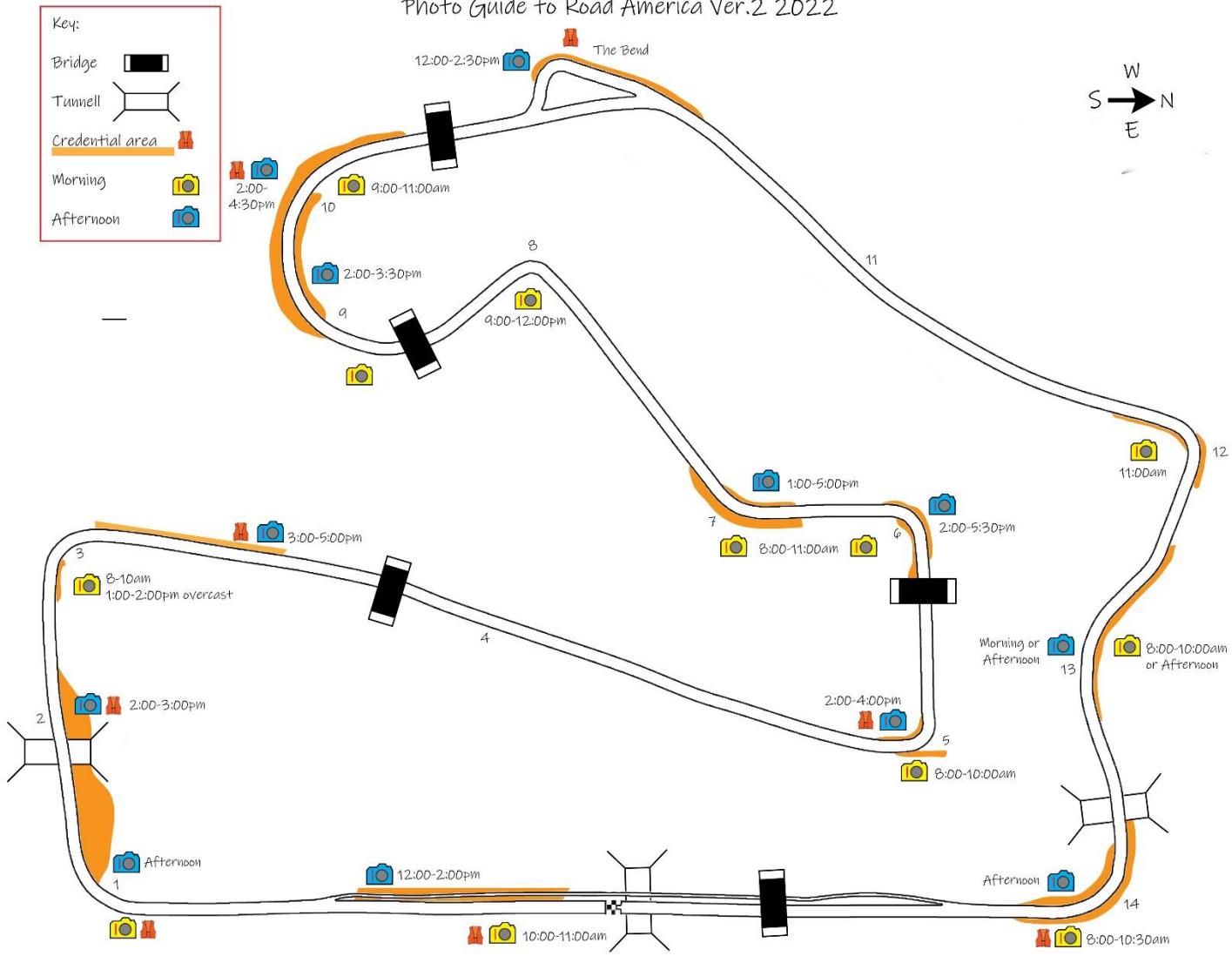


Photo Guide to Road America Ver.2 2022



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Road America (RA) in Elkhart Lake Wi is a great track to photograph cars/bikes. With the elevation changes you can get some good angles and you are able to drive to most places, so you don't need to hike much if you don't want to. If you are inclined, they also offer weekend golf cart rentals that you can use to get around the track with. This is good as RA is over 4 miles long and pretty spread out. Depending on the event you may not be able to drive in the paddock area but if you park on the east side of the track by the start/finish line you can walk through the pedestrian tunnel and in the paddock area. I have been fortunate to get credentials the last couple of years which opens up some opportunities that aren't available to ticket holders, but it still offers some great options at turns 1, 6-7, the carousel and 13 compared to other tracks I've visited. Note the orange areas shown on the map require credentials to get to and as the track evolves some things might have changed over time but as of this writing (2022) here are my favorites along with sample shots in that area. If you click the camera icon it will take you to samples photos taken there. I like to follow the sun so this has approximate times this location works best but depending on the time of year and cloud cover that can vary. RA broadcasts its public address commentary on the radio which is useful when sitting in the car. Tune your dial to 88.3 FM. A small stepstool works well to get over the barrier if you aren't shooting with credentials. This isn't allowed for credentialed photographers but can come in hand in turns 6-7 so there isn't as much concrete barrier in the foreground of your photo. I haven't included all the corners as some are hard to get to or are blocked by high fences. If you are just going to watch racing you can sit in the grandstands and see good overtaking maneuvers at turns 5, 8 and 12 which are all hard braking area. My favorite place to sit and watch is in the grandstands outside of turn 7 or the area on top of the hill inside turn 7. Both these places allow views of the track from 6 to turn 8. Because Road America is spread out, wooded and hilly you can only see parts of the racing at a time. They started using Jumbotron screens at some events which allows seeing more of the action from other parts of the track which is nice.

