Part of the "History of National Flags" Series from Flagmakers
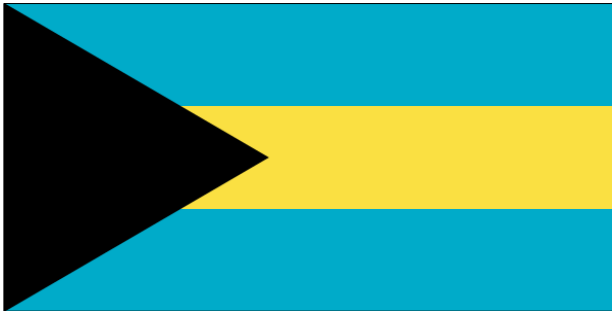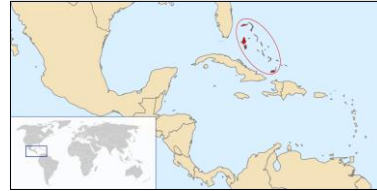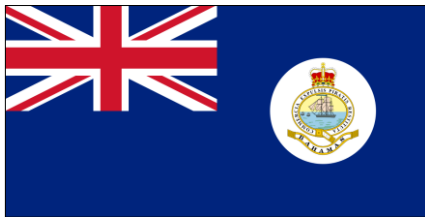
FLAG OF BAHAMAS - A BRIEF HISTORY

Where In The World

Trivia

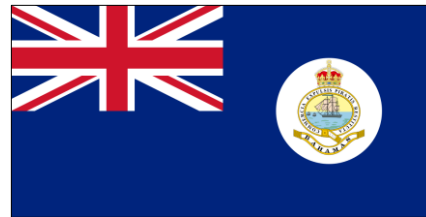The flag is a mix of various submissions from a national contest to design the flag.

Technical Specification

Adopted:	10th July 1973
Proportion:	1:2
Design:	An aquamarine, gold, aquamarine horizontal tricolour with a black equilateral triangle on the left hand side.
Colours:	PMS – **Blue**: 312 C, **Yellow**: 115 C CMYK – **Blue**: 100% Cyan, 15% Yellow; **Yellow**: 10% Magenta, 80% Yellow.

Brief History

The first flag of the Bahamas was introduced under British rule in 1869. The Flag of the Crown Colony of the Bahama Islands was a Blue Ensign with the Badge of the Bahama islands in the centre right hand side. The badge pictured British ships chasing after pirate ships, referencing how the British drove pirates from the island and helped bring order and featuring the crown at the top and a banner station "Pirates Expelled, Commerce Restored" at the bottom.

The Flag of the Crown Colony of the Bahama Islands (1869 -1904)	**The Crown Colony of the Bahama Islands (1904 – 1923)**

There were only minor changes to the badge during it's time as a Crown Colony, this included removal of the white disk surrounding the badge in 1923 and a slightly different design of the crown.

The Flag of the Crown Colony of the Bahama Islands (1923 – 1953)	**The Crown Colony of the Bahama Islands (1953 -1964)**

In 1965 internal autonomy was given to The Bahama Islands and new flag was chosen when The Bahamas finally became an independent Commonwealth realm in 1973.

The new flag was a mix of entries from a contest to design a new flag. It features an aquamarine stripes at the top and bottom with a gold stripe in the centre on the left hand side is a black equilateral triangle. The aquamarine stripes represent the sea and the gold is the land with the black triangle representing the people and their strength and unity.

The Coat of Arms of the Bahamas

The Coat of Arms of the Bahamas was first adopted in 1971 and features a shield split in two with a rising sun at the top and a ship representing Christopher Columbus's Santa Maria on the sea at the bottom.

Supporting the shield are a blue marlin on the sea and a red flamingo on the land. Above the shield is a helmet with a conch shell on top and below is a banner reading "FORWARD, UPWARD, ONWARD, TOGETHER."

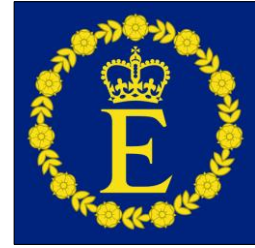## The Island Arms of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas

Since 1973 there has been eighteen 'Island Arms' for each of the regions of the Bahamas. They each reflect the regional island's individual culture. Examples of some of these arms are below.

The Arms of Acklins	**The Arms of Abaco**	**The Arms of Andros**	**The Arms of Berry Islands**
The Arms of Bimini	**The Arms of Cat Islands**	**The Arms of Eluthera**	**The Arms of Grand Bahama**
The Arms of Inagua	**The Arms of Mayguana**	**The Arms of New Provdence**	**The Arms of Ragged Island**
The Arms of Rum Cay		**The Arms of San Salvador**	

Flagmakers

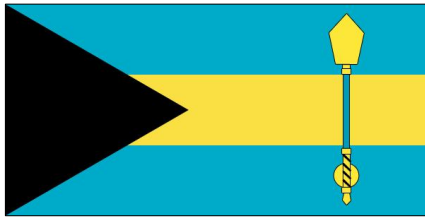## The Personal Flag of Queen Elizabeth II

The Personal Flag of Queen Elizabeth II was created in 1960 and is the royal standard in the Bahamas and all Commonwealth realms. It is a blue field wit h a golden crowned letter 'E' surrounded by gold roses.

The Personal Emblem of Queen Elizabeth II is similar with the blue only being inside the garland of gold roses.

The Governmental Flags of the Bahamas

The Flag of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas is the national flag with gold parliamentary mace and the flag of the Governor-General of the Bahamas is a lion standing on the St Edwards Crown with the words "COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS" below.

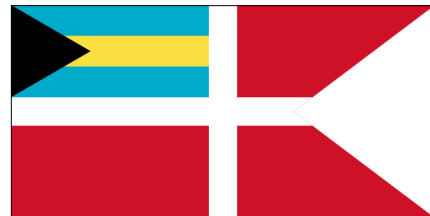**(mock-up of the) Flag of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas**

(mock-up of the) Flag of the Governor-General of the Bahamas

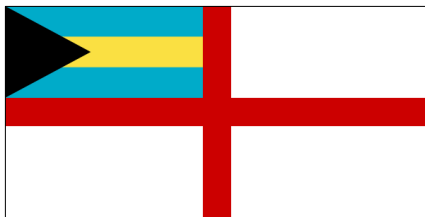## The Maritime Flags of the Bahamas

Here are some examples of the Maritime Flags of the Bahamas. Each features a cross and the national flag in the top left hand corner.

The Civil Ensign of the Bahamas

The Civil Jack of the Bahamas

The Naval Ensign of the Bahamas

The Flag of the Auxiliary Fleet of the Navy of the Bahamas