



# Indycar UK

## Indy 500 Travel Guide

And Finally — Any other hints or tips

**Jimmy** - Take the time to explore a little more than IMS. It is a wonderful city and you will be safe in almost every area. While I dislike telling the negatives, I would shy away from a lot of the Eastside and there isn't much along 38th street that will be appealing.

**Aaryn** - Mass Ave & Fountain Square are awesome neighbourhoods near downtown with new bars, restaurants and breweries opening all the time. Highly recommend those areas for a relaxed night.

Also in regards to the race...plan the exit strategy then decide where to park. If you need or want to leave after the race quickly, prepare to walk a bit but be able to exit once you get to car. If you're not worried about getting out quickly, park closer and limit the walk. Maybe pack a cooler of snacks just for post-race and wait for traffic to ease. :) I live 20 min north of Speedway and can provide any other info needed!

**David** - Be prepared for any type of weather in Indiana during May. It can be 95 degrees one day and the next 45 degrees. It will rain at some point so bring rain gear.

**Angelica** - We do something new every year we go! Try everything once

**Tom** - If you like racing, take in as much of it as you can. From the Hoosier Hundred, to Carb day and the Freedom 100 or the little 500 in Anderson, go see racing. Also hire a car, Indianapolis has very little in the way of public transit.

**John** - Planning on going to some of the practice and qualifying days, then you should really consider getting a Bronze Badge. These little beauties are not only a fantastic bargain in that they cover your track admission every day of the month apart from race days, but they also allow you to access the garage area.

Although it is not mentioned on the IMS website for the last couple of years Bronze Badge holders have also been given access to pit road during the practice session held the Monday after Qualifications. It cannot be over stated just how cool this is. You are no more than a few feet behind pit wall and get a real up close look at the teams at work as they carry out full bore practice pit stops, and setup changes. You can literally wander up to the teams timing stands and peek over the race engineers shoulders at the telemetry and data. Since its introduction a couple of years ago this Monday practice session has proved to be one of the busiest of the month so there is plenty of  
a c t i o n t o s e e .

Driving a lap of the track on 'Community Day' – normally the Wednesday prior to the race – is also super cool even if you are limited to 30mph. If you turn up right as the track opens or just before there will be a big queue of cars waiting which takes a while to clear. Turn up about an hour after the track opens and there will be little to no queue.

**James** - \$1.50 to travel on bus from airport to downtown Indianapolis. Go to the Indianapolis state fairground for dirt track racing on the Friday before the 500.

**Jim** - Listen to Trackside on 1070 the fan for coverage of all events during the month of May.

**Michael** - Get to the track early. Study the colour of the cars before the race, you will not see their numbers. Kiss the bricks and Drink the Milk.



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**Any Finally — Any other hints or tips**

**Kyle** - Come for the whole month or at least the last two weeks. The Indy 500 is an event and sport all to itself. The race is just one piece; it's the building to the race that is the most intriguing. The month starts off with the Grand Prix race at IMS, there is a week of practice, then two days of qualifications.

These are big days and each day adds to the story of the race.

Buy a parking pass to park inside the track if you are driving a car. There are no in and out passes so once you are inside the track you can't leave. By bringing your car inside you can bring as much food and drink as you like and it is easily close by saving you money. Having your car inside also gives you shelter in the event of rain, a place to take a nap in the morning, and if it is hot you can sit inside your car with the AC.

Turn 3 parking will be where the party is and will be full of canopies and people tailgating, the north 40 is less party-like but still fun.

If you like Techno music they host a concert that starts at 7am in the infield called the Snake Pit. Some of the past DJ's have been Kaskade, Steve Aoki, Hardway.

If you are driving to the track get there early. Gates open at 6 and there will already be a huge traffic backup. Plus there is only one free parking lot and its first come first serve. If you don't get the free lot or purchase a parking pass you can pay to park in peoples yards all around the track for about \$10 - 30 a car.

Get to the track early anyway, there is a lot to see and do. There is a fan zone with giveaways, a kids play area, driving simulators, vintage car laps, the celebrity carpet.

Mostly it helps you take it all in. There is nothing like being there when the gates open and watch the sunset and fill up.

Rent a seat back. They are \$10 and will save you from back pain during the race. There are carts at all stand entry points. Get one place it in your seat and it will be there when you come back and after the race you leave it and they will collect them. If you are flying all the way across the pond, stay for the whole month or at least half.

The Indy cars have a Grand Prix race on the Motor Speedway infield track that used to host the F1 race when it was here. This is the beginning of the month. Immediately after this race practice begins for the 500. It lasts a week and everyday is its own race. Almost all drivers are on the track at some point and occasionally you will get 20 cars on the track at once. It is a good time to get familiar with the track and meet people who can give you tips and advice. It's also a great time to get driver pictures and autographs as they are easily accessible during these days. The weekend before the race is two days of qualifications. These days have infield fan zones and have good crowds. Every driver will tell you these are the scariest 4 laps they will ever drive. Again it's a good way to build up to the race. The 500 is just the cap off of the whole month. Experiencing the build up to the race is a special experience that makes the race that much better.

Talk to people like myself. I love nothing more than educating people about the track and the race. Every year I make a point to bring someone who has never been, and each year that person says this is the greatest event in the world.