

## Tips for fans of the AvD Oldtimer Grand Prix

- Many unique classics on the track and in the paddock
- Dream sportscars lined up at the Mercedes-Arena
- Saturday night: Le Mans cars from the 50s and closing fireworks

The reputation of the AvD Oldtimer Grand Prix as one of the most distinguished events in historic motorsport is not only the result of its tremendous fields because there is a lot more to see and discover on the entire complex besides the 20 races and regularity tests of the weekend. Many teams and manufacturers are not only bringing fascinating racing cars to the Eifel but will also showcase special vehicles. First-hand information, perfect accessories for classics enthusiasts or a coveted book for the bookshelves at home: the diversity of the event's offering may at times make it hard to keep track of everything that is available, but smartphones are helpful companions for this purpose. Throughout the weekend the organisers will keep visitors up to speed with useful information, schedules, stories and news on the official website at [www.avd-ogp.de](http://www.avd-ogp.de) or social media channels. Those who prefer all updates at a glance can download the AvD OGP app on their smartphones. It is integrated with the Fuelish app which is available in the relevant app stores for all major smartphone systems.

Even before the event starts visitors will have a chance to satisfy their curiosity by taking a look at many of the vehicles: on Thursday (8 August) test and setup sessions are scheduled to start at 8.30 am at which many participants will put their historic cars through their paces once again. Practice sessions on the Grand Prix circuit will start on Friday morning and on the Nordschleife classics and young classics as well as exclusive sportscars will meet for the Track Day starting at 9.00 am. By the way, admission around the legendary 'Green Hell' is free. In addition, there will be a lot to see on Saturday and Sunday morning as well – for instance, historic rally cars and pre-war cars will be on the grid as well as the cars from selected marque clubs.

### Historic Paddock turns into a showcase for rarities

The Historic Paddock plays a special role at the Nürburgring. Here, in the only original paddock that has been preserved from the pioneering days of motor racing, the relevant racing cars are presented in proper style. It is the field of the Vintage Sports Car Trophy with its pre-war cars that start to their regularity tests on the Grand Prix circuit and tours on

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the Nordschleife and roads around the Nürburgring from here. Those taking a peek into the garages will not only discover how tight the conditions were in the days of Caracciola but also find a huge Polaroid 20x24 Land Camera producing instant XXL-size (50 x 60 cm) pictures. The replica of a Ford T will be displayed as an eye-catcher in the marquee at the centre of the square: the car in which Juan Manuel Fangio started his racing career in the 1920s will bring back memories of the triangular circuit at Nideggen. A small exhibition documents the history of this track that preceded the Nürburgring. The rally cars from the 60s and 70s located in the venerable square surrounded by the garages will be interesting sidelights. They belong to the 'Slowly Sideways' special-interest group that will be out on the Nordschleife on Saturday and Sunday morning with vehicles ranging from the factory Trabant to Walter Röhrl's Group B Audi quattro.

## Grand Prix Paddock: information, cars, souvenirs

For many visitors, the Grand Prix Paddock is a place not to be missed – not only because this is where (nearly) all racing cars of the weekend can be found in the tents or garages. In addition, this area will feature numerous exhibitors and sellers with highly attractive offerings. A lot is to be discovered here, from popular AvD OGP merchandising to spare parts and accessories. Located in the event area in the Hyundai Corner will be the catering marquee that is reserved to drivers and teams while the new sport auto show will be located in the publicly accessible courtyard in front where historic vehicles will be showcased and even offered for sale by their owners. Expert presenters will explain the vehicles to interested visitors. Special cars will be on display in the Motor Klassik marquee: the special-interest magazine will feature a special Abarth exhibition to celebrate the anniversary of the Italian carmaker, plus there will be the popular coffee mugs, literature from Motor Presse Stuttgart and of course conversations with experts. Skoda extends an invitation to an autograph session with seven-time German Rally Champion Matthias Kahle, plus an exhibition of the participating cars that are privately owned and those from the factory museum. A two-seat Skoda Laurin & Klement BSC from 1908 – the only one that has been preserved -- is a special highlight. During the "open door" events at the weekend the cars are explained by experts. Lotus – represented with historic racing cars in many fields throughout the weekend – will also showcase brand new models at the Nürburgring: in the marquee of Gotcha Historic Racing, the tradition-steeped British brand will present its first all-electric model: the Lotus Evija. The Lotus Evora as a GT4 concept will be on display there as well. The latter is intended to continue the Lotus success story on the race track

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starting next year. Volvo is also bringing special historic vehicles to the event: two PV544 in rally trim from the factory museum in Gothenburg are travelling to the Nürburgring. One of them is the original winning car from the 1965 Safari Rally. Audi will provide a glimpse of the future of motor racing too: for the second time after its premiere at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, the Ingolstadt-based brand will present the R8 LMS that will hit the race tracks next year. Also worth visiting will be TÜV Rheinland, offering experts talks as well as a view of Volker Strycek's team. His team, centred on the original DTM Opel Omega, is integrated in the stand. And even music will be provided: the band 'Speedos' will be performing at various locations of the entire event complex, plus there will be a rock classics performance at the Grand Prix Paddock on Sunday: starting at 11 am, the band 'Trush-Rock-Hits' will be on stage in the catering / beer garden area to entertain the audience with classic rock songs.

## Mercedes-Arena: fun for the youngest and dream cars galore

The Mercedes-Arena traditionally accommodates the sportiest marque clubs of the weekend whose participants make for a true parade of dream cars. Porsche Classic will again be featured in the largest area: the Stuttgart-based brand will not only be showcasing more than 500 cars on 16,000 square metres but also inform visitors about special offerings for drivers of classic vehicles. In addition, there will be a special anniversary to celebrate: that of the Porsche 914. Private collectors as well as the Porsche factory museum will send several of them to the Eifel. Moreover, for the youngest visitors, Porsche will offer 'Porsche4Kids' in the area for the first time, featuring exciting adventure modules such as a race simulator and an XXL-size Carrera track that invite kids to participate. An appearance that has clearly grown in size since last year is that of the Ferrari Club Deutschland. After all, it now has to accommodate more than 30 racing cars participating in the FCD Racing Series! At the 'Meet the Cars & Drivers' event, visitors will be able to get in close touch with the cars and people that drive them – plus marvelling at another parade of dream cars because 20 Ferrari Dino will meet here, gathering around a freshly restored Dino that will lead the races of the Italian sportscars as the pace car. It took part in the legendary Marathon de la Route at the Nürburgring as far back as in 1971 where it was fielded by the Ecurie Francorchamps. But those are not all of the fantastic sportscars to be seen from Italy – after all the Maserati Club Deutschland will be meeting right next door and Alfa Romeo is traditionally represented at the AvD Oldtimer Grand Prix as well: between the marquee of the German Alfaclub and the stunning racing cars of the Scuderia del Portello there will be

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a lot to be discovered, including an Alfa Romeo 6 that was converted into a safety car at the time.

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