



Eras Tour: Singapore Justifies Being Taylor Swift's Only Southeast Asia Stop Amidst Complaints from Neighbours

Description

CNN

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Singapore, having inked an exclusive accord with concert organizers, has become the sole Southeast Asian destination for Taylor Swift's Eras Tour, eliciting substantial consternation amongst its geographical compatriots.

Interestingly, the ire is steered not at the luminary but at the authoritarian echelons situated in Singapore, embroiled in a controversial pact to ensure the city-state's exclusivity in Swift's tour within the Southeast Asian boundaries.

This strategic maneuver has proven a boon for Singapore, one of the potent metropolises in Southeast Asia. The city-state is savouring a significant surge in its economic throughput as fervent fans expend on flights, lodgings, and memorabilia, often limited edition collectibles, exhibiting a typical pattern observed wherever the sensational artist chooses to perform.

Despite the apparent upside, nations in proximity have vocalized their discontent, with Filipino legislative member Joey Salceda opining that monopolistic arrangements are contrary to what constitutes harmonious neighborly relations.

In a riposte to the aforementioned disapproval, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has categorically dismissed allegations of being un-accommodating to its neighbouring countries by striking a deal with the chart-topping singer.

Promulgating his standpoint at a press briefing conducted during his state visit to Australia, he adroitly extricated his administration from the controversy, contending how through unrelenting negotiations, a symbiotic pact was clinched, which assured Swift's visit to Singapore and its consequential exclusivity in Southeast Asia's entertainment landscape.

The premier elucidated how certain incentives lured the artist to the nation, before going on to underscore that the agreement has been nothing short of lucrative. He denied any trace of unfriendly machinations involved and saw no reason to perceive it as such.

Seeking to further clarify the situation, he mused over the possibility of Swift embarking on a more comprehensive Southeast Asian tour had the said arrangement not been adopted, concluding that the debate led to speculative uncertainties.

Singapore's officials had earlier on conceded to have incentivized Swift's visit through a grant, the magnitude of which has been considerably downplayed by the country's culture minister, Edward Tong. He



categorically refuted rampant speculations regarding its size, declaring them inaccurate and ostensibly inflated.

Concurrent debates have ensued in various parts of the region, with Thailand's Premier Srettha Thavisin sensationally asserting during a corporate symposium on February 16 in Bangkok that Singapore allegedly committed to a financial compensation of up to \$3 million per concert to Swift, contingent on her exclusivity to perform in the country.

Thus far, Swift's entourage remains tight-lipped over the mounting controversy and has chosen to refrain from commenting on the furore or responding to any media queries. Meanwhile, both the Philippines and Thailand continue their streak of hosting notable international music acts that leave audiences captivated, Coldplay being a notable example.

The Eras Tour — a multifaceted musical extravaganza spanning several continents, has rocketed to become the highest-grossing tour ever. Simultaneously, it has significantly augmented Singapore's coffers.

Swift has garnered an astounding fan turnout, with six sell-out performances to approximately 300,000 spectators in the island nation. A staggering 70% of the attendees have travelled from overseas, leading to a notional spending mushrooming to near \$370 million in the city-state, as per an economist's estimates from Maybank.

From March 1-9, during the pop diva's sojourn in Singapore, a monumental 186% surge in Singapore-bound flights has been reported, alongside a five-fold jump in accommodation bookings. These figures, furnished by Edmund Ong, General Manager at travel platform Trip.com in Singapore, underscore the economic mint Swift's visit has spawned.

Such large-scale globe-trotting music festivities prove a gift for Singapore's tourism and allied services, contributing a plausible 10% to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to a note by HSBC's ASEAN economist Yun Liu.

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Ardent Filipino fans, including Errol De Asis, Gilliane Granada, Christel Kaye Kuan, Yedda Mendoza, journeyed to Singapore, with dreams of experiencing Swift's riveting performance at the Eras Tour.

Indeed, fans from the Philippines, Thailand, China, and several other nations have splurged considerable sums on concert and airfare, coupled with the additional undisclosed expenses associated with uniquely themed costumes, sequined dresses, and other essentials aligning with groupies' frequent festival patterns.

For numerous Filipino followers, the cost implications of such an overseas musical endeavor can prove exorbitant. When judged against the annual GDP per capita in the Philippines, approximately \$3,500 as per the World Bank, they pale in comparison to the affluence personified by Singapore — one of the global powerhouses, where the GDP per capita escalates to a whopping \$83,000, approximately 23 times that of the former.



Nevertheless, the allure of an immersive Swift performance, often touted as a 'once in a lifetime extravagance,' has compelled ardent fans like Charlyn Suizo amongst others to embark on such an extravagant journey.

