand is a covered stand that is raised, ensuring epic views unobstructed by catch fencing. You will feel closer to the track at R Grandstand than other stands at the track thanks to the smaller amount of run-off at Turn 3.

It was this corner that was the scene of a car park of F1 cars in 2003, with multiple cars including Michael Schumacher spinning off in the wet conditions. A flat-out left-hand corner, close racing is all but guaranteed, particularly being at the end of Turns 1 and 2 – the most popular overtaking position on the track.

Directly in front of your seats is also pit exit, a tricky exit for the drivers coming directly onto the second straight. There is no giant screen visible from R Grandstand.

## G&S

Next to the R Grandstand and a large stand along the back straight, G & S Grandstands have bleacher-style seats and is uncovered with a giant screen visible from your seats. These are very good grandstand choices for a lower budget option and allows you to see an F1 car at full speed down this fast straight.

Another overtaking point, your views of Turn 4 should see some good wheel-to-wheel racing, with plenty of run off on corner exit – the scene of the infamous Verstappen and Hamilton battle

in 2021. Here you will also be able to see the cars on the infield of the track, including the famous Senna S corners. There are also a few food and drink options directly behind this stand.

## V

Directly on the exit of Turn 4, V Grandstand will give you the unique views of cars coming toward you head-on. While set a bit further back from the track than other stands due to the large run-off at Turn 4, you will have plenty of great photo opportunities of F1 cars dicing for position and then heading up-hill into the infield section of the circuit.

## A

The largest stand on the circuit, the A Grandstand represents excellent value for views. Due to the bowl type nature of the Interlagos circuit, the A Grandstand being raised means you will be able to catch views of the cars at some points of the infield section of track.

It is along the main straight that provides the best atmosphere – expect singing, dancing and a party vibe all weekend long from your seats. Your main views will be of the start/finish straight, as the cars fly past at full speed up-hill. The main straight at Interlagos has been the scene of many incidents over the years.

A Grandstand is uncovered and is bleacher-style seating. Food and drink options are fairly limited close-by however there are still some stalls behind the stand, and vendors do walk up and down the grandstand, meaning you can also purchase food and some beverages from your seats.

## B

Just further down the main straight from A Grandstand, B Grandstand sits in front of the pit-lane, including pit entry and some garages, dependent on your seats. To your left you will be able to view the final corner, as well as the run down into turn 1 and some infield corners, similar to A Grandstand.

While the B Grandstand is raised higher, the catch fencing is quite high however you will still be able to appreciate F1 cars at full speed despite not being the perfect seats for unobstructed photo opportunities. B Grandstand is covered – which will come in handy when Brazil's fickle November weather hits!

There is also a giant screen visible from your seats, which unlike A Grandstand, are bucket-style seats with backs.