Turn 1 – You can get some pictures from the inside of turn 1 mid to late in the day. This spot doesn't need credentials to get decent shots.

Turn 2 – requires credentials to get here but in the afternoon, you can get nearly head-on shots with the sky in the background.

Turn 3 – drivers left (outside) works in the afternoon and you can get panning shots in the morning on drivers right between turns 3 and the bridge. With credentials you can get close and shoot breaking into turn 3. This is a good morning location.

Turn 5 – Drivers left (inside) is a nice afternoon location with credentials. You can shoot the outside of the turn in the morning and is good for a large group of cars. Works best with credentials but works without also.

Turn 6 inside (AM) – Here you can get close to the track and shoot from the inside of the corner. You are pretty much level with the track. This can be a little hard to shoot as they are coming out of turn 5 and up the hill and the bridge will block your view. The downside to this spot is you are on the inside of the corner and the background is the gravel (paved now) on the outside of the track if shooting later in the apex of corner. You can go to Driver right (outside) of turn 6 in the afternoon and get some nice shots. A good telephoto lens is useful here especially if shooting bikes. It is a short walk between turns 6 and 7 and you get dramatically different shots so this is a good location in the afternoon. The outside of turn 6 in the afternoon is great with Credentials as you can get nice shots coming under the bridge but if you stand on the stands, you can get some shots without them.

Turn 7 drivers left (outside) – If you go down the hill near the corner workers on the outside of turn 7 you can get some nice shots entering and in the corner. There are concrete dividers that can get in the way and a ladder is sometimes helpful if you want to shoot from the back exiting the corner. Moving around a few feet here can change elevations and make for very different shots. If you go to the exit of corner below concession stand. You are higher than the track here and have a good view to what is coming as you can see cars entering turn 6. This is a good place to see the action and for superbikes you can watch them wheelie out of seven. You have a grass background or barrier, and bikes are leaning away from you. Continue to walk down the fence towards the tree to get a lower angle. In the afternoon drivers right (inside) lets You can get close to the action on the inside of turn 7 and if you walk up the hills get some different angles. Keep walking down the road to the exit of 7 and you can get some decent pictures exiting 7 with the trees in the background.

Turn 8 (AM/PM) – Here is like turn 6 but they are on the brakes a lot harder as they are coming downhill from turn 7 which is a fast corner. Again gravel (paved now) on the outside of the corner and grandstands are in the background. The outside of 8 can be nice in the afternoon but this will require a good telephoto lens. The high fence added here limits some shots here but there are still some options here.

Turn 9 (AM/PM) – This is a favorite location of mine. You can see what is coming in advance and have plenty of time to pan through the carousel shooting either front or rear views. You can walk the path into the woods on the outside of the carousel where you are a little higher than the track and can shoot down which give you a good background of grass. This is also nice as you can sit in the shade, but the mosquitoes can be intense here. Later in the day you can move to the inside and get a lower inside angle.

Turn 10 (PM) – Here you are on the inside of the corner up above the track watching cars come out of the carousel. Here is a good place to shoot down into open cars. Late in the day you can cross the foot bridge and get a good angle on the outside of the corner exiting the carousel. When the bikes are here the bend (chicane) is used which allows you to get really close to the action and allows inside and outside angles in one spot. There is no cover here so you will bake in the sun.

Turn 12 (AM) – Canada corner is good, but lighting isn't the greatest. You can see the cars hard on the brakes coming into the corner and watch them accelerate through 13. Early morning works best for this location. Most of the Armco has been removed from here which made for a nice background entering the corner. Now the background can be busy or the gravel trap.

Turn 13 (AM/PM) - In 2007 they removed the bridge which now opens up a whole new area for shooting. This is a good spot all day long but works best in morning as it lights the front of the cars. With credentials you can shoot low on the drivers right (inside) of the back of cars with the sky in the background.

Turn 14 (PM) – With credentials drivers left (outside) this is a nice morning location with good sun and the trees in the background. Late in the day you can get some nice picture on the inside of 14. You are shooting up at the track and if you time it right you can get the trees as a background. This spot works best with credentials, but I think is still accessible to shot from but requires more telephoto.