

Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia 2026

set for three packed days of non-stop racing and entertainment at SIC

Manama

It's race week for the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia 2026, and Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) and Sepang International Circuit (SIC) are getting all geared up to welcome tens of thousands of F1 fans for three days of top-class racing and entertainment.

The highly anticipated grand prix weekend takes place this coming Friday to Sunday (Editor's note: 2 to 4 October) at SIC as Bahrain comes alive at Malaysia's iconic motorsport venue, which will be welcoming back F1 for the first time since 2017.

Limited race-weekend tickets remain available at BIC's official website bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000. Fans are encouraged to purchase their tickets as soon as possible with only days remaining for the F1 extravaganza.

SIC will be opening its gates at 8.30am on both the Friday and Saturday of the event, while gates will open to the public at 10am on Sunday.

F1's superstar drivers and their teams will be hitting the



Sepang International Circuit, Malaysia.

track for two 60-minute practice sessions on Friday. The first is scheduled for 12.30pm local time/7.30am Bahrain time, to be followed by the second at 4pm local time/11am Bahrain time.

On Saturday, a third 60-minute F1 practice will run from 12.30pm local time/7.30am

Bahrain time, and then qualifying will be held at 4pm local time/11am Bahrain time.

That will determine the starting grid for the 56-lap F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia, which will be flagging off on Sunday at 3pm local time/10am Bahrain time.

In support of F1, Formula Trophy Malaysia (FTM) will also be taking to the track at SIC throughout the race weekend.

The South East Asian single-seater championship for junior drivers will be showcasing the talents of motorsport's future stars, who will be com-

peting in identical Tatuus F4-T421 racing cars powered by Abarth, and with all cars running on Giti tyres.

FTM will also be holding two practice sessions on the Friday of the event, each over a duration of 30 minutes. The first will begin at 10.15am local time/5.15am Bahrain time, while the second will flag off at 2pm local time/9am Bahrain time.

Qualifying will then be held on the Saturday at 10.30am local time/5.30am Bahrain time, setting the grids for the weekend's two 27-lap races – with the first taking place later on Saturday at 2.15pm local time/9.15am Bahrain time and the second on the Sunday at 11.45am local time/6.45am Bahrain time.

Along with the world-class racing, the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia 2026 will feature plenty of family entertainment for all to enjoy at the Fanzone. These include the renowned Chinese Acrobats, an army of delightful roaming performers, concerts featuring A-list music artists, plus so much more.

The concerts are set to feature back-to-back live

performances by a pair of music industry superstars. On the Sunday night of F1 weekend, multi-platinum-selling hit-maker Martin Garrix will headline the post-race celebrations, which is scheduled to start at 8.40pm local time/3.40pm Bahrain time.

On Saturday evening, Grammy-nominated DJ and producer Axwell will be taking to the SIC stage at 7.35pm local time/2.35pm Bahrain time.

Tickets for each concert are available exclusively to race-weekend ticket holders. Ticket holders are able to purchase for US\$50 per person for the Axwell concert, and US\$100 per person for the Martin Garrix concert.

A separate ticket is required for each performance and are available at Bahraingp.com.

SIC will be closing its gates to the public at 8.30pm on both Friday and Saturday of the grand prix and at 6pm on Sunday.

For more information on the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia 2026, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline, or follow BIC and SIC on social media.

Iraq to host Khaleeji 28

Four-time champions awarded 2028 Gulf Cup

Hussain Almaskati TDT | Manama

Iraq will host the 28th Arabian Gulf Cup from December 9 to 22, 2028, after the Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation awarded them the tournament yesterday.

The decision was made during an executive committee meeting in Jeddah on the sidelines of the ongoing Khaleeji 27, with Iraq being the only country to submit a bid.

The host city is yet to be confirmed, with Basra and Baghdad both in contention. The Iraqi Football Association must also complete the necessary organisational requirements ahead of 2028.

It will be the third time the four-time champions have staged the Gulf Cup. Baghdad hosted the competition in 1979, before it returned



Iraq captain Aymen Hussein lifts the Gulf Cup in 2023

to Iraq for Khaleeji 25 in Basra in 2023.

That edition ended in celebration for the hosts, who beat Oman in the final to lift the trophy for a fourth time.

