

JAPAN

GRAND PRIX

MOTEGI 2026

日本

MORE
THAN
A RACE

SPEED
CULTURE
PEOPLE
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

PREVIEW GUIDE

DIFFERENT
TRACKS
SAME
HIGHER
HORIZONS

MOTEGI
WHERE
PASSION
MEETS
A WIDER WORLD

A
CLEANER
FASTER
BRIGHTER
TOMORROW



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MOTEGI 2026 PREVIEW GUIDE

SPEED
PEOPLE
PLACES
STORIES
TOMORROW

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A
CLEANER
FASTER
BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

MOTEGI

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MORE
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A RACE

DIFFERENT
TRACKS
SAME
HIGHER
HORIZONS

ACOSTA BREAKS THROUGH

FIRST PREMIER-CLASS GRAND PRIX WIN

A
NEW
GENERATION
TAKES
THE LEAD

HIGHER
FASTER
BOLDER
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW



AUSTRIA GP RESULT:

1 Pedro Acosta • 2 Jorge Martín • 3 Marco Bezzecchi • 4 Ai Ogura • 5 Marc Márquez

Pedro Acosta arrives in Japan with the biggest boost of his MotoGP career after converting pace into a first full Grand Prix victory. Martín limited the damage with second place, Bezzecchi stayed in the fight with another strong podium, and Ogura's fourth place added another sharp statement. Márquez now needs a cleaner, more decisive response at Motegi.

Austria changed the emotional rhythm of the championship.

RIVALS
DETERMINATION
HIGHER
STAKES
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

TITLE FIGHT

MARTÍN LEADS • MÁRQUEZ CLOSE

CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER AUSTRIA

日本

MORE
THAN
A RACE



- 1 Jorge Martín — 306
- 2 Marc Márquez — 294
- 3 Marco Bezzecchi — 264
- 4 Pedro Acosta — 234

Austria tightened the pressure without changing the identity of the title fight. Jorge Martín still arrives in Japan as championship leader, but Marc Márquez remains within striking distance and cannot afford another quiet weekend. Marco Bezzecchi is close enough to punish mistakes, while Pedro Acosta's breakthrough win has turned late-season momentum into a genuine factor.

Motegi could reshape the title picture before the final stretch.

MOTEGI

もてぎ

4.8 KM • 14 TURNS • 24 LAPS

HILLS
CORNERS
PEOPLE
PASSION
JAPAN

Motegi is a stop-and-go circuit built around heavy braking, sharp direction changes and forceful drive out of slow corners. With eight right-handers, six left-handers and a longest straight of roughly 762 metres, the layout rewards riders who can stay stable on corner entry, release the brakes cleanly and protect rear grip on exit. It is a track where precision matters more than flow, and where small setup gains can create major race-day advantages.

The key demands are front-end confidence, hard-braking stability, traction and tire management over repeated acceleration zones.

CIRCUIT
PEOPLE
SPEED
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW



JORGE MARTÍN

CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER

日本

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THAN
A RACE

Martín arrives in Japan carrying the burden and privilege of leading the championship. His greatest strength is clarity: clean weekends, direct speed and the ability to score even when the perfect setup does not arrive immediately. At Motegi, the goal is straightforward — secure front-row territory, survive the Sprint without damage and force the chasers to take the greater risks on Sunday.

STRENGTHS:

rhythm, consistency, pressure management.

KEY QUESTION:

can he control the weekend from Friday?



MARC MÁRQUEZ

THE CLOSEST CHASER

茂木

MOTEGI
LIVES
DIFFERENT
AT NIGHT

Márquez enters Japan knowing the equation is simple: the championship cannot drift further away. Motegi suits a rider who can brake later than everyone else, attack corner entry and live on the edge without losing the front. If the bike gives him early confidence, he has the tools to turn this into a pressure weekend for Martín. If not, the title gap may begin to feel heavier than it looks.

STRENGTHS: braking aggression, adaptability, racecraft.

KEY QUESTION:
how far can he push
without overstepping?



DUCATI

DEPTH UNDER PRESSURE

PEOPLE
MACHINES
STRATEGY
PRESSURE
PROGRESS

SAME
BIKES
DIFFERENT
BATTLES
A STRONGER
TOMORROW

Ducati arrives at Motegi with a familiar advantage: depth. Even when one rider struggles to unlock a perfect weekend, the brand usually places multiple bikes near the front, shaping both the podium battle and the strategic flow of the race. The central question in Japan is whether that depth can be converted into championship pressure. For Márquez, the bike must deliver braking confidence immediately; for the wider camp, execution on Friday may matter almost as much as outright pace on Sunday.

