Some interesting facts about the Buckingham Palace guards

Buckingham Palace, the London residence of the British monarch, is guarded by the famous Buckingham Palace guards, also known as the Queen's Guard or the King's Guard. These guards are known for their distinctive red uniforms and bearskin hats, and they have become an iconic symbol of the British monarchy. Here are a few interesting facts about the Buckingham Palace guards that you may not know:

1. The guards have been protecting the palace for over 350 years: The guards have been protecting Buckingham Palace and other royal palaces since 1660. They were first formed during the reign of King Charles II.
2. The guards are not just for show: Despite their ceremonial role, the guards are fully operational soldiers and are responsible for the security of the palace. They are trained to deal with any potential threats.
3. The guards are changed every two hours: The guards are changed every two hours, in a ceremony known as the Changing of the Guard. This ceremony takes place in front of the palace and is a popular tourist attraction.
4. The guards are not allowed to move or speak: During the Changing of the Guard ceremony, the guards are not allowed to move or speak, as it is considered a sign of disrespect to the monarch.
5. The guards come from different regiments: The guards come from different regiments, such as the Household Cavalry, the Grenadier Guards, the Coldstream Guards, and the Welsh Guards.
6. The guards are equipped with bayonets: The guards are equipped with bayonets and are trained to use them if needed. They also carry a rifle, but it is not loaded and the guards are not allowed to use it.
7. The guards have a unique uniform: The guards' uniform includes a red coat, black boots, and a bearskin hat, which is made from the fur of the Canadian black bear. The hats are made by H.J. Cave & Sons, a London-based company that has been making them since 1804.

These are just a few interesting facts about the Buckingham Palace guards. They are not only a symbol of the British monarchy but also a reminder of the history and tradition that the palace represents.