Iraq are also in contention for another Gulf crown at this year's tournament in Saudi Arabia, with Graham Arnold's side on the verge of reaching the semi-finals.

They face the hosts today in their final Group A match, needing only a draw to advance. Oman and Kuwait complete the group.

Alongside the Khaleeji 28 announcement, Iraq were awarded hosting rights for the Gulf Olympic Teams Championship, which will take place in Basra from March 21 to April 3 next year.

Premier League Set To Resume

Hussain Almaskati TDT | Manama

Domestic football will return next month, with the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League resuming on October 9 and the King's Cup getting under way two days earlier.

Following the domestic break, Matchweek Four will be played across three days.

Al Khaldiya face champions Muharraq at Khalifa Sports City Stadium on October 9, while Malkiya take on Riffa at Bahrain National Stadium.

The following evening will see Manama meet Al Ahli at Khalifa Sports City and Hidd face Al Ettifaq at Bahrain National Stadium.

The round concludes on October 11, when East Riffa play AAli at Khalifa Sports City and Sitra take on Al Najma at Al Ahli Club Stadium.

Matchweek Five will follow from October 16 to 18, with the sixth round



Action from Muharraq's clash with Khaldiya last season

scheduled for October 22 to 24.

Meanwhile, the first preliminary round of the King's Cup begins on October 7, with Busaiteen facing Qalali at Al Ahli Club Stadium and Al Tadamun meeting Ittihad Al Reef at Al Najma Club Stadium.

Umm Al Hassam then take on Isa Town at Riffa Club Stadium on October 8, while Al Hala face Buri at Al Ahli Club Stadium. All matches will kick off at 7pm.

Lobaina bows out in boxing quarters

Hussain Almaskati TDT | Manama

Bahrain's Jorge Luis Felimon Lobaina saw his run at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya come to an end yesterday after losing on points to Tajikistan's Parviz Karimov in the men's 90kg quarter-finals.

Lobaina, who had edged Kyrgyzstan's Bakyt Toktosun Uulu 3-2 in the round of 16, was beaten by unanimous decision at Nishio Gymnasium as Karimov earned the verdict of all five judges.

The Tajik took control by sweeping the opening two rounds on every



Jorge Luis Felimon Lobaina, right, in action against his Tajik opponent

scorecard, leaving the Bahraini needing a strong finish to turn the contest around.

Lobaina responded in the third, winning the round on four of the five cards, but his

The defeat also brought the kingdom's boxing campaign to a close, with Lobaina having been the last of its five fighters still in contention.

Omar Budhahi, Ali Amr Abdalla and Hamza Salahudin had already exited their respective men's events, while Maryam Khamis, the squad's sole female boxer, also bowed out earlier in the competition.

Irish coach John Conlan guided the five-member team in Japan.

The boxing programme continues with semi-final action today and tomorrow, before the finals take place on Friday.

Trap trio chase final places

Hussain Almaskati TDT | Manama

Bahrain's trap shooters head into the final day of individual qualification at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya today, with Saeed Hasan Ali, Maryam Al Sulaiti and Marwa Buarki looking to climb the standings.

Ali sits 33rd in the men's competition after taking his tally to 87 hits from 100 targets at Aichi Prefectural General Shooting Gallery yesterday.

The Bahraini added rounds of 22 and 20 to his opening-day scores of 23 and 22, while Chinese Taipei's Yang Kun-Pi moved to the top of the standings on 98.

In the women's event, Al Sulaiti and Buarki are level on 85 after four rounds, occupying 16th and 19th places respectively.

Al Sulaiti followed her opening-day

total of 42 with rounds of 21 and 22, while Buarki added scores of 23 and 20 to her first-day tally of 42.

India's Neeru leads the 27-shooter field on 95, with Qatar's Ray Bassil one behind.

The fifth and final round of qualification takes place today, with the programme getting under way from 4am Bahrain time. The women's individual final follows at 11am, before the men compete for the medals at 12.30pm.

Bahrain will have another opportunity in the trap competition tomorrow, when Ali and Buarki join forces in the mixed team event.

The pair are among 12 teams entered, with qualification beginning at 7am and the final scheduled for 11.30am.

The overall shooting programme concludes on Thursday with the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol events.