

I'm not a bot



Sign InSubscribeAll Albon, Alexander Alonso, Fernando Bearman, Oliver Bottas, Valtteri Colapinto, Franco Doohan, Jack Gasly, Pierre Hamilton, Lewis Hulkenberg, Nico Lawson, Liam Leclerc, Charles Magnussen, Kevin Norris, Lando Ocon, Esteban Perez, Sergio PIAstri, Oscar Ricciardo, Daniel Russell, George Sainz, Carlos Sargeant, Logan Stroll, Lance Tsunoda, Yuki Verstappen, Max Zhou, Guanyu Sign InSubscribeWhen was the track built?The man-made Notre Dame Island in the middle of the St Lawrence River was created for the 1967 Expo 67 World's Fair. Once the expo and the ensuing 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics had left town, some clever people decided to make a race track out of the island's roads. And lo, the Circuit Ile Notre-Dame, as it then was, came to be.When was its first Grand Prix?With the Canadian Grand Prix having been in search of a permanent home for a number of years in the 1960s and 1970s, the Circuit Ile Notre-Dame first hosted the race in 1978. Fittingly, Gilles Villeneuve claimed his maiden win, at the track that would end up bearing his name.What's the circuit like?The fast, low-downforce circuit is one of the drivers' favourites. The track is quite stop-start, with lots of heavy-braking chicanes and the famous hairpin to get the anchors working hard. Out of the corners, though, the track is quick and flowing, while the most iconic piece of the circuit comes right at the end of the lap: the Wall of Champions, so-called after excursions into it from Damon Hill, Jacques Villeneuve and Michael Schumacher during the 1999 Canadian Grand Prix weekend.Why go?The Montrealais really embrace their Grand Prix weekend, with the charming city turning into an F1-loving party town in the week leading up to the race. For the Grand Prix itself, the leafy setting makes the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve one of Formula 1's most laidback venues.Where is the best place to watch?It's got to be one of either Grandstand 15, 21 or 24, the three that surround the hairpin. It makes for a real amphitheatre vibe down there, as well as allowing you to see all the hairpin overtakes. Sign InSubscribeWhen was the track built?In 1215, sort of - that's when Monaco was first established as a colony of Genoa.When was its first Grand Prix?It was 1929 when racing engines first reverberated around the Principality, after cigarette manufacturer Antony Noghes decided to organise a race with his pals from the Automobile Club de Monaco. The race was part of the calendar in the first year of the Formula 1 World Championship in 1950, and hasn't been off it since 1955.What's the circuit like?Incredibly narrow and totally iconic. Nelson Piquet memorably described driving around Monaco as "like riding a bicycle around your living room"... which is fair. Despite that, it's a challenge that nearly all drivers love, forcing them to put their skills on the line and rewarding millimetric accuracy. Overtaking on the tight streets is harder, however, with the 2003 Grand Prix witnessing a grand total of zero passing moves!Why go?A holiday on the French Riviera, plus the chance to watch Formula 1 cars pounding past places where Monegasques usually go to buy a pint of milk? It really is as fun as it sounds. On top of that, the chance to walk the track after a day's hard lapping - or even enjoy your dinner on it at one of the terrasse bars - is not to be missed.Where is the best place to watch?Assuming you can't get into one of the overhanging apartment blocks around the circuit (or onto a boat) shoot for anything from Grandstands L to P, which are clustered around the Swimming Pool section of the track, and where drivers hurl their cars through the tight chicane at 200km/h. Or, for a more spectacular vista, try Grandstand B, overlooking the ritzy Casino Square. Sign InSubscribeWhen was the track built?In 2006, plans were announced to develop Yas Island, located just to the east of Abu Dhabi, into a new tourist destination, with a major part of the plans centring around a 5.5km race track. The diggers rolled into what would become the Yas Marina Circuit in May 2007, with the project completed by October 2009.When was its first Grand Prix?In 2009. The track debuted as that year's Formula 1 season finale, with Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel winning from team mate Mark Webber and the already-crowned 2009 champion Jenson Button. Vettel would go on to secure his first title in Abu Dhabi a year later, amid much crying.What's the circuit like?The Hermann Tilke-designed track is dominated by its 1.2km straight between Turns 5 and 6 - which, with slow-speed corners marking its beginning and end, makes it a honeypot for overtaking moves. Other highlights include the tricky run through Turns 10 and 11 into 12, which forces the drivers to brake hard with bags of lateral load still on the car. Track modifications ahead of the 2021 race, shortening the lap slightly to 5.28km, have only added to its excitement.Why go?Yas Island was a blank canvas for developers to turn into a tourist attraction, and 11 years and \$40 billion later, they've nearly finished doing just that. Seven hotels, Ferrari's indoor theme park, a mall, a water park, a golf course, a beach, a concert arena and a nightclub, all framed by perfect Emirati weather. What more could you want?Where is the best place to watch?Assuming you can't get a room with a trackside view in the spectacular whale-shaped Yas Hotel - or a berth in a boat's cabin in the marina - opt for a spot in the West Grandstand, a great place to watch all the overtaking action into Turn 6. Or if you're more there for the atmos, stick yourself in the Main Grandstand overlooking the start-finish straight and enjoy Abu Dhabi's famed pyrotechnics. It might be worth trying to get a seat high up in whatever grandstand you choose, though, if you're looking to keep out of the sun. Sign InSubscribeWhen was the track built?Like Silverstone, Zandvoort was first opened in 1948, part of the wave of post-war motorsport enthusiasm that swept across Europe. Originally made up of a mixture of permanent track and public roads that snaked through the sand dunes of the Zandvoort