FOCUS: BRAKING STABILITY, LAUNCH OFF SLOW CORNERS, FRIDAY SETUP DIRECTION.

MORE
THAN
ONE RIDER
A DEEPER
THREAT

PEDRO ACOSTA

AUSTRIA WINNER

Acosta arrives at Motegi transformed by belief. His Austria victory removed the question of whether he could convert raw speed into a premier-class Sunday result, and now every session in Japan will be watched differently. Motegi's hard-braking zones and brutal exits can reward his ambition, but the next step is proving he can carry expectation without losing the instinct that made him dangerous in the first place.

STRENGTHS:
fearless speed, braking confidence,
momentum.

KEY QUESTION:
can he turn one breakthrough
into a run?

A
BOLDER
TOMORROW
AWAITS



MARCO BEZZECCHI

THE QUIET THREAT

SAME
TRACKS
DIFFERENT
STORIES
A STRONGER
TOMORROW

Bezzecchi may not own the loudest narrative entering Japan, but he remains one of the most dangerous riders in the field when a race settles into rhythm. He is close enough in the standings to capitalize on any mistake from the top two, and Motegi's stop-start character can reward riders who stay precise rather than spectacular. Another front-row-quality weekend would keep him firmly inside the title conversation.

STRENGTHS:
race pace, composure,
tire conservation.

KEY QUESTION:
can he qualify near
the sharp end?

FOCUS
DISCIPLINE
PROGRESS
A QUIETER
KINDER
FASTER YOU

JAPAN
A TOUGHER
TRACK
BRINGS OUT
A CLEARER
RIDER

APRILIA

LOOKING FOR A BREAKTHROUGH

SPEED
CULTURE
PEOPLE
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

日本

MORE
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Aprilia arrives at Motegi as a dark horse, carrying real belief and a package that continues to make steps forward. With strong pace on corner exit and impressive braking stability, the RS-GP has shown it can fight at the front when everything comes together.

Motegi's stop-and-go nature could play to Aprilia's strengths, rewarding their traction and stability where it matters most. If they can unlock a clean weekend and maximise the opportunities, there's every chance the Noale factory can upset the favourites.

A BOLDER TOMORROW
IS ALWAYS WITHIN
REACH.

DIFFERENT
TRACKS
SAME
HIGHER
HORIZONS

PASSION
FUELS
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DIFFERENT
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KTM

HUNGRY FOR RESULTS

SPEED
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日本

MORE
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At Motegi, KTM arrives with a clear mission — turn potential into results. A strong package, a fast bike and a hungry team ready to fight.

MORE RACE PACE
KTM heads to Motegi looking to convert its raw speed into stronger, more consistent race pace. The RC16 has shown promising rhythm, especially in the second half of races, and the team is determined to turn that momentum into podium contention.

SPEED AND STRENGTH
The bike's straight-line speed remains a key weapon, while its late-braking strength suits Motegi's hard stops and direction changes. KTM can attack here — a track that rewards commitment.

CLEANER QUALIFYING
The missing piece is consistency on Saturday. Cleaner qualifying sessions will be crucial to put riders in the fight from the start and unlock the full potential of the package.

SAME
PASSION
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

SPEED
PEOPLE
CULTURE
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

HONDA

HOME GRAND PRIX

MOTEGI 2026

日本

MORE
THAN
A RACE

A home track.
A different kind of pressure.
A stronger reason.

For Honda, Motegi is more than another round — it's home. The expectations are higher, the emotions deeper and every lap carries the weight of a nation's belief.

A strong qualifying is crucial at Motegi, where track position can define the race. Getting into the front rows early allows Honda to control the rhythm, optimise tyre strategy and keep their momentum when it matters most.

With the roar of home fans, the sea of red and white, and unwavering support in the stands, Honda is determined to turn that energy into a result — not just to race, but to deliver, together, on home soil.

MOTEGI
WHERE
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TOMORROW



YAMAHA

BACK ON HOME SOIL

MOTEGI 2026

PREVIEW

Motegi is more than just another round for Yamaha — it is home. With a passionate fanbase and a circuit that demands precision, the Japanese manufacturer returns with renewed determination to turn support into performance.

