

FLAG OF BELIZE - A BRIEF HISTORY



Where In The World



Trivia

Belize is the only country to have humans depicted as a major design element on its flag.

Technical Specification

Adopted:	21 st September 1981
Proportion:	2:3
Design:	A blue field with red bars both side and the Coat of Arms of Belize in the middle.
Colours:	PMS – Red: 186, Blue: 264, Gold: 110, Green: 356

Brief History

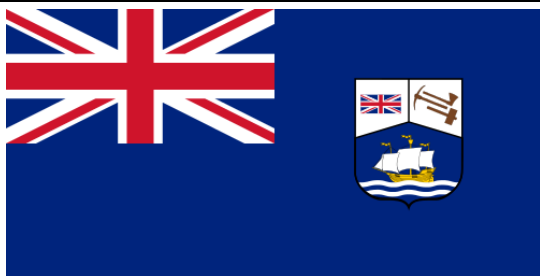
What is now known as Belize was originally a Maya civilisation; no flags were used at this point. Spanish explorers arrived in the 16th century, but due to its lack of gold and the Maya resistance, the Spanish did not settle.

The first known European settlers were pirates and buccaneers attempting to outrun the Spanish. These 'Baymen' did not have any specific flags and it wasn't until 1870 after the British colonised the land and changed its name to British Honduras that the first flag was created.

This was a standard British Blue Ensign with the Union Jack in the top left hand side and a badge split into three on the centre right. The three parts are the union jack, a selection of tools and a ship on the sea.

In addition a flag of the British Governor was designed at this point and sometimes contained the badge in the centre that was the same as on the right hand side of the flag.

Both the flag of British Honduras and the British Governor flag remained until independence in 1981.



The Flag of British Honduras
(1870 – 1981)



The flag of the Governor of British Honduras
(1870 – 1981)

Even though The Flag of British Honduras was still the National Flag, in 1950 an unofficial Civil Flag of Belize was created as a symbol of the need for independence. This was the inspiration for the Flag of Belize once it gained independence in 1981.

The Flag of Belize contains a version of the British colonised coat of arms, which is surrounded by fifty leaves and a mahogany tree behind it. On either side of the shield are two men of different shades of brown, one holding an axe and the other an oar. Underneath is the national motto "Under The Shade I Flourish".

Also a new Governor-General Flag was designed that is a simple blue flag with a lion on top of a crown with Belize underneath.



**The Flag of Belize
(1981 to Present Day)**

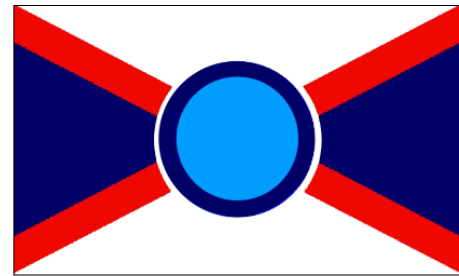


**The Flag of the Governor-General of Belize
(1981 to Present Day)**

Other Flags of Belize

The Belize Defence force is a dark blue, red and white satire with a mahogany tree in the centre with a rifle and axe.

The Belize Defence Force's Air Wing replaces the red and dark blue with sky blue.



(Mock up of) Belize Defence Force Air Wing Flag