With a palpable air of stoicism, Suizo elucidates, "This is the most splurge-worthy concert experience I have ever indulged in. Never before have I carelessly exhausted six-digit amounts (in Philippine peso) for anyone, besides Taylor Swift."

Singapore's strong economic position coupled with one of Asia's mightiest currencies exacerbate the costs for tourists originating from emerging markets in the region.

Vocalizing her thoughts about the location choice, 24-year-old Gilliane Granada, who trotted to the concert from the Philippines with a trio of friends, recognised that while the increment in costs was noticeable, the choice of venue indeed substantiated the decision to hold the concert in the city-state.

"I don't believe we'd possess a venue of adequate magnitude to house her, her stage and complex production requirements. That's probably one of the primary reasons they opted to organise it here in Singapore because it's a grand stadium," Granada shared her insights.

Her confidante, Christel Kaye Kuan, aged 25, further added that their quartet had together spent about \$2,000 on concert tickets, flights, and accommodation. Despite the relatively costly expedition, the group viewed it as their maiden international excursion, effectively adding to the charm of the experience.

In the broader context, their expedition was almost a six-fold multiplication of the average monthly wage in their homeland, notably paralleled with the latest governmental census data.

The group, however, are resolute in affirming their decision, see it as a necessary indulgence "because we get to see Taylor."

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Vocabulary List:

1. **Eliciting** // (verb): Drawing out a reaction or response.
2. **Consequential** // (adjective): Following as a result or effect.
3. **Boon** // (noun): Something beneficial.
4. **Contention** // (noun): Disagreement or dispute.
5. **Extricate** // (verb): To free or release from entanglement.
6. **Splurge** // (verb): To spend lavishly or extravagantly.

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the opposite of obscurity?
Option: Prominence
Option: Reckoning
Option: Quixotic
Option: Indelible
2. Which word means cheerful and full of energy?
Option: Accolades
Option: Ebullient
Option: Unforeseen
Option: Quixotic
3. What is the legal term for damaging someone's reputation?
Option: Splurge
Option: Litigation
Option: Defamation
Option: Dismiss
4. Which word means a helpful or beneficial thing?
Option: Consequential
Option: Boon



Option: Contention

Option: Extricate

5. What word describes a revival or comeback?

Option: Prime

Option: Amour

Option: Resurgence

Option: Collaborative

6. What adjective means unpleasant or morally offensive?

Option: Distasteful

Option: Retaliation

Option: Unsavory

Option: Refraining

7. Which verb means to suppress or put an end to?

Option: Inhibitions

Option: Quashing

Option: Unsavory

Option: Refraining

8. Which term refers to a close connection or relationship?

Option: Quixotic

Option: Amour

Option: Eliciting

Option: Liaison

9. What word means to spend extravagantly or in large amounts?

Option: Boon

Option: Litigation

Option: Splurge

Option: Dismiss

10. What adjective means of the best quality or importance?

Option: Consequential

Option: Boon

Option: Prime

Option: Contention

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)



11. The memory of his first trip abroad left an _____ mark on his mind.
12. The talented actress received many _____ for her exceptional performance in the film.
13. The author's latest novel received numerous _____ from literary critics.
14. It was challenging to _____ the truth from the web of lies he had spun.
15. You need to provide evidence to _____ your claim.
16. The organization's goals were quite _____ and lacked clarity.
17. The judge decided to _____ the case due to lack of evidence.
18. He had a hard time _____ from eating the delicious dessert.
19. After a few drinks he lost all his _____ and started dancing in the middle of the room.
20. The actions we take today will have _____ implications for the future.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Her dreams of traveling the world with just a backpack seemed to many of her friends.
22. Their passionate was the talk of the town.
23. The artist was successful in emotions through her poignant paintings.
24. The issue of climate change remains a major point of in political debates.
25. The company faced years of costly due to the legal disputes with its competitors.
26. The boss decided to his secretary after she made a serious mistake.
27. The young musician received multiple prestigious for her outstanding debut album.
28. The sudden storm was an event that caught everyone off guard.
29. The project's success was attributed to the efforts of the entire team.



30. Her comments at the dinner table were deemed by the other guests.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Prominence 2. Ebullient 3. Defamation 4. Boon 5. Resurgence 6. Unsavory 7. Quashing
8. Liaison 9. Splurge 10. Prime

Gap-Fill: 11. Indelible 12. Accolades 13. Accolades 14. Extricate 15. Substantiate 16. Amorphous 17. Dismiss
18. Refraining 19. Inhibitions 20. Consequential

Matching sentence: 1. Quixotic 2. Amour 3. Eliciting 4. Contention 5. Litigation 6. Dismiss 7. Accolades
8. Unforeseen 9. Collaborative 10. Distasteful

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL6

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