
The Only Way to Fly

Posted by Crupi Nuts - 2007/11/13 18:59

This is going to be amazing. Looking forward to the additional US dates to be announced.

IRON MAIDEN will fly into the USA especially for the East Rutherford show from Puerto Rico the day before and depart for Toronto the day after on a specially commissioned and customized Boeing 757, flown by airline captain and MAIDEN vocalist Bruce Dickinson. The Astraesus 757, decked out in MAIDEN and Eddie designs, will carry the band, road crew and other personnel of around 70 people plus over 12 tons of equipment.

This first leg of the "Somewhere Back In Time" world tour opens in Mumbai India on February 1, and continues through Australia and Japan before arriving in Los Angeles. The entourage then fly to Mexico then the band's first-ever concerts in Costa Rica and Columbia, and then on to Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Puerto Rico and New York, before finishing in Toronto, Canada, on March 16.

Over the 45-day period it is anticipated that MAIDEN will play to well over 400,000 fans in 21 cities in 10 countries, flying close to 50,000 miles in the specially refitted plane.

Comments vocalist Bruce Dickinson: "I have been flying commercial passenger jets for Astraesus Airlines for a few years now and we are commissioning an Astraesus Boeing 757. It will go in for overhaul, painting and conversion in November which will then give us time to ensure we have all the necessary safety documentation, especially with regard to fire safety. It also means it could possibly be flying commercial air routes decked out in MAIDEN colours for a couple of months before we start!

"Looking at the list of places we would like to play we have always had problems joining up the dots. With sea containers in various places it slows down the whole touring process, which is fine if you want a holiday but not if you want to play. It's great to see places but we don't want to sit around for a week waiting for gear to get from, say, Australia to South America, so this way we can get to more fans in more places en route in the same time period".

To tie in with forthcoming 2008 releases on DVD of the classic "Live After Death" concert video (full details coming soon) this tour, aptly entitled "Somewhere Back In Time", will revisit the band's history by focusing almost entirely on the '80s in both choice of songs played and the stage set, which will be based around the legendary Egyptian production of the 1984-85 "Powerslave Tour". This will arguably be the most elaborate and spectacular show the band have ever presented, and will include some key elements of their "Somewhere In Time" tour of 1986/7, such as the Cyborg Eddie.

Bassist Steve Harris comments: "We made sure the tour stopped off in New York, or to be more accurate, New Jersey, but to us Brits it's all a great arena to play with some of the loudest fans anywhere! We've had so many memorable nights there over the years — both on stage and off! — and played many different venues, including the Garden and the seven nights at Radio City with the original 'Powerslave' show in 1984. But one of our favorites was always what we still call Meadowlands; it's always a great crowd there.

"The last time we played California was the Verizon last October and it was a fantastic gig, sold out well in advance so the fans were well up for it. It was as good a crowd reaction as we have ever had in L.A. It was also our last show on that U.S. tour and really ended up a night to remember. It will certainly be the first time we have played L.A. by flying in, doing the show and flying straight out again — we usually like to hang around there for a few days!! We will have to make up for it next time!!

"I always loved the 'Powerslave' show which I think was arguably our most spectacular ever, so bringing it back to L.A. — where we originally filmed the show at Long Beach Arena for our 'Live After Death' video — has got to be special and we are very much looking forward to it.

"As always when planning these tours, we sadly aren't always able to get to everywhere that we'd like to for various logistical and timing reasons and there are probably fans out there who might be disappointed. We promise we will try even harder the next time around to get to those places."

The IRON MAIDEN fan club has arranged an exclusive first access pre-sale for members to buy tickets to the show on Tuesday, November 6 before tickets go on sale to the public on November 10.

To allow fans to be right up close to the band, the fan club will also be running a special draw whereby 60 winners and friend at each show will be given first access to the venue enabling them to be first to the stage barrier. The fan club is also arranging for two fan club winners to get up on stage and join MAIDEN with the chorus of "Heaven Can Wait".

Tickets go on sale to the general public beginning Saturday, November 10 at 10:00 a.m.

IRON MAIDEN's "Somewhere Back In Time" world tour 2008:

- Feb. 01 - Mumbai, India @ Bandra Kurla Complex
- Feb. 04 - Perth, Australia @ Burswood Dome
- Feb. 06 - Melbourne, Australia @ Rod Laver Arena
- Feb. 07 - Melbourne, Australia @ Rod Laver Arena
- Feb. 09 - Sydney, Australia @ Acer Arena
- Feb. 10 - Sydney, Australia @ Acer Arena
- Feb. 12 - Brisbane, Australia @ Entertainment Centre
- Feb. 15 - Yokohama, Japan @ Pacifico Yokohama
- Feb. 16 - Tokyo, Japan @ Messe
- Feb. 19 - Los Angeles, CA @ The Forum
- Feb. 21 - Guadalajara, Mexico @ Auditoria Telmex
- Feb. 22 - Monterrey, Mexico @ Monterrey Arena
- Feb. 24 - Mexico City, Mexico @ Sports Palace
- Feb. 26 - San Jose, Costa Rica @ Saprisa Stadium
- Feb. 28 - Bogota, Colombia @ Simon Bolivar Park
- Mar. 02 - Sao Paulo, Brazil @ Skol Arena Anhembi
- Mar. 05 - Porto Alegre, Brazil @ Gigantinho
- Mar. 07 - Buenos Aires, Argentina @ Ferrocarril Oeste Stadium
- Mar. 09 - Santiago, Chile @ Pista Atletica
- Mar. 12 - San Juan, Puerto Rico @ San Juan Coliseo
- Mar. 14 - East Rutherford, NJ @ Izod Center (formerly Continental Airlines Arena)
- Mar. 16 - Toronto, Canada @ Air Canada Centre

The second leg of the tour will take place mid-May to mid-June with further concerts in North America, followed by the third leg European tour, extensively covering most of Europe in stadiums and major festivals. In total the band is expected to play to well in excess of one and a half million fans during the entire tour.

"Does this proposition entail my dressing up as Little Bo Peep?" - F. Fletch
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