# Def Leppard’s 2026 UK and European tour promises a classic-rock reunion with surprises



British rock icons Def Leppard have unveiled plans for a significant UK and European tour scheduled for summer 2026, marking a major return to headline arenas across the continent. The band will kick off the tour in mainland Europe with "An Evening With" performances beginning June 16 in Rättvik, Sweden, and continuing through Helsinki, Finland; Zurich, Switzerland; and Dortmund, Germany. The UK leg of the tour starts on June 26 in Belfast at Belsonic, followed by high-profile shows in Glasgow at the OVO Hydro, Sheffield’s Utilita Arena, London’s The O2, Birmingham’s BP Pulse Live, and Manchester’s Co-op Live—the latter noted as the largest arena in the UK with a 23,500 capacity.

Wrapping the European schedule, Def Leppard will headline the renowned Wacken Open Air festival in Germany on July 30 before concluding with another "An Evening With" show in Dubai on August 2. Support for most headline performances will come from the hard rock band Extreme, except for the Scandinavian, Wacken, and Dubai dates. Tickets for this eagerly anticipated tour go on general sale at 10 am local time on Friday, September 5, with Wacken festival tickets already available.

This tour is particularly significant as it is the band's first headline solo tour across the UK and Europe since their sold-out 2023 run with Mötley Crüe and follows their acclaimed Las Vegas residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace earlier in 2026. The band’s frontman, Joe Elliott, has expressed excitement about the upcoming shows, promising both "surprises and classics" for fans.

Beyond touring, Def Leppard continues to be musically active following the release of their 2022 album 'Diamond Star Halos' and the 2023 orchestral collaboration 'Drastic Symphonies' with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. They also released the single "Just Like 73," featuring Tom Morello of Rage Against The Machine, and in 2024 offered a cover of Ben E. King's "Stand By Me." Their affinity for intimate live performances was captured in "Live at The Leadmill," documenting an iconic show at their hometown venue in Sheffield just before its closure.

The announcement of this tour aligns with an active live music landscape, with other major artists like Florence + The Machine and Rick Astley also planning extensive tours in 2026, reflecting a robust demand for live performances post-pandemic. Florence + The Machine’s "Everybody Scream Tour" will visit many UK arenas in early 2026, while Rick Astley is set for a UK-wide arena tour in April. Meanwhile, other veteran acts like David Gray and Barry Manilow have also scheduled multiple UK dates in the summer of 2026, indicating a vibrant touring season that appeals to a wide range of music fans.

Def Leppard will return to the UK a bit sooner to headline BBC Radio 2 in the Park at Chelmsford's Hylands Park on September 7, 2025, their only UK show that year. This appearance will keep the band's live presence vibrant while fans await their comprehensive 2026 tour. Tickets for that festival and the Dubai and Australian shows later in 2025 remain available.

