

F1 pre-season testing tickets now available

● Tickets can be purchased at BD5 per day for adults, half the price for children

● Free access for fans who purchased their grand prix tickets before 1 February

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", announced that tickets are still available for Formula 1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2024, scheduled to take place 21 to 23 February in Sakhir.

With adult ticket prices at BD5 and half price for children, it offers an incredible opportunity to witness F1 cars at a low price. Free entry to pre-season testing is available to all fans who purchased their tickets to the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024 before 1 February.

BIC will be opening its gates to F1 fans on the tests' final two days on 22 and 23 February.

All those coming to BIC on testing's two open days will be able to watch the F1 teams and drivers in action from the Main Grandstand, which overlooks the F1 pit lane and team garages, as well as the circuit's main straight.

BIC is hosting F1 pre-season testing for the fourth year in a row and for the fifth time overall. Bahrain also staged in-season F1 testing in 2017 and 2019.

The upcoming tests will offer fans a sneak preview of what's to come in the new campaign, and it will be the F1 teams' only chance to get crucial information on their cars' performance on track ahead of the first race of the season.

F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing will be followed only a few days later by the Kingdom's grand prix weekend from 29 February to 2 March, kicking off the 2024 FIA F1 World Championship.

The racing and entertainment extravaganza will be celebrating "20 Years of a Modern Classic", showcasing the Kingdom of Bahrain's 20th anniversary in F1. It will also be the first-ever Saturday night race in Sakhir, making for an additional spectacle.

Those who are eager to attend

the F1 weekend but have yet to purchase their tickets or hospitality packages must do so at the earliest to avoid missing out on the extra-special occasion.

Tickets are available on bahraingp.com, by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or at the BIC stands at City Centre Bahrain and the Beyon Money BIC Fan Village.

Fans must act quickly as BIC has already completely sold out its Main, Beyon, and Turn 1 Grandstands for race weekend, as well as its Corporate Lounges and F1 Paddock Club.

There is now only very limited availability on tickets to the University and Victory grandstands, with BIC's two other hospitality options, The Dome by F1 Experiences and The Champions Club, having some availability.



Action from last year's pre-season F1 tests at BIC

Maloney, Browning go quickest again

Rodin Motorsport, Hitech Pulse-Eight drivers set pace for second straight day as Formula 2, Formula 3 pre-season testing concludes

● Zane Maloney powers to top of F2 overall timesheet on final day with best lap under lights

● Luke Browning sets his fastest time during morning session, number one mark for three-day F3 test

TDT | Manama

Zane Maloney of Barbados and Luke Browning from Great Britain set a blistering pace yesterday as Formula 2 and Formula 3 pre-season testing wrapped up in Bahrain.

Maloney and Browning were fastest for the second straight day at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC). Maloney topped the combined timesheet in F2 for Rodin Motorsport, while Browning steered his Hitech Pulse-Eight challenger to F3's best overall lap.

Both Formula 1 feeder series had three days of running in Sakhir as part of their final preparations for the start of their 2024 seasons, taking place in support of the Formula 1 Gulf



Isack Hadjar on his way to setting the fastest time of F2 morning session

Air Bahrain Grand Prix this 29 February to 2 March.

The tests this week gave the F2 and F3 fields some valuable track time in their new cars, with their future star drivers warming up for their season-long battles ahead.

Maloney had a lightning-quick lap of one minute 42.468 seconds during yesterday's F2 evening session, held under lights at night.

Maloney had a busy day out on track, completing 76 laps in total. His leading time was the second-best of the three-day sessions—beaten only by his pace-setting mark from the sec-

ond day's evening runs, which was the only time the F2 runners went sub-1:42.000 in testing.

Classified behind him on the overall day-three timesheet was American Jak Crawford of DAMS Lucas Oil, who was 0.193s slower, while Maloney's Japanese teammate Ritomo Miyata came third 0.216s behind.

Frenchman Isack Hadjar of Campos Racing, quickest in the morning, was fourth overall 0.244s from Maloney, while fifth was Brazilian Enzo Pittipaldi of Van Amersfoort Racing 0.340s back.

Spaniard Josep Maria Marti (+0.419s) of Campos Racing

YOU

KNOW WHAT

With the completion of F2 and F3 pre-season testing, the two Formula 1 feeder series now head for the start of their new seasons in support of the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024 this February 29 to March 2



Luke Browning beats the heat to clock the overall best time amongst the F3 field

He had a mark of 1:46.566 while going for 66 laps of work in his Hitech contender. Browning's best yesterday was also the quickest lap from all three days of the F3 tests.

Bulgarian Nikola Tsolov of ART Grand Prix followed 0.259s behind, while American Max Esterson of Jenzer Motorsport was third-quickest 0.270s back.

Martinius Stenshome from Norway in another Hitech car was fourth on the times 0.413s off his teammate's pace, while day one leader Noel Leon from Mexico competing for Van Amersfoort Racing was fifth 0.630s back, and Dutch driver Lau-

rens van Hoepen came sixth 0.732s adrift to make it two ART Grand Prix cars in the overall top 10.

Trident's three drivers, Frenchman Sami Meguetounif (+0.757s), Italian Leonardo Fornaroli (+0.761s) and Mexican Santiago Ramos (+0.777s), were sixth through ninth, respectively, and Irishman Alex Dunne of MP Motorsport completed the top 10, 0.815s from first, amongst the 30-car field.

Swede Dino Beganovic of defending F3 champions Prema Racing went quickest in F3's afternoon session with a best lap time of 1:48.285.

Ferrari's new F1 car unveiled for final season before Hamilton's arrival

AFP | Milan

Ferrari unveiled their new SF-24 car yesterday, ready for the upcoming Formula One season which will be the last before Lewis Hamilton joins the Italian team from rivals Mercedes.

The team head into their 2024 campaign, which has been overshadowed by seven-time F1 champion Hamilton agreeing to join next year, trying to recover ground on all-conquering Red Bull.

And Ferrari unveiled the SF-24 to their legion of fans with a short and low-key video, adding in a statement that "a small audience of guests" were giv-



Ferrari's new SF-24 for the 2024 F1 season

en a live viewing of the new

Among those present were

Ferrari's Team Principal Frederic Vasseur and drivers Charles

Leclerc and Carlos Sainz, who

will race together for the last time this season.

Ferrari said that "the positive feeling the drivers had in the cockpit over the final few races of last season" was the starting point for the new car, with the aim being "a car that is easy to drive and that reacts predictably".

"This year, we must start off where we left off at the end of last season, when we were consistent front runners," said Vasseur.

"The longest ever F1 season awaits us and Charles, Carlos and I all agree, we must be more clinical and effective in how we manage the races."

Mbappe 'in good shape' for Real Sociedad tie

AFP | Paris

Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique said yesterday that he expects Kylian Mbappe to be unhindered by a recent ankle knock when his side face Real Sociedad in their Champions League last-16 first leg.

Mbappe was rested for PSG's Ligue 1 win over Lille at the weekend to make sure he was fully fit for Wednesday's clash against La Real at the Parc des Princes.

"When a team has a player at the level of Kylian Mbappe, the more he plays, the better it is for the team," Luis Enrique



PSG's Marquinhos (L), Kylian Mbappe (C) and Achraf Hakimi (R) react as they look on from the bench

told a pre-match press conference.

"He could have played four days ago but it wasn't worth the risk."

PSG are bidding to avoid a third consecutive last-16 exit from the Champions League.