

Family fun hits Sakhir Testing

BIC lines up fun-filled family attractions off the track for F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026



- **BIC to host six days of F1 tests, first from Wednesday to Friday this week and then again from 18 to 20 February**
- **Fans to get a chance to be the first in the world to see F1's 'new era' cars in person and on track this Thursday and Friday and on 19 and 20 February**
- **All those attending on testing's open days to enjoy racing simulators and challenging Batak and stick catching games at BIC**

Manama

Formula 1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026 gets underway this week at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) and there is plenty in store both on and off the track for all those attending on the tests' open days to the public.

"The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" is all geared up to host six days of testing over two three-day sessions, first from this Wednesday to Friday

and then again from 18 to 20 February.

F1's superstar drivers and their teams will be busy maximising their track running and gathering data ahead of the top flight's highly anticipated 'new era', featuring a host of transformative new regulations around a brand-new, more agile F1 car and an 11th team joining the grid in the 2026 FIA F1 World Championship.

The six days of testing will be the first chance for F1 enthusiasts in Bahrain and around the world to witness in person the next generation of F1 cars in action ahead of the start of the new campaign. Fans will be able to access the tests on the last two days of each three-day session, this Thursday and Friday (Editor's note: 12 and 13 February) and then again on 19 and 20 February.

All those attending will also be able to enjoy a series of off-track attractions, including dynamic racing simulators, a Batak reaction game, and a stick catching game.

The racing simulators offer motorsport enthusiasts the chance to step into the world of speed and adrenaline and feel every turn and acceleration along an F1 track in a virtual setting.

The Batak and stick catching games will be putting fans' re-



flexes to the test, challenging hand-and-eye coordination in a pair of activities that F1's superstar drivers practice regularly to keep their skills razor sharp.

Aside from these, fans visiting BIC during testing will also have the chance to see a display of the new 2026 F1 car in its special Bahrain livery.

Tickets per open day of F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026 cost BD10 for adults and BD5 for children.

There is also free access on both open days of the second Bahrain test on 19 and 20 February for all who purchased their tickets to the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026 before 8 September last year.

To buy tickets or to get more information, visit the circuit's

official website bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

BIC is also offering exclusive hospitality packages during the tests, featuring the best views of the action along with incredible, five-star cuisine and beverage selection. The hospitality lounge is located right above the F1 pit lane. Full details on BIC's hospitality offerings are available on bahraingp.com. The packages can be booked online or by calling +973-17451086.

BIC will be opening its gates on testing's open days at 11am and they will close at 7pm.

This year's F1 pre-season tests will be the sixth consecutive year that Sakhir has been selected as the venue for F1's most important preparation period ahead



of the new world championship. Testing was first held in Bahrain in 2009 and then again in 2014. They have since taken place in Bahrain each year from 2021.

The event will bring together all 11 F1 teams and it will be the first opportunity for fans in Bahrain and worldwide to see the brand new Cadillac F1 Team, who are set to join McLaren, Mercedes, Ferrari, Red Bull Racing, Williams, Haas, Racing Bulls, Aston Martin, Alpine, and Audi 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. F1's star drivers and teams will then continue their battles with rac-

es 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 world championship.

Tickets to the grand prix weekend are selling fast, with seats in both the Main Grandstand and Turn 1 Grandstand already 95 per cent sold. Tickets are also selling out quickly for the Beyon Grandstand, University Grandstand, and Victory Grandstand.

To buy tickets or for more information on F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2026, the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2026, or on other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline, or follow the circuit on social media.

Howe would 'step aside' if right for Newcastle

AFP | London

Eddie Howe said yesterday he would resign if he felt it was the best thing for Newcastle after a dismal run that has dropped the Magpies down to 12th in the Premier League.

Howe has twice led the club into the Champions League and ended a 70-year wait to win a domestic trophy by lifting the League Cup since taking over at St James' Park in 2021.

The 48-year-old has been linked with succeeding Thomas Tuchel as England manager and with the job as the next permanent Manchester United boss.

But Howe vowed to "work better" and "do more" after his side were booed off following a 3-2 home defeat to Brentford



Eddie Howe

on Saturday.

"No, there's no doubt in my mind," he said when asked if he remains the right man to take the club forward.

"That's why I'm sat here. If there was, then I wouldn't be because, as I said, the club is the most important thing.

"I'd never put myself before the club. If I didn't think I was the correct man to take the team forward and I could give the players what they need, then I would step aside and let someone else do it."

Kuwait Club Ends Muharraq Super League Run

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Muharraq's FIBA West Asia Super League campaign ended last night with a 78-69 loss to Kuwait SC at the BBA Arena in Umm Al Hassam. The defeat, their second in the play-off series, eliminates the Red Wolves and sends Kuwait SC, a former two-time FIBA WASL-Gulf League champion, into the semi-finals to face Saudi Arabia's top-seeded Al Ittihad.

The Red Wolves needed a win to force a deciding third game after losing the first leg in Kuwait, but despite a determined effort, they were unable to overcome their opponents.

The game was tight in the opening quarters. Kuwait SC led 15-13 after the first, but Muharraq bounced back in the second, taking it 26-24 to stay in contention. The third quarter proved



Mohammed Ameer battles Jamal Jones at the rim

decisive. Kuwait SC, led by Joffrey Lauvergne, erased a three-point deficit with a 14-0 run to take a 53-42 lead that Muharraq

could not recover from. In the fourth quarter, the visitors outscored the Red Wolves 20-17 to seal the 78-69 result.

Muharraq was powered by Mohammed Ameer, who led all scorers with 22 points. Kris Clyburn added 15 points and 11 rebounds, while Nick West posted a double-double with 12 points and 14 rebounds. Michael Warren contributed 11 points, 5 rebounds, and 6 assists. Despite their effort, Peter Schomers' men fell short of replicating last season's semi-final run, finishing the 2025-26 campaign with a 2-6 record.

Kuwait SC, missing Hamad Hasan who became a father earlier in the day, relied on Lauvergne's 20 points and 16 rebounds, along with key contributions from Charlie Moore and Mohammed Hasan, to secure the win. Muharraq showed determination throughout, but their season ended on home court, giving the team a moment to reflect and regroup for next year.