The challenge is clear: find the right balance between top speed on Motegi's long straights and the natural corner flow that rewards a smooth, stable machine. Yamaha's latest developments show promise, but consistency through all phases will be key.

From a strong qualifying to disciplined race management, Yamaha must maximize every opportunity. At home, expectations are high — and so is the motivation. Motegi could be the stage where momentum finally builds.

SPEED
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RIDERS
ENGINES
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SPEED
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AI OGURA

A HOMETOWN HERO

SAME TRACKS
HIGHER DREAMS
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

For Ai Ogura, Motegi is more than just another round — it's home.

The Japanese rider arrives with the hopes of a nation, carrying the energy of home grandstands, familiar skies and a lifelong dream that feels closer than ever.

Known for his calm racecraft, precision and maturity beyond his years, Ogura thrives under pressure. Motegi could be the stage where talent, belief and home support come together — a weekend that has the potential to mark a defining moment in his MotoGP journey.

A CLEANER
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JAPAN



QUALIFYING & SPRINT FORECAST

MOTEGI 2026

FAST DECISIONS. BIGGER TOMORROWS.

日本

SPEED
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01 —

QUALIFYING PRIORITIES

Braking precision into Motegi's hardest stops and traction off the slow corners will be critical. Riders must build lap by lap, find clear air and keep the tyres in the right window to extract that one perfect lap.

02 —

SPRINT RACE SHAPE

Expect a fierce, compact fight from lights out. Track position will be everything, with traction off the slow corners and strong mid-corner drive key to making early moves stick. Managing tyres while staying close will separate the opportunists from the outsiders.

03 —

WHAT COULD DECIDE THE FIRST ROW

Clean laps in changing track conditions could be the difference. As the surface evolves, reading the grip, timing the run and avoiding traffic will decide who makes the front row at Motegi.

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RACE STRATEGY

PLANNING FOR VICTORY

日本

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At Motegi, victory is rarely just about raw pace. It's about the smarter plan.

Tire conservation is critical, with the rear put to the test through hard acceleration and long direction changes. Teams must balance grip and longevity, managing pressure and temperature to stay strong to the finish.

Fuel load, bike balance and setup choices shape the race as much as outright speed. Track position is gold at Motegi — clean air makes a difference, and overtaking is difficult when riders are evenly matched.

Ultimately, Motegi rewards disciplined exits, precise lines and hard-braking stability. Races here are won by riders who think ahead, stay consistent and make every lap count.

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PODIUM CONTENDERS

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DIFFERENT STYLES. SAME HIGHER HORIZONS.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER

Consistent, calculated and relentless. The championship leader arrives at Motegi with momentum, a bike that works and the confidence to manage pressure. On a stop-and-go circuit where braking stability is everything, control could be the ultimate weapon.

THE ATTACKING CHALLENGER

Bold, aggressive and never far away. The challenger sees Motegi's heavy braking zones and tight direction changes as the perfect stage to strike. Late on the brakes, strong on corner entry, and fearless in the fight, this is a rider built for opportunities.

THE SURPRISE OUTSIDER

Less expected, but very real. The outsider arrives with nothing to lose and everything to gain. Motegi's stop-and-go rhythm can level the field, giving a fearless rider a chance to upset the order when precision, traction and confidence matter most.

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FINAL WATCHLIST

MOTEGI 2026

FIVE THINGS THAT COULD DEFINE
THE WEEKEND

日本

MORE
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01 TITLE-FIGHT PRESSURE

Every point matters at Motegi. Expect ruthless racing as the championship battle enters a decisive phase.

02 WEATHER AND GRIP CHANGES

Autumn conditions can turn in a moment. Cooler temperatures and evolving grip levels could reshape the entire weekend.

03 FIRST-LAP CHAOS

A short run to Turn 1, heavy braking and everything on the line. Motegi often delivers a dramatic start.

04 TIRE DROP-OFF

Managing the rear through Motegi's stops and corners will be critical. Late-race performance could decide more than just the podium.

05 HOME-RIDER EMOTION

Racing in front of a passionate home crowd adds a different kind of pressure — and fuel. Expect extra motivation, extra determination, and something special.

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THANK YOU FOR READING

MOTEGI 2026

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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US
ON THE ROAD TO MOTEGI.

This guide is for informational and entertainment
purposes only. Motorsport is unpredictable,
and no prediction is guaranteed.

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