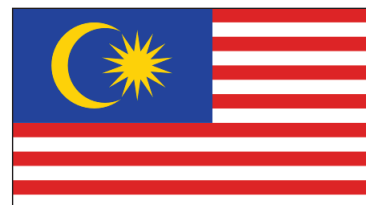




FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'AUTOMOBILE

Race Preview

2014 MALAYSIAN GRAND PRIX
28 – 30 MARCH 2014



After a short break Formula One returns this week, the teams assembling at Sepang for the Malaysian Grand Prix, the second round of the 2014 F1 World Championship.

The Australian Grand Prix provided an excellent appetiser for the season ahead, promoting new stars of the sport while suggesting the form guide shaped by winter testing was not entirely to be relied upon. Equatorial Sepang, however, provides a very different environment to Albert Park and is liable to see a very different race as machinery and drivers are pushed to their limits

While Australia provided a relatively gentle introduction for the new power units, Sepang will take them to extremes. The Malaysian Grand Prix has the potential to be the hottest race of the year and with around two-thirds of the lap conducted at full throttle cooling performance is expected to play a big part this weekend.

Added to that are the traditional challenges of racing at Sepang. While visually dominated by the long pit and back straights, Sepang has great variety, with a twisting middle sector and several high-speed corners requiring a relatively high level of downforce. It also demands excellent traction, with speed onto the straights being a key factor in setting a good lap time.

It is tyres, however, that have a tendency to dictate performance at the Malaysian Grand Prix. Pirelli, as is now customary, will bring its two hardest compounds to the circuit but wear rates are still expected to be high. Of course in Malaysia the ever-present threat of rain means the Intermediate and Wet tyres could also see some use. The forecast is for thunderstorms across all three days, though recent history suggests the rain is as likely to bracket the sessions as it is to fall during them.

CIRCUIT DATA

SEPANG CIRCUIT

Length of lap:
5.543km

Lap record:
1:34.223 (Juan-Pablo Montoya, BMW-Williams, 2004)

Start line/finish line offset:
0.000km

Total number of race laps:
56

Total race distance:
310.408km

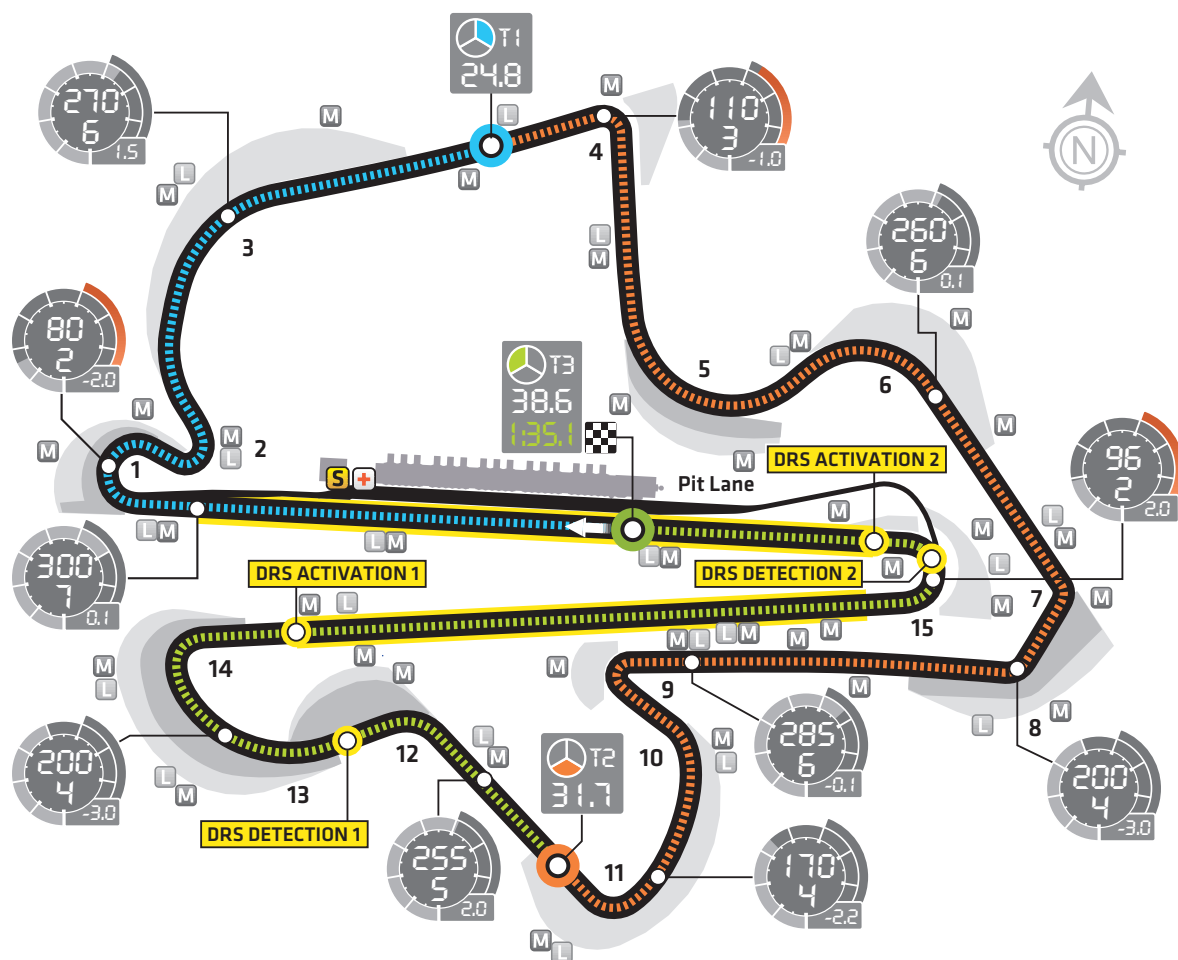
Pitlane speed limits:
80km/h in practice, qualifying and the race.

