

Great Places to Watch On-Track action at COTA!

While observers cannot see the entire track, COTA does have a number of vantage points that offer excellent views of the most exciting portions of the track. Here is a link to an excellent map of COTA and its facilities that will help you locate each of the viewing locations discussed below:

<http://circuitoftheamericas.com/visit/venue-maps>

Here is a list of our favorite viewing spots and instructions on how to get to each:

Free Shuttle Bus Service. There will be free continuous shuttle bus service running Friday through Sunday. It will run between Parking Lot A, the Main Paddock and the Support Paddock. This shuttle service is free to anyone at the track.

You can board the shuttle busses at the following locations:

- 1) Parking Lot A – at the entrance to Tunnel #1.
- 2) Main Paddock – at the north side of the Team Building (Building “L” near the west end of the Paddock where Registration will be located).
- 3) Support Paddock – at the entrance to the Support Paddock.

Free Shuttle Bus Service to Turn 11. From 10:00AM to 4:00PM, the shuttles will also take visitors out to Turn #11 and possibly other corners, where you can be dropped off to watch cars on track. Check with your shuttle driver to confirm exactly when he/she will return to pick you up. Typically the shuttles will come back to Turn 11 and other such “drop off” locations every 20-30 minutes, but again confirm exact times with your shuttle driver.

Paddock Club Observation Floor. Located on the second floor of the east end of the Paddock Building, this shaded Observation Floor affords a “birds eye” view of cars at on the Main Straight approaching and negotiating steeply elevated Turn 1 and then heading down towards Turn 2. There is seating on both the east and south sides so you can comfortably sit or stand as you watch cars zoom down the Front Straight and up the hill into Turn 1.

Grassy Hill at Turn 1. From the Paddock Club Observation Floor, if you walk through Tunnel 1 (as if you were headed to Parking Lot “A”) but then take an immediate left turn at the Tunnel 1

exit, you can walk up onto the grassy hill overlooking Turn 1 and the Front Straight. If you refer to the Venue map (see link above) you'll notice that there are bleachers at Turn 1. The grassy hill is at the foot of those bleachers. You'll have a view of cars approaching along the entire length of the Main Straight and then watch them braking hard as they approach steeply elevated Turn 1.

Pit Row. The Formula 1 garages are located in the Paddock Building. Garage #19, will serve as a passageway from the Main Paddock onto the Pit Row. However, no one under 18 is allowed on Pit Row. You cannot stand on the concrete barrier.

Turns 18, 19 and 20. Another good spot is along the western end of the Main Paddock just north of the Grid area. Here you can watch cars going through Turns 18, 19 and 20.

Turn 3 and Turn 16 Pedestrian Bridges:

1. **Turn 3 Pedestrian Bridge:** Standing on the Turn 3 Pedestrian Bridge, you'll watch cars approach as they exit Turn 1, then come through the very fast downhill Turn 2, then pass underneath the Bridge, and proceed through the serpentine section of Turns 3, 4 & 5. This is a very fun place to watch. How to get there: From the Main Paddock you'll walk uphill on the one road that leads in/out of the Main Paddock. You'll arrive at the intersection of the road that leads to the Fuel Pumps and the Support Paddock. Turn left. You'll see the Turn 3 Pedestrian Bridge ahead on your right. While you cannot cross over the Bridge you can stand/sit on it to watch. It gives some great views of Turns 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.
2. **Turn 16 Pedestrian Bridge:** When you stand at the bottom of the stairs of the Turn 3 Pedestrian Bridge, look toward the right of the landmark COTA Tower and you will see the Turn 16 Pedestrian Bridge. Access is by a paved walkway that intersects with the same road that you used to walk to the Turn 3 Bridge. From the Turn 16 Pedestrian Bridge you'll watch cars negotiate Turns 12, 13, 14, 15, and then pass underneath the bridge and turn right into Turn 16 which is the beginning of the Carousel. This is a very exciting portion of the track. The 11-12 straight is the longest straight on the entire Circuit and cars achieve their highest speeds as they approach 120° Turn 12. There is a great deal of passing at Turn 12. In the 2012 inaugural United States Formula 1 Grand

Prix Lewis Hamilton finally managed to overtake Sebastian Vettel at Turn 12 late in that race and then went on to win.