

# Time to put the brakes on

The legendary Brooklands racing circuit in Surrey is now home to a luxury hotel. *Tamara Hinson* goes along for the ride

**B**ROOKLANDS Hotel in Weybridge, Surrey, is the perfect base for petrolheads with a penchant for luxury. It sits within the footprint of the historic Brooklands racing circuit and just a few metres from Mercedes-Benz World, where visitors can channel their inner Lewis Hamilton with a few laps around the test-drive circuit.

This year has been particularly significant for the four-star pad: in April, its 1907 restaurant was awarded two AA rosettes. This comes after the hotel opened a new bar and introduced new room-service menus last year.

For guests who've ever dreamt of popping champagne on the winner's podium, a visit to the 1907 bar is the next best thing. The friendly staff will happily whip up bespoke versions of classic cocktails, and it's right next door to the 1907 restaurant, which is known for its enormous sharing steaks and decadent afternoon teas. These can be enjoyed while watching the action on the adjacent Mercedes-Benz World testing track.

If you fancy something more sedate, then the hotel's spa is one of the few in the country to offer treatments by prestigious skincare brand Lubatti.

**USP:** The motoring and aviation themes set this hotel apart. It's located within what was once an



On track: The hotel spa's hot tub (left) and one of the bedrooms (above) that overlook the racing circuit. For motor enthusiasts, it's the cars (below) that matter

aerodrome and motor-racing circuit, which dates back to 1907 (hence the name of the bar and restaurant). Nods to the site's heritage are everywhere: gleaming propellers line one side of the bar, while a 'sculpture' of the world-famous racing circuit hangs from the lobby ceiling.

**Who goes there?** Flashy businessmen (several Ferraris in the car park bore the registration plate 'CEO'), Premier League

footballers (Chelsea's training ground is close by in Cobham), wedding parties and groups of friends on weekend getaways.

**Venture out:** Visitors can sign up for a range of driving experiences at Mercedes-Benz World, and car enthusiasts will love the exhibitions at its headquarters, where the highlight is an 'exploded' F1 car. Every one of its 3,200 components, from tiny screws to clutch plates,



hangs from a thin wire, creating the impression of a floating F1 car. Next door is the Brooklands Museum, where visitors can check out the Concorde G-BBDG 'Delta Golf' (much of Concorde was built on the site). Plus the beautiful gardens of RHS Wisley are five miles away.

**Getting there:** The trains to

Weybridge Station from London Waterloo take 30 minutes; the hotel is a 20-minute walk away.

Double rooms start from £139. Brooklands Hotel, Brooklands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey. Tel: 01932 335700. [brooklandshotelsurrey.com](http://brooklandshotelsurrey.com)

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