

## Victoria Day (Canada), Memorial Day (USA)



**As the weather improves and we start thinking about long weekends on a beach or outside with friends, two national holidays in North America mark the beginning of summer – 'Victoria Day' in Canada and 'Memorial Day' in the USA. Read on to find out more about these two very different holidays...**

### **Victoria Day, Canada: 23rd May 2016**

This federal Canadian holiday is celebrated on Monday May 23rd. It commemorates Queen Victoria's birthday and the official birthday of the current reigning Canadian (i.e. British) sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II.

21-gun salutes are fired in all of the provincial capitals and the Royal Union Flag (the Union Jack) is flown next to the Canadian national flag on all government buildings.

*Victoria Day* marks the end of the winter season in some Canadian ski resorts and the start of the summer season for parks, outdoor restaurants and city tour operators.

How much do you know about **Canada's provinces**? Just click here and try our **quiz** to find out:

<http://xportal.klett-sprachen.de/club/0018/>

To find out more about **Canada's provinces and territories** just click here:

[www.craigmarlatt.com/canada/provinces&territories/provinces&territories.html](http://www.craigmarlatt.com/canada/provinces&territories/provinces&territories.html)

## Memorial Day, USA: 30th May 2016

*Memorial Day* is a holiday throughout the United States of America and falls on the last Monday in May. It started out as a day to honour the people who had died while fighting in the American Civil War and now commemorates all American soldiers who have lost their lives in war. *Memorial Day* used to be known as *Decoration Day*.

People visit cemeteries and memorials on this day and there is a national moment of remembrance at 3 pm. It also marks the start of the summer holiday season.

To find out **more about *Memorial Day*** just click here:

<http://www1.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday>

Don't forget to print this page out and put it into your **Special Day file**:

<http://www.klett-sprachen.de/special-day-file>