

# Last few days to buy F1 Bahrain Grand Prix tickets with free access to pre-season testing

TDT | Manama

Only a few days remain for fans to purchase their tickets to the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2023 and get free access to F1 pre-season testing next month at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir.

"The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" is offering fans the fantastic opportunity to enjoy both the race weekend and the tests at a single price.

All those who have purchased their F1 tickets before next Wednesday, 1 February, will be able to attend the two public days of the F1 Aramco Pre-Season Testing 2023 at BIC at no extra cost.

With all the F1 teams having confirmed the dates of their much-anticipated car or livery launches for the new campaign, the excitement is building for



F1 cars in action at BIC (file photo)

the tests, which are scheduled to take place 23 to 25 February. The public will be able to watch the on-track action the last two days.

The testing will be the first time the motorsport world will see all the F1 cars hitting the track together ahead of the season, and it will be the only chance for F1's superstar drivers

and teams to get all-important data on their challengers before the world championship kicks off in Sakhir just one week later from 3 to 5 March.

Fans will be able to follow the tests from seats along BIC's Main Grandstand. They can enjoy a fantastic view of the F1 teams' garages along the main pit lane



as well as the main straight of BIC's 5.412-kilometre track layout.

Tickets to this year's F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix are selling fast and those looking to experience the pinnacle of motorsport must purchase their tickets at the soonest to get the added bonus of pre-season testing access for free.

Visit [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com) or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000 to make a purchase or to get more information on ticket prices and hospitality options.

The F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix will be the first of 23 rounds on the 2023 FIA F1 World Championship calendar.

It is the fifth time that BIC is hosting the first race of the season, following 2006, 2010, 2021 and 2022. It is also the event's 19th edition and the 10th time it is being held at night under BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights.

For more information, visit [bahraingp.com](http://bahraingp.com) or call the BIC Hotline.

## Pedrosa to make wildcard return at Spanish GP

Dani Pedrosa  
Reuters | London

Dani Pedrosa will make a wildcard MotoGP appearance at his home Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez in April, the KTM factory team said yesterday.

Pedrosa, 37, retired from the championship at the end of 2018 with 31 top class wins but still carries out testing duties for the Austrian manufacturer.

A three times world champion in junior categories, Pedrosa was three times runner-up in the main MotoGP championship with the Repsol Honda team.

# Sabalenka, Rybakina march into Australian Open final showdown

Elena Rybakina will face Aryna Sabalenka in Saturday's women's singles final after two entertaining semi-finals in Melbourne

● **Aryna Sabalenka swats aside Magda Linette**

● **Elena Rybakina wins bruising tussle with Victoria Azarenka**

AFP | Melbourne

Aryna Sabalenka and Elena Rybakina will clash in what promises to be a bruising Australian Open final on Saturday after both won in straight sets in the last four.

Big-serving Wimbledon champion Rybakina defeated two-time Melbourne winner Victoria Azarenka 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 at a blustery and chilly Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne yesterday.

Powerful Belarusian Sabalenka then marched into the championship match with a 7-6 (7/1), 6-2 win over unseeded Magda Linette.

The 24-year-old Sabalenka will be contesting her first Grand Slam final.

The fifth seed has battled nerves in big matches previously and worked with a sports psychologist, but said after dismissing the Pole that both were a thing of the past.

"I realised that nobody (other) than me will help, you know?" she told reporters.

"On the pre-season I spoke to my psychologist, saying: 'I feel like I have to deal with that by myself because every time hoping that someone will fix my problem, it's not fixing my



Aryna Sabalenka plays a backhand return to Magda Linette



**"I was trying to scream less after some bad points or some errors. I was just trying to hold myself, stay calm, just think about the next point. Actually, I'm not that boring, I think. I'm still screaming 'come on' and all that stuff. I don't think it's that boring to watch me. I hope so**

ARYNA SABALENKA

problem."

"I just have to take this responsibility and I just have to deal with that."

Whatever she is doing, it is working: Sabalenka has been in the form of her life since arriving in Australia.

She won the Adelaide International warm-up tournament and has now extended her unbeaten

streak to 10 matches, not losing a single set in any of them.

And yet it was 30-year-old Linette, contesting her first major semi-final, who was out of the gate fastest, breaking to love in the opening game and holding for an early lead.

Sabalenka was being made to work hard and showed all her new-found patience to get back on terms with a break of her own, to love, for 2-2 and the set went to a tiebreak.

Sabalenka timed her moment perfectly to up the aggression, and the decibel level, racing to 4-0 with a scream.

An ace that barely clipped the line stretched it to 5-0 and she closed out comfortably after 51 minutes, having smacked 20 winners to just seven from Linette.

"I would say that I didn't start really well," admitted Sabalenka.

"And then on the tiebreak I kind of found my rhythm and just started trusting myself, started going for the shots. It



Rybakina and Sabalenka employ a somewhat similar brand of tennis, relying on big serves and big hitting at the baseline. Sabalenka is far less cautious, though, and her penchant for high-risk, high-reward play was evident against Linette, who had never before been past the third round in 29 appearances at majors

was great tennis from me in the tiebreak."

Sabalenka showed no sign of letting up in the second set, breaking Linette and with a scream of "Come on!" holding for a 3-1 advantage.

A second break took her within sight of the finish line, which she raced across in 1hr 33min.

### Missed opportunities

Reigning Wimbledon champion Rybakina, 23, said she hoped she had made her watching family proud after another impressive display.

The Moscow-born Kazakh prevailed in 1hr 41min against the 2012 and 2013 champion Azarenka of Belarus to account for a third major winner in as



Elena Rybakina serves to Victoria Azarenka



**"For me this time I would say it was a bit easier also compared to Wimbledon when I was playing for the first time quarters, semis, final. Everything was new at Wimbledon. Now I more or less understand what to expect**

ELENA RYBAKINA

many matches.

The 22nd seed Rybakina had already defeated reigning French and US Open champion Iga Swiatek in the fourth round and 2017 Roland Garros winner Jelena Ostapenko in the quarter-finals.

Rybakina said her semi-final triumph was even more special because she had her sister and parents all watching at Mel-

bourne Park for the first time.

"I'm super happy that we can spend evenings together and they can watch me live," said Rybakina, whose parents were not there to see her win Wimbledon last year.

"For sure it's great for them. I didn't even talk with them yet. I'm sure they're happy. They don't see me often playing live, so I think this time, it's a big result already.

"No matter how I play in the final, I think they're very proud and happy."

Azarenka, 33, was left to rue missed opportunities as her dream of a third Australian Open crown dissolved.

"Right now especially it's kind of hard to digest," she said.

"I'm proud of myself how I fought and I tried.

"Tennis-wise I felt like I just wasn't there, especially in the important moments when I kept creating those opportunities for me. Just couldn't convert them."