

FLAG OF ICELAND - A BRIEF HISTORY



Where In The World



Trivia

The Iceland flag is not to be confused with the Flag of Norway which bears the same colours but in reverse order.

Technical Specification

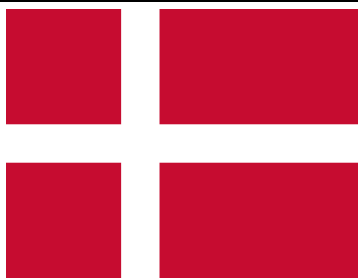
Adopted:	1777
Proportion:	18:25
Design:	A red Scandinavian cross with white fimbriation set on a blue field
Colours:	PMS - Blue: 287 C, Red: 1795 C CMYK - Blue: 100% Cyan, 69% Magenta, 0% Yellow, 11.5% Black; Red: 0% Cyan, 94% Magenta, 100% Yellow, 0% Black

Brief History

For a thousand years, from its original Viking settlement to its autonomous independence in 1912, the country of Iceland bore the flag of Denmark.

The 19th Century was rife with political upheaval, and Iceland was not an exception. The people of Iceland, headed by a political independence movement, sought complete autonomy. To its credit, Denmark granted the province of Iceland complete autonomy in 1874, with its own constitution and its own ministry in the Danish government. The King of Denmark remained head of state.

But it was in 1918, at the close of the Great War, that Iceland was issued with independence and sovereignty as its own state, in union with Denmark under the same monarch. Iceland's flag had actually been in use since 1915, but now it was recognised as the flag of the nation. The blue symbolised the stark blue mountains, or alternatively, the ocean. White represented the ice that encrusted the eponymous island. Red stood for the active volcanoes, which have also made the country famous.



The Danish Flag



The First Flag of Iceland
(1918 – 1944)

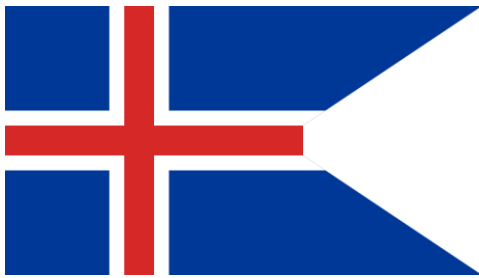
There was very little change to the flag in 1944 when Iceland became a republic.
The flag of Iceland had previously worn a brighter blue, and was changed to a deeper colour.
In 1991, legislation codified the colours of the flag in absolute terms.



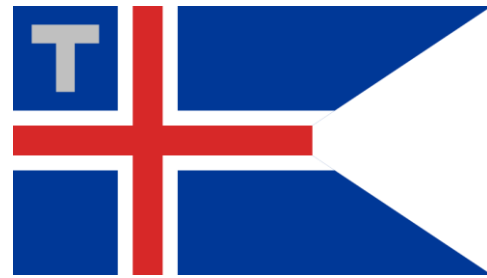
**The Flag of Iceland
(1944 to Present Day)**

Ensigns of Iceland

Iceland's State Flag, known as Tjúgufáni, is a swallow-tailed version of the Flag of Iceland and serves multiple purposes. It is used on governmental buildings and embassies. And is the flag of war, and the country's naval ensign it also features a swallowtail. The second flag, inscribed with a "T" in the canton, is the Customs flag.



The State Flag of Iceland

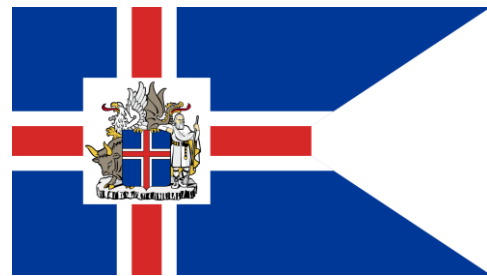


Icelandic Customs Flag

President of Iceland

The Flag for the president of Iceland is the current Flag of Iceland with the Icelandic Coat of Arms in the middle of the cross.

The Icelandic Coat of Arms features four shield bearers guarding the spirits of Iceland as described in Heimskringla: A bull on the right side of the shield; a giant on the left; a bird on the right above the bull; and a dragon on the left above the giant.



The Flag of the President of Iceland

Conventions of the Flag

The rules of flying the Icelandic flag are simple and few; fortunate because incorrect observance can lead to a prison sentence.

It is illegal, for example, to allow the flag to suffer damage, and a damage flag must be immediately repaired, or burned in a respectful manner.

The use of Iceland's flag on sold goods or in advertising, or as part of a private emblem or logo is strictly forbidden.