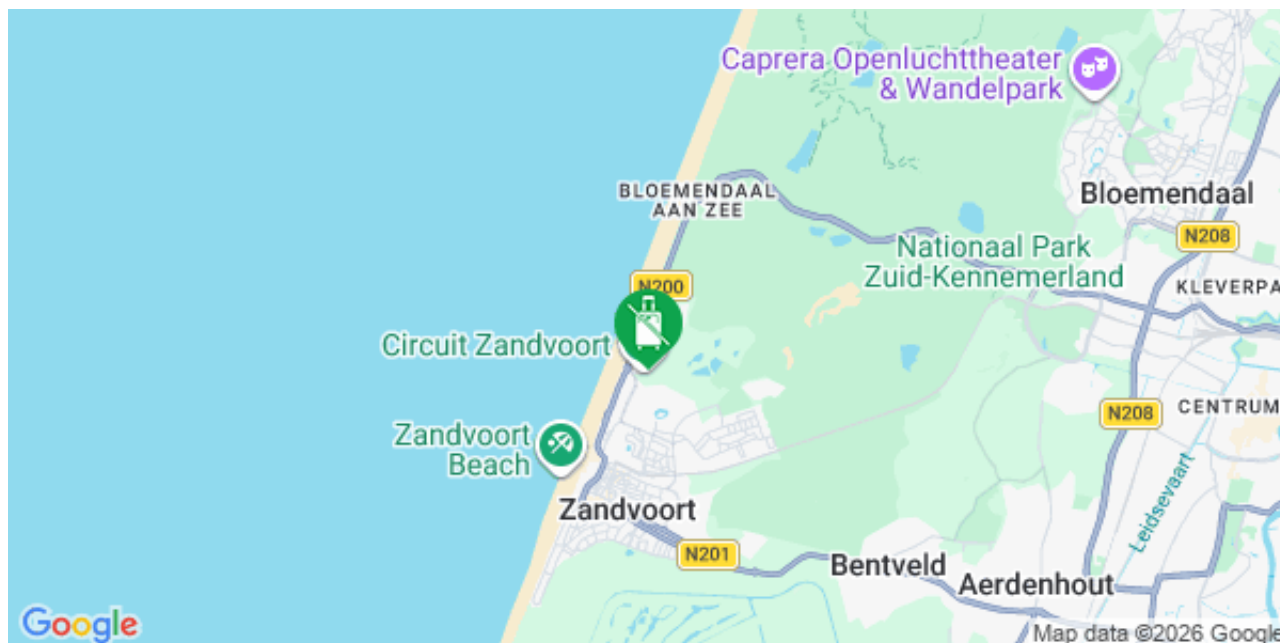


Travel



18

AUG
12:52 UTC

Netherlands Tactical: Dutch Formula 1 Grand Prix to take place in Zandvoort from August 21-23; allot for disruptions

Current Situation

- The annual Formula 1 Dutch Grand Prix will take place at Circuit Zandvoort in Zandvoort from August 21–23. The Grand Prix will feature its first Sprint race on August 22 at 12:00 (local time).
- Nederlandse Spoorwegen (NS) railways are implementing additional rail services and infrastructure measures to accommodate increased passenger traffic. NS expects to transport approximately 50,000 passengers to and from Zandvoort each day and will deploy more than 300 additional employees daily.
- Trains toward Amsterdam will be extended, while Sprinter services between Amsterdam Centraal and Zandvoort will operate every five minutes at maximum train length. Each service will have two drivers and a conductor to facilitate faster departures.
- On August 22, five additional early intercity trains will operate from Weert, Zwolle, Enschede, Breda, and Elst to Amsterdam Centraal, where passengers can transfer to Zandvoort-bound services.
- Temporary infrastructure measures will include additional platforms at Zandvoort station, an extra staircase at Haarlem station, and additional check-in and check-out points.
- Level crossings between Halfweg and Zandvoort will be closed, with road traffic diverted during the event.

Assessments & Forecast

1. The Dutch Grand Prix is an annual Formula 1 event, typically attracting tens of thousands of spectators daily. Despite the large crowds and significant movement of spectators through Zandvoort and surrounding transport hubs, previous editions have generally proceeded peacefully.
2. Previous editions have recorded instances of symbolic protest actions by climate groups. During the August 2025 Grand Prix weekend, Extinction Rebellion (XR) activists established a tent camp on a road leading to Zandvoort, temporarily obstructing traffic. XR also protested during the 2024 Grand Prix, when activists marched toward the circuit entrance carrying flags to denounce oil companies' sponsorship of Formula 1 and fossil-fuel industry CO2 emissions. While both protests remained peaceful and did not result in major unrest, they highlight XR's recurring use of the race weekend to draw attention to environmental issues.
3. **FORECAST:** The event is expected to attract attendance in the high tens of thousands daily, resulting in significant crowding around the circuit and on transport services serving Zandvoort. Localized travel disruptions are therefore likely in the vicinity of Circuit Zandvoort, particularly during peak arrival and departure periods.
4. **FORECAST:** Given the high attendance and symbolic value of the event, an enhanced police and security presence is expected around the circuit and key access routes, including increased patrols and security checks. These measures are likely to facilitate a rapid response to crowd-management issues and disruptive activity.
5. **FORECAST:** Given that motor racing remains a prominent target for climate groups, coupled with the precedent of associated actions during previous editions and the strong grassroots presence of such groups in the Netherlands, the risk of climate-related protests remains. Such actions are likely to mainly involve peaceful yet symbolic demonstrations featuring disruptive tactics such as sit-ins or temporary road blockades. Given the generally peaceful nature of recent climate protests in the Netherlands and the expected enhanced security presence, any such actions are likely to remain peaceful and localized. However, they could temporarily disrupt spectator access and compound congestion on routes into Zandvoort. Arrests are possible if activists refuse police orders to clear roadways.

Recommendations

1. Those operating or travelling in Zandvoort from August 21-23 are advised to allot for travel disruptions near Circuit Zandvoort and along key access routes due to increased spectator traffic and potential activist-related disruptions.
2. Monitor NS and Dutch Grand Prix channels for real-time transport updates, particularly regarding service changes, crowding and access restrictions.
3. Allow additional time for transfers through Amsterdam Centraal and Haarlem, which are expected to experience elevated passenger volumes during the event.