

BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX

3 APRIL 2016

Weather Portrait for the Manama Area



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Bahrain Grand Prix is the second round of the 2016 Formula One season. It will take place on the 5.4 km long Bahrain International Circuit located just a few kilometres from the seashore near Sakhir Air Base which is a 40-minute drive from the island state's capital Manama. The track opened in 2004.

CLIMATE OF BAHRAIN

The island of Bahrain is located in the southwestern part of the Persian Gulf, close to the mainland of the Arabian Peninsula in a dry and very warm climate zone. High pressure and hot,

dry air masses are dominant most of the year with only brief incursions of cooler and moister air during the winter period.

Even though the country of Bahrain is surrounded by the sea, the waters in this part of the gulf are very shallow and thus tend to become very warm during summer. Sea surface temperatures often reach 35 degrees Celsius in the hottest part of the year and are among the highest observed sea temperatures in the world. This in turn leads to a very large amount of evaporation and high humidity levels, especially at night during the summer months.

Mean annual rainfall is just above 70 mm with most of this rain falling between the months of December and April. Rain events tend to be few and far between with just 9 to 10 days of precipitation per year on average with a long dry period between late April and early October.

Winds mostly blow from a north-westerly direction and may transport large amounts of sand and dust across the whole area if wind speeds are strong enough. Poor visibility due to dust storms is therefore a regular occurrence with a few days every year where visibility drops below 1,000 metres.

CLIMATE INFORMATION FOR APRIL

The month of April lies in what is known as the 'transition period' between the cooler, slightly more changeable winter months and the long hot, sunny and dry summer.

Mean daytime high temperatures can be expected to be around 30 to 31 degrees Celsius with overnight lows typically around 21 or 22 degrees Celsius. Showers, sometimes heavy and thundery, are still a possibility especially during the first half of the month with passing weather fronts and about 5 to 10 mm of rainfall can be expected on average. Statistically speaking however, most of the days are dry, sunny and very warm and humidity levels are still comfortable as the nearby sea is only starting to warm up.



DETAILED CLIMATE INFORMATION

	March	April	May	Year
Average high (°C)	24.7	29.2	34.1	30.1
Record high (°C)	38.0	41.0	46.7	46.7
Average low (°C)	17.8	22.8	9.9	23.0
Record low (°C)	10.9	10.8	18.7	2.7
Average precipitation (mm)	13.9	10.0	1.1	70.8
Average number of days with at least 1.0 mm rainfall	1.9	1.4	0.2	9.9
Average relative humidity (%)	75	71	68	69
Average sunshine (hours)	239	255	306.9	3353.6

Source: NOAA - Bahrain International Airport Climate Normals - closest (representative) station with monthly climate stats: BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MUHARRAQ, BAHRAIN (temperature, rainfall and sunshine averages from 30-year-period 1961-1990); humidity information from weather-and-climate.com

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