

Welcome to Indy, Taylor!

How to prep for the ERAS TOUR



By Gillian Semmler
opinion editor

Make the friendship bracelets and get ready for it. The Eras tour is coming to Indianapolis.

“So make the friendship bracelets, take the moment and taste it” is what Taylor says in “You’re on your own kid.” Swifties have followed instructions and created friendship bracelets which they exchange and trade before, during and after the Eras Tour. Beads can be bought anywhere including Amazon, Walmart, and even Temu. Beads and bracelets are inexpensive ways to prepare for the tour, while

also creating fun sayings to share with others.

Bracelets can have everything from favorite song lyrics to inside jokes within the Swiftie community. Although friendship bracelets are seen as childish, these items are considered to be one of the most fun aspects about the show. If fans plan to make these bracelets, plan ahead and start making them with plenty of time before the show; they take longer to make than expected.

Put on the “best dress, Fearless” is a lyric from “Fearless” by Taylor. Fans adopted this saying by dressing up as their favorite Era. Fans do this by dressing in the album’s color or in an outfit featured on the album. An example of this would be wearing the “Junior Jewels” shirt from the “You Belong With Me” music video. Fans also opt for sparkly dresses with glitter and fringe. Every era has a different color; Debut is light green, Fearless is yellow/gold, Speak Now is purple, Red is red, 1989 is light blue, Reputation is black, Lover is pink, Folklore is gray, Evermore is brown, Midnights is dark blue/purple, and The Tortured Poets Department is light gray/white. Fans dressing up as their favorite albums is half the fun of the tour.

Swift’s favorite number is 13. She makes this clear with many easter eggs hidden within all of her albums. Swift’s No. 1 hit “Our Song” had a 13-second intro, Out Of The Woods, I Wish You Would, and Wildest Dreams, all have 13 letters in the name. Swift started this trend in 2009/2010 while on her Fearless Tour. Fans followed in her footsteps and began to write the number on the backs of their hands. These numbers are often outlined in Sharpie or eyeliner, then filled in with glitter.

“She wears high heels, I wear sneakers” are lyrics from Swift’s No. 1 hit “You Belong With Me.” Although sparkly boots are cute, after almost eight hours in them, fans might regret not bringing another pair to change into. Another cute option could be high top Converse that are the color of the outfit or era fans wear. Fans can add glitter or rhinestones to them to make them stand out while staying comfortable.

From vintage tees to old cardigans, Swift has a variety of merchandise that she sells at every show. Shirts and sweatshirts range from \$40 - \$75. Her merchandise trucks often arrive two to three days before the show so fans can get merchandise early and not have to wait in line. Swift’s merchandise varies from tank tops, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and her infamous cardigans.

Arriving early is also important. Lines often grow quickly, which results in merchandise selling out quickly. Getting to the venue a few hours early can help fans in the long run. While fans wait, they can make or trade friendship bracelets, listen to Swift’s music, and make friends with other Swifties.



Ava Augustine photo



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What to expect from the ERAS TOUR



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From Surprise songs to Taylor’s Version announcements, The Eras Tour is nothing less than magical.

Surprise songs, also known as the acoustic set of the Eras tour, are played after The Tortured Poets Department set and before Midnights. Taylor picks two songs specially to perform that are not currently a part of her setlist. Towards the end of her first leg of the tour, Swift began to make mashups of songs. This would result in Swift going back and forth between two songs. The best way to prepare for this is to know a lot of her songs. Swift typically plays more of her songs that are not featured in her setlist. There are only five songs out of Swift’s 257 released songs that she has not played on tour. This

includes two from Fearless (Taylor’s Version), three from Red (Taylor’s Version), one from Lover, and one from The Tortured Poets Department.

Taylor is considered to be the queen of surprises, also known as Easter Eggs. Swift often hides these things within music videos, outfits, or even when she speaks in interviews. Currently, Swifties are looking forward to Swift releasing Reputation (Taylor’s Version). At concerts in the past, fans have heard apparent snake noises which could be a hint towards the upcoming album. Fans are often on the lookout for Swift to come out on stage with a new outfit for her Reputation Era. Fans speculate that when Swift comes out with an all green outfit, the new album will be announced soon. The last album to be re-recorded and released was 1989; the album was re-released in October of 2023.

While the Eras tour has many specialty features not many other concerts have, each show is different and memorable in their own way. At every concert during specific songs, fans have added chants. One of the popular ones include counting “1,2,3, lets go...” during the song Delicate in the Reputation Era. Another one includes the song Bad Blood, Swift partners with rapper/songwriter Kendrick Lamar to produce this song. Swift sings: “Band-Aids don’t fix bullet holes, you say sorry just for show. If you live like that, you live with ghosts.” After the first round of this line, fans chant: “You forgive, you forget, but you never let it (beat) go.” Some songs do not include adding other lyrics, though. In Shake It Off, and You Belong With Me include double and triple claps within the song.

Where to find outfits for the ERAS TOUR

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From the enchanting, princess-like gowns from Speak Now to edgy outfits from Reputation, every look from the Eras tour tells a story.

“The dress that I bought and wore looked really similar to the one she wore on her Fearless tour. I also found a lot of inspiration on Pinterest from other girls that had gone to earlier shows,” junior Ava Augustine said.

Students who have attended her concerts found inspiration from many different places.

“For the Eras Tour, I wore a pink dress that ruffled when I moved because she wore a gold one in Fearless. I was going to get my outfit somewhere in person so I could try it on and have options, but I waited too long so my mom got my dress off of Amazon with express shipping,” junior Hannah Robinson said.

Outfits for the concert take inspiration from Taylor’s many different eras, senior Eleanor Guipe wanted to embody the Reputation era.

“I wore a top hat that had a newspaper print on it and a sparkly skirt with my pink Converse. I got all of my stuff from Amazon. My inspo for my

outfit was the Reputation album. I went to the concert when it was in Indy, and it’s my favorite album. I dressed up as the Reputation era since it is my favorite because it’s all about getting revenge for yourself,” Guipe said.

Super cute and inexpensive is the way to go for the Eras tour.

“I wore a gold tassel dress to represent the Fearless era, I had on white boots and I also made friendship bracelets to give away and trade. I bought my dress on Shein. It was inexpensive while also being good quality and super cute. My white cowgirl boots were from TJ Maxx, and all of the jewelry I wore with it was from Amazon,” Augustine said.

Inspiration for outfits can easily be found with a little help from social media.

“My inspiration was honestly watching TikTok. I saw someone with a dress similar that I loved, and I knew I was going to wear something like that. I also couldn’t decide between Fearless and Lover, so that dress was perfect because it was her Fearless dress but pink. I went as Fearless and Lover because my dress went with both eras,” Robinson said.



Junior Ava Augustine poses for a photo outside the Paycor Stadium in Cincinnati. Augustine dressed up as the Fearless Era. Ava Augustine photo

Senior Eleanor Guipe stands in the rain at Nissan Stadium while the show was on lightning delay. Swift played until 1 am because of the delay. Olivia Baker photo