

Double F1 Testing for Bahrain

Bahrain International Circuit set for two pre-season test sessions as Formula 1 enters a new era in 2026



- Six days of testing across two three-day sessions in February
- 11 F1 teams, including new team Cadillac F1, will participate
- Priority ticket registration open now

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Formula 1 has confirmed that Bahrain will host official pre-season testing for the 2026 season, not just once but twice. The Bahrain International Circuit, already a mainstay in the sport's calendar, will stage two separate three-day test sessions in February as teams

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Bahrain has hosted more official F1 pre-season testing sessions than any other non-European circuit

It will be an incredible chance for F1 fans to witness the next generation of F1 in action ahead of the 2026 campaign.

Next year's test will be the sixth consecutive year that Sakhir has been selected as the venue for F1 pre-season testing. The tests were first held at 'The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East' in 2009 and then again in 2014. They have since taken place in Bahrain each year from 2021.

Cadillac Debut

The event will bring together all 11 F1 teams as they prepare for the upcoming FIA Formula 1 World Championship. It will be the first opportunity for fans in Bahrain and worldwide to see the brand new Cadillac F1 Team, which is set to join McLaren, Mercedes, Ferrari, Red Bull Racing, Williams, Haas, Racing

Bulls, Aston Martin, Kick Sauber, and Alpine in motorsport's top flight.

The pre-season tests will pave the way for the start of the new season, which will kick off a couple of weeks later with the Australian Grand Prix weekend, scheduled for 6 to 8 March in 2026.

The season will continue with races in China and Japan, before returning to the Kingdom for the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 from 10 to 12 April – the fourth round of the 24-race championship.

BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa commented: "It is once again a tremendous honour to be selected as the host venue for F1 Pre-season Testing in 2026.

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BIC CHIEF EXECUTIVE SHAIKH SALMAN BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

and Cadillac F1 Team joining the grid, the tests will be an historic and hugely important occasion for the sport.

"We extend our thanks to Formula 1, the FIA and all the teams for choosing Bahrain yet again. We look forward to welcoming them and fans from around the world to Sakhir in February, and

seeing the new cars in action."

Pre-registration open

At next season's pre-season testing, F1 enthusiasts will have the chance to see the sport's superstar drivers and their teams hard at work developing their cars ahead of the season.

Pre-registration is open now at Bahraingp.com, where fans can register their interest in attending pre-season testing and the race next year.

Those registered will be able to take advantage of a priority booking window, which, once launched, will offer the best seats at the best prices.

For more information on F1 Pre-Season Testing 2026 and other events at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline at +973-17450000, or follow the circuit on social media.

Bahrain name 28-man squad for Slovenia camp

- Talajic selects core group ahead of busy competitive window

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Bahrain have announced a 28-man squad for their upcoming training camp in Slovenia, set to run from July 10 to July 24.

Bahrain are coming off a disappointing World Cup qualifying campaign where they finished bottom of their group.

The camp will include multiple training sessions and friendly fixtures as Bahrain gear up for upcoming challenges under the direction of head coach Dragan Talajic. That includes building towards the FIFA Arab Cup, which takes place from December 1-18 in Qatar, across six FIFA World Cup venues.

Mohamed Marhoon will miss the camp after finalising a move to Kuwait SC, signing a three-year deal with the Kuwaiti Premier League club.



Full squad:	
Sayed Mahdi Baqer	Omar Saber
Amine Benaddi	Jassim AlShaikh
Waleed Al Hayyam	Komail Al Aswad
Mohamed Al Ghurabli	Sayed Diyaa Sae
Yousif Habib	Hussain AlEker
Abdulkarim Fardan	Vincent Emmanuel
Ebrahim Lutfallah	Ahmed AbdulHameed
Hazaa Ali	Abdulla Al Sabeei
Hussain Jameel	Hussain Abdulkarim
Abdullah Al Khalasi	Mehdi Abduljabbar
Ahmed Dhiyaa	Ebrahim Al Khattal
AlSayed Mahmood Al Mousawi	Mehdi Humaidan
Ahmed Bughamar	Ali Madan
Hamad Shamsan	Ahmed AlSherooqi

Sayed Jaafar bids farewell after 25 years

- Bahrain's legendary goalkeeper retires from international duty after decorated career

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Sayed Mohamed Jaafar, captain and goalkeeper of Bahrain's national football team, has officially announced his international retirement, ending a 25-year career with the



national setup.

The decision, confirmed yesterday, follows years of service where Jaafar became one of the most respected figures in Bahraini sport. It comes after discussions with national team staff and is tied to his desire to step aside during the 2026 World Cup qualifiers, citing personal commitments.

A Thoughtful Exit

Jaafar admitted the decision had been long in the making but was postponed due to his strong desire to continue

helping the team. Despite still being in strong form, he opted to withdraw early in the qualifiers and will no longer represent Bahrain moving forward.

Pride in the Journey

In a statement, he said: "I'm proud of everything I've achieved with the national team and happy to have shared in the country's joy during our Gulf Cup titles."

His retirement brings to an end a career that helped shape modern Bahraini football.

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Sayed Jaafar's national team career began in the early 2000s and includes multiple Gulf Cup campaigns and a central role in Bahrain's football rise