CIRCUIT NOTES

- The kerb on the exit of Turn Five has been extended further towards the apex of Turn Six.
- Artificial grass has been removed from areas around the outside of Turns One, Five, Seven, Eight and 12.
- A new kerb has been installed on the Turn 15 entry.
- Attention has been paid to levelling the grass verges as bumps were noted during December's inspection.

DRS ZONE

- The DRS sectors will be between Turns 14 and 15 and Turns 15 and One. The first zone has detection 54m after Turn 12 and activation 104m after Turn 14. Zone two has detection 16m after the Turn 15 apex followed by activation 28m after Turn 15.



Speed Kmh	Braking	Timing Sector	■ Sector 1	■ Circuit	← Start	▣ Finish
Gear	Lateral G-force	Sector Time	■ Sector 2	S Safety Car	⊕ Medical Car	M Marshals
		Lap Time	■ Sector 3	L Light Panels	■ Run-off Areas	■ Gravel Traps

Malaysian GP Fast Facts

- Michael Schumacher ((2000, '01, '04), Fernando Alonso (2005, '07, '12) and Sebastian Vettel (2010, '11, '13), each have three victories at Sepang. From 15 Malaysian Grands Prix the other winners are Eddie Irvine (1999), Ralf Schumacher (2002), Kimi Räikkönen (2003, '08), Giancarlo Fisichella (2006) and Jenson Button (2009). Alonso has the distinction of taking his three victories with three different teams.
- Button's win in 2009 was the last Formula One race in which half points were awarded. Due to torrential rain, the race was red flagged after 31 laps and a restart was not possible. Button was awarded the victory and the five points that went with it.
- Eight of the 15 grands prix at Sepang have been won from pole. The race has been won from as far down as eighth (Alonso 2012), while podium finishers have come from as far down as tenth (Nick Heidfeld 2005, '09).
- Of the three 2014 F1 rookie drivers, only Kevin Magnussen lacks

significant experience at Sepang. Marcus Ericsson raced in 2012 and 2013, appearing in the GP2 Series on the grand prix undercard. He has two retirements and two 13th place finishes. Daniil Kvyat has raced at Sepang on six occasions across two events in Formula BMW Pacific. He has two victories at the circuit.

- Magnussen's elevation to second place at the Australia Grand Prix makes him the most successful F1 World Championship debut since Jacques Villeneuve finished second at Albert Park in 1996 (Villeneuve started the race from pole). The only drivers to better this are Giancarlo Baghetti, who won the 1961 French Grand Prix on debut and (statistically) Nino Farina and Johnnie Parson, who won respectively the 1950 British Grand Prix and the 1950 Indy 500 in the first year of the Formula One World Championship.
- With a ninth-place finish in Australia, Toro Rosso's Kvyat, aged 19 years and 324 days, became Formula

One's youngest points scorer. The record had previously been held by Sebastian Vettel, who was 19 years and 349 days when he finished seventh in his mid-season debut at the 2007 United States Grand Prix, driving for BMW-Sauber.

- After much speculation regarding the reliability of F1's new hybrid power units, 15 cars took the chequered flag in the season-opener. Of the seven that failed to finish in Albert Park, two went out in a first lap, first corner collision. Only five cars retired with issues related to the power unit.
- Following the disqualification of Daniel Ricciardo, the revised Australian Grand Prix podium was a clean sweep for Mercedes-powered cars, with Nico Rosberg in the works team car leading home the McLaren-Mercedes of Magnussen and Button. The last Mercedes clean sweep was at the 2012 Chinese Grand Prix where Rosberg took his debut victory ahead of McLaren's Button and Lewis Hamilton.

Malaysian GP Championship Standings (Drivers)

[illegible]

Malaysian GP Championship Standings (Constructors)

[illegible]

Malaysian GP

Formula One Timetable & FIA Media Schedule

THURSDAY

Press conference 15.00

FRIDAY

Practice session 1 10.00-11.30

Practice session 2 14.00-15.30

Press conference 16.00

SATURDAY

Practice session 3 13.00-14.00

Qualifying 16.00-17.00

Followed by unilateral and press conference

SUNDAY

Drivers' Parade 14.30

Race 16.00-18.00

Followed by podium interviews and press conference

ADDITIONAL MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

QUALIFYING

All drivers eliminated in Q1 or Q2 are available for media interviews immediately after the end of each session, as are drivers who participated in Q3, but who are not required for the post-qualifying press conference. The TV Pen is located in front of the entrance to race control.

RACE

Any driver retiring before the end of the race will be made available at his team's garage/hospitality.

In addition, during the race every team will make available at least one senior spokesperson for interview by officially accredited TV crews. A list of those nominated will be made available in the media centre.



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