resort town, the Dutch Automobile Racing Club - who initiated the plans for the circuit - brought in 1927 Le Mans winner Sammy Davis to consult on the layout for the original 4.2km track.When was its first Grand Prix?Formula 1 arrived in the Dutch dunes in 1952, with Alberto Ascari dominating the race as he led home a 1-2-3 for Ferrari. Formula 1 would go on to race on and off at the track until 1985 - before, in 2019, the announcement came that the championship would return to Zandvoort for 2020, after a 35-year hiatus. The Covid-19 pandemic meant that became 36 years and a 2021 date.What's the circuit like?'Really quick', 'pretty insane', 'crazy' and 'old-school' were words used by the current crop of F1 drivers when asked to describe the Zandvoort track that many of them tackled in their junior category days. We'd also add 'undulating' to that list. The Zandvoort track swoops and flows through the sand dunes, creating a rollercoaster-like feel to the lap. And while the circuit was modernised in time for F1's most recent return - including increasing the banking angle at the famous Tarzan corner to an Indianapolis Motor Speedway-trumping 18 degrees - Zandvoort remains a proper, challenging drivers' track.Why go?Zandvoort combines a lot of enticing features for an F1 fan. There's the historic track, which famously featured in John Frankenheimer's Grand Prix, and was the scene of many great F1 moments over the years (Gilles Villeneuve's three-wheeled lap, anyone?). There's the atmosphere, which with Max Verstappen on the grid is always guaranteed to be electric, and most definitely orange-hued. And then there's the beachside location, just a 30-minute train ride outside of Amsterdam. What's not to love?Where is the best place to watch?We recommend taking to either the first turn at Tarzan, or to one of the banked corners, either at Arie Luyendijkbocht - the final turn on the track - or Hugenholtzbocht. For F1's 2021 return, the latter corner was both widened and banked into a parabolic corner, to allow cars to run side by side, and at the same speed, through it. Exciting is an understatement... Sign InSubscribeWhen was the track built?It wasn't - Baku is among the newer street circuits on the Formula 1 calendar, joining the likes of Monaco, Melbourne, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and Las Vegas.When was its first Grand Prix?The first Grand Prix in Baku was held in 2016, as the European Grand Prix. That was followed by the inaugural Azerbaijan Grand Prix in 2017, which witnessed one of the biggest upsets of the season, with Daniel Ricciardo winning out from Valtteri Bottas and the Williams of Lance Stroll, while Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel engaged in some argy-bargy behind the Safety Car.What's the circuit like?A mixture of wide and open and tight and twisty. The lonmmng main straight along the Baku shoreline is a slipstreaming mecca, and with cars able to run three abreast into Turn 1, the action often looks more IndyCar than F1. However from there, the track loops around into the city's narrow, winding Icheri Sheher old town, dramatically wending past Baku's medieval city walls. As in Monaco, slightest mistakes are punished quickly and severely, while set-up wise, the teams are forced to choose between downforce for the twisty bits and less drag for the straight.Why go?As with all city tracks, spectating at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix means that you're right in the middle of the action when the cars get put back in their boxes. Baku itself is a buzzing city, while food is a key part of Azerbaijan's culture, incorporating elements of Turkish and Middle Eastern cuisine - so eat up!Where is the best place to watch?The principal Absheron grandstand at the end of the main straight should be high up on your viewing wish-list, as you'll be watching the cars braking from around 350km/h into the 90-degree Turn 1 - and you'll likely get to watch the lion's share of overtaking too. Elsewhere, the Icheri Sheher grandstand provides a unique vantage point, as you watch the cars wriggle through the city gate section and power on down to the super-fast Turn 13-15 complex. Sign InSubscribeWhen was the track built?The original, triangle-shaped track was built in 1921, with designers Jules de Thier and Henri Langlois van Ophem using public roads between the towns of Francorchamps, Malmedy, and Stavelot to create an amazing 14.9km circuit taking in the forests and rolling hills of the beautiful Ardennes region. The track was redeveloped in 1979, and although the new circuit is only half the original's length, it's still the longest on the current calendar at 7.004km.When was its first Grand Prix?Having hosted a non-championship Grand Prix as long ago as 1924, Belgium's iconic circuit was one of just seven to be part of Formula 1's maiden championship in 1950. That race was won by the legendary Juan Manuel Fangio, who led home an Alfa Romeo one-two ahead of team mate Nino Farina.What's the circuit like?Spa is among Formula 1 drivers' most loved tracks, with its mix of long straights and challenging fast corners allowing them to push their cars to the edge of their capabilities - if it's dry, that is. The size of the track and the nature of Belgian weather means it can sometimes be raining on one part of the track and dry on another, meaning grip can vary from one corner to the next. Keep an eye on the thrilling Eau Rouge, arguably the most famous sequence of corners in the world, as the drivers flick left, right and then up the hill through Raidillon.Why go?What's not to love about one of Europe's classic tracks? Only the truly great drivers conquer Spa, with Ayrton Senna and Michael Schumacher among those to master this magical circuit. Add in the wonderful setting of the Ardennes forest and it's no surprise that it's a fan favourite.Where is the best place to watch?The elevated grandstand located near Eau Rouge gives you the best view of the iconic corner, while also boasting panoramic views from La Source through to Raidillon. But if you fancy taking in some of the best trackside atmosphere, then the grandstand located on the Pouhon corner should be right up your street.