

THE MOUNTIES

The Mountie with their scarlet jackets and large hats are the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. They were created in 1920 when there were whisky smugglers and horse thieves on the prairies. Now the Mounties are famous all over the world. Today, Mounties use jeeps, planes and snowmobiles rather than horses, but you can see them with their horses on ceremonial occasions.

THE CALGARY STAMPEDE

The Calgary Stampede started in 1912. It celebrates the culture of the Old Wild West and the cowboys' way of life.

The 10-day festival starts with a parade through the streets of the town. There is a traditional rodeo where cowboys ride wild horses and bulls, then catch and tie up (legare) young cows.

In the evenings there is a chuckwagon race and then a firework display. More than one million people go to the Stampede each year. They dress in western clothes – jeans, a denim or plaid (scozzese) shirt, a cowboy hat, a western-style belt, and a bandana tied at their neck. There are free breakfasts in Stampede week. Canadians have pancakes with maple syrups, then sausage, bacon and eggs. Canadians call the Stampede the “Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth”.