

FLAG OF LIECHTENSTEIN - A BRIEF HISTORY



Where In The World



Trivia

The design of the Liechtenstein flag was already in use by Haiti. In the 1936 Berlin Olympics this mistake emerged and the flag was changed the following year to incorporate the Prince's crown.

Technical Specification

Adopted:	1939
Proportion:	3:5
Design:	A bicolor with the upper half blue and the lower half red. The device of a golden crown is set on the canton.
Colours:	PMS: Blue: 3015 C; Red:179 C CMYK: Blue: 100% Cyan, 61% Magenta, 24% Yellow, 6% Black; Red: 10% Cyan, 92% Magenta, 95% Yellow, 2% Black

Brief History

Liechtenstein used to be a province of the Holy Roman Empire, and in 1719, it was awarded sovereign status as a principality. The flag reflected the colours of the Coat of Arms of Liechtenstein

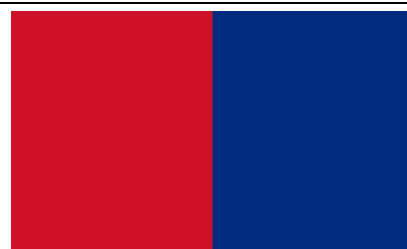
The flag was changed in 1852. Napoleon had defeated the Holy Roman Empire, and following his defeat, Liechtenstein became part of the German Confederation. It was simply decided that near the end of Aloys II's reign they would change the colours to match them with the red and blue banner of the Prince.

When the German Confederation collapsed through territorial conflict Liechtenstein became an ally of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Following World War I the Empire was dismantled and Liechtenstein found itself alone and unaided in the world with a share of the crippling reparations demanded of the Central Powers. In order to protect itself from destruction, Liechtenstein sought monetary union and open borders with Switzerland. Foreign policy, national defence and international relations became the responsibility of the Swiss. In 1921, a new flag was commissioned, reflecting Liechtenstein's new status in Europe.



Unfortunately, the creators of the new flag had made a critical oversight; this flag design was already in use by Haiti. In the 1936 Berlin Olympics this mistake emerged and the flag was changed the following year to incorporate the Prince's crown.



Flag of Liechtenstein
(1719 – 1852)



Flag of Liechtenstein
(1852 – 1921)

	
<p align="center">Flag of Liechtenstein (1921 – 1937)</p>	<p align="center">Modified Flag of Liechtenstein (1937 to Present Day)</p>

Other Flags of Liechtenstein

The coat of arms of the Prince is also the coat of arms of the nation. Two variants are generally used: the great arms and the small arms, both of which share two elements. These are the yellow/red shield of the Princely House and above it, the Princely Bonnet.

In the Great coat of arms:

- The first quarter is an Eagle displayed Sable crowned and armed with crancelin Vert pale Gules trefly Argent ending in crosses representing Silesia.

The second is:

- a Barry of eight Or and Sable charged with cracelin Vert which is the Arms of the Kuenring family.

The third:

- Or Per pale Gaules and Argent being the Duchy of Troppau

And the fourth is:

- Or a maiden eagle displayed Sable the human part Argent crowned and armed of the first on base Azure a Hunting Horn string Or An Escutcheon per fell Or and Gules representing the Arms of the East Frisian family Cirksena. The base is the Arms of the Duchy of Jägerndorf.

The state flag of Liechtenstein bears the great coat of arms at its centre.

		
<p align="center">Liechtenstein Great Coat of Arms</p>	<p align="center">Liechtenstein Small Coat of Arms</p>	<p align="center">State Flag of Liechtenstein</p>