

2026 Japanese Grand Prix - Preview

Hinwil, 24 March 2026 – Audi Revolut F1 Team heads to the iconic scenery of the Suzuka Circuit for the third race of the season, looking to build on the encouraging pace shown across the opening rounds and aiming to maximise its potential in the tightly fought midfield battle.

With a week away from the track since the previous round in Shanghai, the focus has been on continuing work behind the scenes as the team continues to learn about the new generation of cars. Armed with this knowledge, the team tackles the challenge of one of the most demanding circuits on the calendar: a track that leaves little room for error, but on which a clean and consistent weekend can bring rewards.

Mattia Binotto, Head of Audi F1 Project: “As we head into the third round of the season in Suzuka, the focus is increasingly on clean execution. Everyone, us as well as our rivals, is getting on top of the new cars so the margins for error become slimmer. We’ve seen encouraging signs in terms of pace over the first two races, but we understand there are areas where we can still improve – both in performance and execution. We’ve taken time to address the reliability issues we faced previously, looking to ensure they won’t happen again and that both cars will be able to run their full races without disruption. The journey continues: the target now is to keep building, keep learning and make the most of every opportunity.”

Nico Hulkenberg (Car 27): “Suzuka is always a special challenge: as a track, it can be really demanding, but also very satisfying when you get it right. The first two races have been a mixed bag – definitely some encouraging signs but also missed opportunities where we need to do better. The aim now is to put everything together and have a clean weekend and really get the most of what we can achieve. One of the highlights of the weekend will also be the fans: we always get an incredible welcome when we travel to Japan, it’s one of the things that makes this race unique.”

Gabriel Bortoleto (Car 5): “I am really looking forward to being back in Suzuka: it’s one of my all-time favourite circuits, and I really enjoyed driving here for the first time last year. Missing out on Shanghai last time out was obviously disappointing, but I know the team has worked hard to avoid a repeat of this issue. We’ve used the time back at the factory to keep working and try to extract a bit more from the car ahead of this weekend: the races in Australia and China showed we have a good base, and now it’s about building on that and making the most of the opportunities across the weekend.”

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Audi Revolut F1 Team is the official factory team of Audi, as the brand enters the FIA Formula 1 World Championship for the first time in 2026. This project, in which Audi will create its own hybrid drive system ('power unit') developed in Germany, represents the ultimate expression of the manufacturer's 'Vorsprung durch Technik' philosophy and embodies a long-term commitment to compete at the pinnacle of motorsport with the clear objective of challenging for world championships by 2030. Audi Revolut F1 Team is based in three locations: the power unit is developed by Audi Formula Racing GmbH at the Audi Competence Center Motorsport in Neuburg, Germany; the chassis is engineered and race operations are managed from the state-of-the-art facilities of Audi Motorsport AG in Hinwil, Switzerland; while the Audi Motorsport Technology Centre UK in Bicester, United Kingdom, provides a foothold in the heart of 'Motorsport Valley', with direct access to top F1 talent and key strategic partners. This integrated structure provides complete control over the project, embedding a culture of precision, innovation, and relentless performance. Audi's entry is strategically timed to coincide with new Formula 1 regulations focused on increased electrification, as the electric share of the hybrid drive is raised to almost 50%, and the introduction of 100% sustainable fuels. The entry into Formula 1, one of the most important platforms in the world, serves as a high-tech catalyst for the entire Audi brand, acting as a global stage to demonstrate technological leadership and connect with new, diverse audiences by creating cultural impact that resonates far beyond the race track.

