

motley crue tour history

motley crue tour history is a fascinating journey through the decades of one of rock music's most notorious and influential bands. From their explosive debut tours in the early 1980s to their record-breaking farewell excursions, Motley Crue's live performances have consistently captivated audiences worldwide. This article explores the band's extensive tour history, highlighting key moments, major tours, and the evolution of their stage presence. Their relentless touring schedule helped cement their legacy as one of the premier hard rock acts, combining high-energy shows with unforgettable theatrics. Understanding the Motley Crue tour history provides insight into their impact on the rock genre and their enduring fanbase. The following sections will cover the band's formative years, landmark tours, hiatus periods, reunions, and their final tours, offering a comprehensive overview of their live performance legacy.

- Early Touring Years (1981-1986)
- Commercial Peak and Major Tours (1987-1992)
- Challenges and Hiatus Periods (1993-1999)
- Reunions and Revival Tours (2000-2014)
- Final Tours and Legacy (2015-Present)

Early Touring Years (1981-1986)

The early touring years of Motley Crue from 1981 to 1986 were crucial in establishing the band's presence in the rock music scene. After forming in Los Angeles in 1981, Motley Crue quickly gained attention with their debut album "Too Fast for Love" and embarked on relentless touring schedules to promote their music. Their raw, high-energy performances helped build a dedicated fanbase and set the stage for their rise to fame.

Initial Tours and Breakthrough

Motley Crue's initial tours involved small clubs and venues across California and the United States, where they developed their signature glam metal sound and theatrical stage antics. Their breakthrough came with the release of "Shout at the Devil" in 1983, which was followed by extensive touring that included opening for larger acts and headlining their own shows. This period was marked by intense touring commitments and the band's rapid rise in popularity.

Notable Early Tour Highlights

During this period, the band's live shows became known for their wild energy and stage production, incorporating pyrotechnics and elaborate setups. Highlights include the "Shout at the Devil" tour, which significantly expanded their audience and established Motley Crue as a major force in heavy metal and glam rock circuits.

- 1981-1982: Local club circuit tours in Los Angeles
- 1983-1984: Shout at the Devil tour with extensive U.S. dates
- 1985-1986: Theatre of Pain tour introducing larger venues

Commercial Peak and Major Tours (1987-1992)

The period between 1987 and 1992 marks Motley Crue's commercial peak, characterized by blockbuster albums and massive tours. This era saw the band headlining arenas and stadiums, with their elaborate shows drawing record crowds. Their tour history during this time reflects their status as one of the top rock acts worldwide.

The Dr. Feelgood Tour

Following the release of their critically acclaimed album "Dr. Feelgood" in 1989, Motley Crue embarked on one of their most successful tours. The "Dr. Feelgood" tour was notable for its high production values, including complex stage design, dramatic lighting, and pyrotechnics, making it one of the most memorable tours in their history.

Other Significant Tours

Besides the "Dr. Feelgood" tour, Motley Crue also toured extensively to support albums such as "Girls, Girls, Girls" and "Decade of Decadence." These tours featured sold-out arenas and international dates, cementing their global appeal. The band's ability to combine catchy hits with energetic live shows contributed to their enduring popularity.

- 1987-1988: Girls, Girls, Girls tour

- 1989-1990: Dr. Feelgood world tour
- 1991-1992: Decade of Decadence tour celebrating 10 years

Challenges and Hiatus Periods (1993-1999)

The mid-1990s brought challenges to Motley Crue's tour history, including lineup changes, personal struggles, and shifts in the music industry. Grunge and alternative rock's rise affected the band's popularity, resulting in less frequent touring and lower attendance during this era. Despite the difficulties, Motley Crue continued to perform and record sporadically.

Lineup Changes and Impact on Touring

During this period, guitarist Mick Mars' health problems and vocalist Vince Neil's temporary departure affected the band's touring capabilities. Neil's absence in the mid-1990s led to the recruitment of John Corabi as lead singer, which brought a different dynamic to tours but did not resonate as strongly with fans.

Hiatus and Limited Touring

Motley Crue's tours during the 1990s were less extensive than previous years, with many cancellations and fewer international dates. The band's focus shifted towards studio work and managing internal conflicts, resulting in a hiatus from large-scale touring by the late 1990s.

- 1993-1995: Tours with John Corabi as lead vocalist
- 1996-1999: Limited tours and sporadic live appearances
- 1997: Vince Neil's rejoining and gradual return to touring

Reunions and Revival Tours (2000-2014)

The early 2000s marked a resurgence in Motley Crue's tour activity, driven by reunions and renewed interest in their music. The return of Vince Neil and the release of new material revitalized the band's live performances, leading to several successful tours that reestablished their presence in the rock world.

Crüe Fest and Nostalgia Tours

One of the hallmark events during this revival was Crüe Fest, a touring festival created by Motley Crue that featured multiple rock acts. These tours combined nostalgia with new music, drawing large audiences and showcasing the band's ability to adapt to changing musical landscapes.

New Albums and Tour Support

The release of "Saints of Los Angeles" in 2008 was supported by extensive touring, marking the first new album in over a decade. Motley Crue's live shows during this era balanced classic hits with fresh material, maintaining fan engagement and attracting new listeners.

