

rolling stones tour history

Rolling Stones tour history is a fascinating journey through the decades, marked by legendary performances, groundbreaking music, and an enduring legacy that has captivated fans around the globe. Since their inception in 1962, The Rolling Stones have become one of the most influential rock bands in history. Their live performances have not only contributed to their popularity but have also shaped the landscape of rock concerts. This article will explore the rich tour history of The Rolling Stones, highlighting key milestones, iconic tours, and the evolution of their performances.

The Early Years: 1960s Tours

The Rolling Stones began their journey in the early 1960s, quickly gaining attention for their rebellious image and blues-inspired sound. Their first major tour took place in 1964, and it laid the groundwork for their future as a touring powerhouse.

1964: The First American Invasion

In 1964, The Rolling Stones embarked on their first American tour, which was part of the British Invasion that also included bands like The Beatles. This tour consisted of 36 shows, including performances at iconic venues such as the Ed Sullivan Show.

Key highlights of the tour included:

- Rapidly growing fanbase: The band's popularity skyrocketed, leading to sold-out shows and a frenzy of fans, known as "Stones fans."
- Introduction of hits: The tour featured songs like "Time Is on My Side" and "It's All Over Now," which became instant classics.

1966: The First World Tour

As the band continued to rise in fame, they embarked on their first world tour in 1966. This tour was significant for several reasons:

- Global reach: The tour included performances in Europe, Australia, and Asia, showcasing their expanding international appeal.
- Transition to larger venues: The Rolling Stones began playing larger venues, which would become a trend for future tours.

The 1970s: Iconic Tours and Notable Performances

The 1970s marked a transformative period for The Rolling Stones, both musically and in terms of their live performances. The band solidified their reputation as a live act during this decade.

1972: The Exile on Main St. Tour

The 1972 tour, promoting the album "Exile on Main St.," is often regarded as one of the most memorable in the band's history.

Key aspects of the tour included:

- Diverse setlist: The band performed a mix of classic hits and new material, captivating audiences.
- Notable venues: The tour included performances at Madison Square Garden in New York City and the LA Forum.

1975: The Tour of the Americas

The "Tour of the Americas" in 1975 was another landmark event for The Rolling Stones.

Highlights of this tour included:

- Theatrical elements: The band incorporated elaborate stage designs and lighting, elevating the concert experience.
- Record-breaking attendance: The tour set attendance records at several venues, solidifying their status as rock legends.

The 1980s and 1990s: Resurgence and Innovation

After a brief hiatus, The Rolling Stones returned to the stage in the 1980s, bringing a renewed energy and innovative approach to their performances.

1981: The Tattoo You Tour

The "Tattoo You" tour in 1981 marked a significant comeback for the band.

Key features of the tour included:

- Major stadium shows: The band played in large stadiums, reaching a massive audience.

- Cultural impact: The tour coincided with the rise of MTV, leading to increased visibility and popularity.

1994: Voodoo Lounge Tour

The "Voodoo Lounge" tour was notable for its extensive global reach and elaborate stage setup.

Significant moments included:

- First tour in a decade: This was the first tour since the 1989 Steel Wheels tour, and it showcased the band's enduring appeal.
- High-quality production: The use of advanced technology in stage design and sound systems set new standards for live music.

The 21st Century: A Legacy of Touring

As the new millennium approached, The Rolling Stones continued to tour extensively, further cementing their legacy in rock history.

2005: A Bigger Bang Tour

The "A Bigger Bang" tour in 2005 was one of the highest-grossing tours of all time, highlighting the band's lasting popularity.

Key features of this tour included:

- Record-breaking earnings: The tour grossed over \$558 million, showcasing the band's financial success and fan support.
- Global reach: The tour included performances in over 30 countries, reflecting the band's international appeal.

2012: 50 & Counting Tour

To celebrate their 50th anniversary, The Rolling Stones embarked on the "50 & Counting" tour, which marked a significant milestone in their career.

Notable aspects included:

- Special guests: The tour featured collaborations with various artists, including Bruce Springsteen and Lady Gaga.
- Intimate venues: While the band is known for stadium shows, this tour included some performances in smaller venues, allowing for a more personal connection with fans.

Impact of Rolling Stones Tours on Rock Culture

The Rolling Stones' tour history is not only a testament to their musical prowess but also highlights their influence on rock culture.

Setting the Standard for Live Performances

The band has set numerous standards for live concerts, including:

- Elaborate stage designs: Their innovative stage setups have pushed the boundaries of concert production.
- Audience engagement: The Stones are known for their ability to connect with audiences, creating an electrifying atmosphere at every show.

Inspiring Future Generations

The Rolling Stones' impact on future generations of musicians and performers cannot be overstated.

- Influence on rock bands: Many modern rock bands cite The Rolling Stones as a major influence, emulating their style and stage presence.
- Cultural significance: The band's tours have become cultural events, attracting fans from all walks of life and transcending generations.

Conclusion

The **Rolling Stones tour history** is a remarkable tale of resilience, creativity, and enduring appeal. From their early days in the 1960s to their monumental tours in the 21st century, The Rolling Stones have continually redefined what it means to be a rock band. Their ability to captivate audiences, innovate in live performances, and adapt to changing musical landscapes has solidified their status as one of the greatest rock bands of all time. As they continue to tour and create music, their legacy will undoubtedly inspire future generations of musicians and fans alike.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the first tour of The Rolling Stones?

The Rolling Stones' first tour was their 1964 UK tour, which took place shortly after the release of their debut album.

Which Rolling Stones tour is considered their longest?

The 'Licked Live in NYC' tour in 2006-2007 is considered one of their longest, spanning multiple continents and featuring numerous shows.

What iconic venue did The Rolling Stones play during their 1972 tour?

During their 1972 'Exile on Main St.' tour, The Rolling Stones played at Madison Square Garden in New York City, which is considered one of their most iconic shows.

How did The Rolling Stones' 'Steel Wheels' tour impact their career?

The 'Steel Wheels' tour in 1989 marked a major comeback for The Rolling Stones, revitalizing their popularity and introducing them to a new generation of fans.

What was unique about The Rolling Stones' 1994 'Voodoo Lounge' tour?

The 'Voodoo Lounge' tour in 1994 was notable for its emphasis on elaborate stage designs and production, setting a new standard for concert tours.

Which tour featured the live album 'Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out!'?

The live album 'Get Yer Ya-Ya's Out!' was recorded during The Rolling Stones' 1969 U.S. tour, capturing the band's energetic performances.

What was the significance of The Rolling Stones' 'Bridges to Babylon' tour?

The 'Bridges to Babylon' tour in 1997-1998 was significant for showcasing new material from their album of the same name and for its elaborate stage design.

How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect The Rolling Stones' touring schedule?

The COVID-19 pandemic led to the postponement of The Rolling Stones' 'No Filter' tour, initially scheduled for 2020, with many dates rescheduled to 2021 and beyond.

What was a defining moment of The Rolling Stones' 2019 'No Filter' tour?

A defining moment of the 2019 'No Filter' tour was Mick Jagger's return to the stage after heart surgery, showcasing his resilience and the band's enduring legacy.

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