Overall, Def Leppard’s 2026 tour reaffirms their enduring appeal and status as rock legends, poised to deliver memorable experiences across some of the UK and Europe’s most prestigious venues, supported by fellow rockers Extreme. Fans should prepare for a mix of classic hits and fresh material, all delivered with the energy and passion that have characterised the band’s storied career.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.stereoboard.com/content/view/248817/9), [[2]](https://www.stereoboard.com/content/view/248817/9), [[3]](https://www.deflepparduk.com/def-leppard-announce-live-2026-uk-european-tour-dates.html), [[4]](https://defleppard.com/def-leppard-live-2026-uk-eu-tour-just-announced/), [[6]](https://entertainment-focus.com/2025/09/01/def-leppard-announce-2026-uk-and-european-tour-with-extreme-as-special-guests/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.stereoboard.com/content/view/248817/9), [[4]](https://defleppard.com/def-leppard-live-2026-uk-eu-tour-just-announced/), [[6]](https://entertainment-focus.com/2025/09/01/def-leppard-announce-2026-uk-and-european-tour-with-extreme-as-special-guests/), [[3]](https://www.deflepparduk.com/def-leppard-announce-live-2026-uk-european-tour-dates.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.stereoboard.com/content/view/248817/9), [[5]](https://www.nme.com/news/music/def-leppard-promise-surprises-and-classics-as-they-announce-2026-uk-and-european-arena-tour-3889093)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.stereoboard.com/content/view/248817/9), [[2]](https://www.stereoboard.com/content/view/248817/9), [[5]](https://www.nme.com/news/music/def-leppard-promise-surprises-and-classics-as-they-announce-2026-uk-and-european-arena-tour-3889093)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.stereoboard.com/content/view/248817/9), [[7]](https://florenceandthemachine.net/tour), [[1]](https://www.stereoboard.com/content/view/248817/9)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.stereoboard.com/content/view/248817/9), [[4]](https://defleppard.com/def-leppard-live-2026-uk-eu-tour-just-announced/), [[6]](https://entertainment-focus.com/2025/09/01/def-leppard-announce-2026-uk-and-european-tour-with-extreme-as-special-guests/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.stereoboard.com/content/view/248817/9> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.stereoboard.com/content/view/248817/9> - Def Leppard have announced a UK and European tour for summer 2026, featuring dates in Rättvik, Sweden, Helsinki, Finland, Zurich, Switzerland, and Dortmund, Germany. The UK leg includes performances in Belfast, Glasgow, Sheffield, London, Birmingham, and Manchester. Support will come from Extreme at all headline shows, except for the dates in Sweden, Wacken, and Dubai. Tickets for the UK and European dates go on general sale at 10am local time on Friday, September 5, while tickets for Wacken are already on sale.
3. <https://www.deflepparduk.com/def-leppard-announce-live-2026-uk-european-tour-dates.html> - Def Leppard have announced a new UK and European arena tour for Summer 2026, including dates in Belfast, Glasgow, Sheffield, London, Birmingham, and Manchester. The Manchester show will be at Co-Op Live, the largest arena in the UK with a 23,500 capacity. The London show will be their second at The O2 Arena after the 2018 'Hysteria At The O2' concert video. Other European dates include Rättvik, Helsinki, Zurich, and Dortmund, with a show in Dubai in August 2026. Tickets go on sale from Friday, September 5, at 10am.
4. <https://defleppard.com/def-leppard-live-2026-uk-eu-tour-just-announced/> - Def Leppard is taking over the UK and Europe in 2026 with a Summer tour featuring special guest Extreme. Rock Brigade Concert Club members will get first access to tickets and VIP packages on Tuesday, September 2, at 10am. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Friday, September 5. The tour includes dates in Rättvik, Helsinki, Zurich, Dortmund, Belfast, Glasgow, Sheffield, London, Birmingham, Manchester, Wacken, and Dubai.
5. <https://www.nme.com/news/music/def-leppard-promise-surprises-and-classics-as-they-announce-2026-uk-and-european-arena-tour-3889093> - Def Leppard have announced new 2026 tour dates for the UK and Europe, which will see them break out 'surprises and classics'. The tour includes dates in Rättvik, Helsinki, Zurich, Dortmund, Belfast, Glasgow, Sheffield, London, Birmingham, Manchester, Wacken, and Dubai. Frontman Joe Elliott said they are looking forward to playing Radio 2 in the Park in Chelmsford this week, their only UK date of 2025, and are very excited to announce their UK and European dates in 2026.
6. <https://entertainment-focus.com/2025/09/01/def-leppard-announce-2026-uk-and-european-tour-with-extreme-as-special-guests/> - Def Leppard have announced a return to the UK and Europe in summer 2026 with an eleven-date headline tour. The run includes major stops such as The O2 in London and a homecoming show at Sheffield’s Utilita Arena. The band will also perform in Switzerland, Finland, and Germany, with Extreme joining as special guests on select dates. The 2026 shows will be the band’s first headline solo tour across the UK and Europe since their sold-out 2023 run with Mötley Crüe.
7. <https://florenceandthemachine.net/tour> - Florence + The Machine have announced their 'Everybody Scream Tour' for 2026, starting with UK arena shows in Belfast, Birmingham, Glasgow, Newcastle, Liverpool, Sheffield, Manchester, and London, where they'll headline two nights at The O2 between February 6 and 20. The tour then moves to mainland Europe, with performances in Paris, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Cologne, Vienna, Munich, Prague, Krakow, and Berlin from February 22 to March 9. Support on all dates comes from rising artist Paris Paloma. Tickets go on general sale at 10am local time on Friday, September 5.