- 2000-2002: Reunion tours with original lineup
- 2008-2010: Saints of Los Angeles tour
- 2011-2014: Crüe Fest and anniversary tours

Final Tours and Legacy (2015-Present)

The final chapter in Motley Crue tour history is defined by their announced retirement and farewell tours. These tours were designed to celebrate their decades of music and deliver one last opportunity for fans to experience their live performances. The band's farewell tours combined spectacle with nostalgia, drawing massive crowds worldwide.

The Final Tour and Farewell Shows

Announced in 2014, the Motley Crue final tour, often referred to as "The Final Tour," began in 2015 and concluded in 2016. It featured the band performing their greatest hits in large arenas and stadiums, with elaborate stage production and special guest appearances. The tour was a commercial success and widely regarded as a fitting end to their live performance career.

Continued Influence and Occasional Performances

Although officially retired from touring, Motley Crue has occasionally reunited for special one-off performances and events. Their influence on the rock genre remains significant, and their tour history continues to inspire new generations of musicians and fans alike.

- 2015-2016: The Final Tour worldwide dates
- Post-2016: Select reunion shows and appearances
- Legacy tours and tribute concerts by related acts

Frequently Asked Questions

When did Mötley Crüe embark on their first major tour?

Mötley Crüe embarked on their first major tour in 1982 to promote their debut album 'Too Fast for Love.'

What was significant about the Girls, Girls, Girls Tour?

The Girls, Girls, Girls Tour in 1987 was one of Mötley Crüe's most successful tours, known for its elaborate stage production and promoting their hit album 'Girls, Girls, Girls.'

Did Mötley Crüe ever announce a farewell tour?

Yes, Mötley Crüe announced their farewell tour, called 'The Final Tour,' in 2014, which concluded in 2015 before their temporary retirement.

Has Mötley Crüe reunited for tours after their farewell?

Yes, Mötley Crüe reunited in 2019 and launched the 'Stadium Tour' alongside Def Leppard, Poison, and Joan Jett & the Blackhearts.

What are some notable features of Mötley Crüe's touring history?

Mötley Crüe is known for their high-energy performances, pyrotechnics, and theatrical stage shows, which have been a hallmark of their tours since the 1980s.

Additional Resources

1. *Crüe Tales: The Wild Ride of Motley Crue's Tours*

This book delves into the chaotic and electrifying history of Motley Crue's tours, highlighting their most infamous moments on the road. From sold-out stadiums to backstage debauchery, it offers fans an insider's look at what made their live performances legendary. Packed with anecdotes from band members and

crew, it captures the essence of 1980s rock excess.

2. Shout at the Devil: Behind the Scenes of Motley Crue's Greatest Tours

Exploring the behind-the-scenes drama and triumphs, this book chronicles the band's rise to fame through their touring years. It covers pivotal tours like the "Shout at the Devil" and "Theatre of Pain" circuits, revealing how these tours shaped the band's image and sound. Rich with photos and interviews, it's a must-read for die-hard fans.

3. Decade of Decadence: Motley Crue's 1980s Tour Legacy

Focusing on the 1980s, this book provides a detailed look at how Motley Crue's touring strategies helped cement their place in rock history. It examines how their live shows evolved over the decade and the impact they had on the glam metal scene. The narrative includes tour diaries, setlists, and fan experiences from that explosive era.

4. The Dr. Feelgood Tour Chronicles

Centered around the band's iconic "Dr. Feelgood" album tour, this book explores the highs and lows experienced during one of their most successful periods. It highlights the technical innovations in their stage setups and the grueling schedule that tested the band's endurance. The author also discusses how this tour marked a turning point in their career.

5. Motley Crue on the Road: A Visual History of Their Tours

This visually rich book showcases rare photographs, concert posters, and memorabilia from Motley Crue's extensive touring history. Each chapter focuses on a different tour, offering context and stories behind the images. It serves as both a historical record and a tribute to the spectacle of their live shows.

6. Touring with the Crue: Stories from the Road Crew

Offering a unique perspective, this book compiles stories and interviews from the road crew members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. It reveals the logistical challenges and personal dynamics involved in keeping Motley Crue's tours running smoothly. Readers gain an appreciation for the unsung heroes of the band's touring success.

7. Girls, Guns, and Rock 'n' Roll: Motley Crue's Tour Antics

This entertaining read focuses on the wild lifestyle and notorious antics the band indulged in while on tour. From outrageous parties to run-ins with the law, it paints a vivid picture of the excess that defined their touring years. The book also touches on how these experiences influenced their music and public image.

8. Escape to the Stage: The Evolution of Motley Crue's Live Performances

Examining the band's growth as live performers, this book tracks changes in their stage presence, set design, and musical arrangements throughout their touring history. It discusses how they adapted to changing musical trends and audience expectations over time. The book also highlights memorable performances and critical receptions.

9. Final Tour: Motley Crue's Farewell Journey

Documenting the band's farewell tours, this book captures the emotional and nostalgic atmosphere surrounding their final performances. It includes reflections from band members, fans, and critics on what these tours meant for the legacy of Motley Crue. The narrative offers a comprehensive overview of how the band said goodbye to their fans and the road.

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