



JOURNEY
THROUGH SOUND

SELF-GUIDED MEMORABILIA TOUR

Hard Rock
CAFE

ERIC CLAPTON - RED GUITAR

The first piece of memorabilia in the Hard Rock collection

Sometime around 1979, Eric Clapton gave one of his guitars to the Hard Rock Cafe in London. The guitar was hung on the wall to commemorate his generosity and friendship to the Hard Rock Cafe. A short time later, a gentleman showed up at the Hard Rock with a guitar case for delivery to the owners. Inside was a black Gibson Les Paul from Pete Townshend with a note that said simply "Mine's as good as his! Love, Pete". These two guitars started the Hard Rock's ongoing quest to acquire and display pieces of Rock history for the enjoyment of fans everywhere.

QUEEN - STRATOCASTER GUITAR

This white Fender Stratocaster was signed by all members of Queen, including the later Freddie Mercury and is rumored to be the only electric guitar Freddie Mercury ever played live. Few bands embodied the pure excess of the '70s like Queen. Embracing the exaggerated pomp of progressive rock and heavy metal, the British quartet created a huge, mock-operatic sound with layered guitars and overdubbed vocals.

JOHN LENNON - DENIM JACKET

In addition to being the greatest electric guitarist who ever lived, Jimi Hendrix was a true style icon. The classic "psychedelic gypsy" look that was so popular in the late '60s is largely attributed to his personal aesthetic. Jimi owned this velvet vest at the height of the hippie movement in 1968.

MICK JAGGER - SEQUIN JACKET

The flamboyant stage jacket of emerald green, peacock blue, and gold iridescent sequins suited the stage antics of its wearer, Mick Jagger, during the Rolling Stones' 'Steel Wheels/Urban Jungle' tour in 1989. The 'Steel Wheels' album itself received good reviews, but the LP was overshadowed by the supporting tour, which grossed over 140 million dollars and broke many box office records.

JOHN LENNON - DENIM JACKET

This is the jacket John Lennon was wearing when he got ejected for being disruptive during the Smothers Brothers' performance at the Troubadour Club in 1974. While the former Beatle and wife Yoko Ono were separated, a drunk Lennon and close friend Harry Nilsson, heckled the Smothers Brothers' comedy act at the Troubadour Club. They were both roughly removed from the club. Lennon was quoted to say, "When you're thirty-five, you can't take as much booze... and I always go a little violent on the drink..."

AXL ROSE - LEATHER JACKET

Autographed on the left sleeve by Guns 'N' Roses frontman Axl Rose, this leather jacket was worn at a 1989 appearance with the Rolling Stones. Depending who you ask, Guns N' Roses vocalist Axl Rose is either considered a rock music icon who is worshipped by millions as an almost Christ-like figure, or hated as a homophobic, misogynistic, and woefully self-indulgent "rock star," as well as thought of as a tyrant by his ex-bandmates. He is certainly controversial.

OASIS - GUITAR

Signed by the members of Oasis, this guitar represents a band shot from obscurity to stardom in 1994. Along with Blur and Suede, Oasis was responsible for returning British guitar pop to the top of the charts. Oasis adopted the rough, thuggish image of the Stones and The Who, and crossed it with "Beatlesque" melodies and hooks. They are infamous for the in-band feud between brothers Noel and Liam Gallagher.

PRINCE - PERSPEX CANE

Used regularly during Prince's Purple Rain world tour, this clear cane was filled with translucent fluid and a myriad of purple, blue, silver, and gold glitter pieces shaped in stars, hearts, and circles. Purple Rain made Prince a superstar; it eventually sold over ten million copies in the U.S. and spent 24 weeks at number one.

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