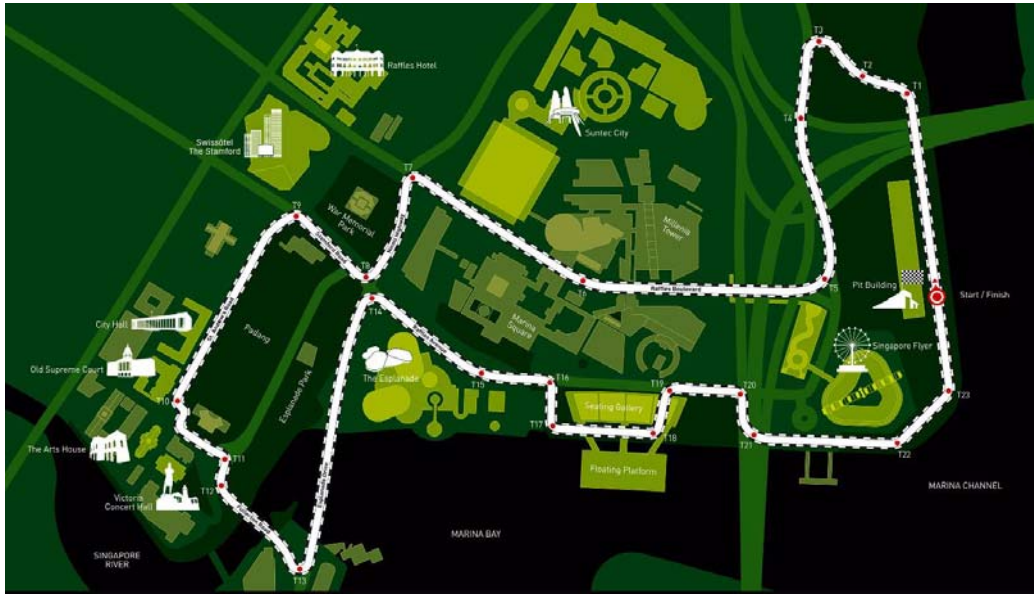


SINGAPORE SETTING: LANDMARKS ON A LAP OF THE CIRCUIT



Set in the very heart of 'Singapura', the Lion City, the Marina Bay street circuit takes the drivers past some of the most iconic landmarks Singapore has to offer, bringing together its colonial heritage and its vibrant modern status. Here are just some of the principal sights around the 5.067km track.

PIT BUILDING | Main straight, drivers' left

Begun in August 2007 and completed on July 11 2008 at a cost of S\$40m, the Pit Building is 350 metres long, three stories high and has 36 garages to house the visiting race teams.

With overall floor space measuring 23,000m², it is also home to the Media Centre, to VIP areas and the top-of-the-range F1 Paddock Club hospitality.



THE 'CHOP STICKS' | Turn 7, drivers' right

This is the slightly irreverent name given, for obvious reasons, to the four-pillared Civilian War Memorial in memory of the Chinese, Malays, Indians and people of other minority races, and their experience during World War II.

ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL | Turn 9, drivers' right

Colonel Ronald MacPherson designed the church built on a site reserved by Sir Stamford Raffles as early as 1823. The first Anglican church was twice struck by lightning and was finally demolished in 1955. Funded by Scottish merchants, the Cathedral was consecrated in 1862. Of Early Gothic design, it has a 63metre spire. The Cathedral was used as an emergency hospital in World War II.

CITY HALL & SUPREME COURT | Turns 9/10, drivers' right

This stately building with Corinthian pillars dates from 1929. It was the setting for the Japanese surrender at the end of World War II. Here too, Lee Kuan Yew declared Singapore's independence from Britain in 1959. Perhaps the finest of Singapore's old buildings, the Supreme Court dates from 1939. These two splendid structures will soon be linked to create Singapore's National Art Gallery.



THE PADANG | Turns 9/10, drivers' left

The circuit skirts one of the social hubs of Singapore, the Padang (Malay for 'playingfield'). One of the city's green lungs, it is a popular venue for sporting clubs. The most famous of those clubs is the Singapore Cricket Club, which overlooks the Padang. Dating from 1852, it was formerly a focal point of colonial life and is now a popular meeting point for Singaporeans as well as a sporting centre.

ANDERSON BRIDGE | Turns 10/11

This grand old lady will turn 100 this year. Crossing the mouth of the Singapore River, she is named after Sir John Anderson, Governor of the Straits Settlements from 1904 to 1911. The bridge was opened in March 1910 to carry traffic including buffalo carts. Little would it ever be thought that it would be crossed by cars traveling at 200 kph.

Close at hand stands the bronze statue of Singapore's founder, Sir Stamford Raffles, erected in 1887. He developed Singapore from a small fishing village to a hub of trade and commerce.



THE MERLION | After Turn 13, drivers' right

This lion-headed sculpture remains one of the most recognizable symbols of the Lion City. One of the key emblems used by the Singapore Tourism Board since 1964, the Merlion was designed by aquarium curator Fraser Brunner and made by Singapore craftsman Lim Nang Seng.

Combining the lion of the city's title with the fishtail to represent its humble seafaring origins, it stands 8.6 metres high and weighs 70 tonnes.

ESPLANADE BRIDGE | Turns 13/14

Uniquely Singapore is the fact that the cars will turn sharp left from one bridge straight on to another. The 280 metre-long Esplanade Bridge over Marina Bay was opened in 1997 as Singapore developed the esplanade area opposite the Padang and Connaught Drive.

The F1 cars reach speeds of over 280km/h before they brake for Turn 14 at the twin performance venues of Theatres by the Bay. Some love their architecture, others compare their shape to the local fruit known as 'durians' whose taste is rather more appealing than their perfume...



SINGAPORE FLYER | Turn 22, drivers' left

Just after passing beneath spectators in the Bay Grandstand, another unique feature of the Singapore track, the cars pass the world's largest observation wheel.

The Singapore Flyer, which remains open during Grand Prix weekend, offers sweeping and breathtaking views of the Lion City. Its direction of travel was recently reversed to enhance its ability to attract good fortune to the city.

Last but not least...

It is worth pointing out that the circuit layout is pinched together where Turns 8 and 14 face each other, offering great 'double views' from some vantage points and the Raffles Grandstand. Everything to the eastern side of this point, including the Marina Bay complex on which Singapore Flyer and the Pit Building stand, is built on land reclaimed from the sea!