



Flag Facts

Just like all the countries, states and territories in the world, Spain has a national flag that when flown marks its territory. Flags generally represent a country's culture and history.



The Spanish flag has undergone many changes over the centuries. These changes are believed to be caused by different empires ruling a territory at different times. Flags had different concepts in the medieval age.

The first Spanish flag was the Cross of Burgundy. It was the most prominent flag used in Spain. The Spanish army carried a white or yellow flag with the cross of Burgundy at the centre. This same design was used on Spanish regimental flags. The Cross of Burgundy was used between the 15th century and the 18th century. Philip the Handsome introduced this flag and used it during his reign. Changes were made to the flag by kings that came after him. Phillip II added a red flag that was to be carried together with the Cross of Burgundy. Phillip V changed the royal arms, while French Heraldists Charles-Rene d'Hozier and Pierre Clairambault designed the new arms for the king.

The current colors of the Spanish flag were chosen in 1760 by Charles III, designed to have two red stripes and one yellow stripe in the middle.

The Spanish flag has a coat of arms on it featuring four symbols. First is the Castle which represents the Kingdom of Castile, second is the lion which represents the Kingdom of Leon. The four red and five yellow alternating stripes represent the Kingdom of Aragon. Finally, the linked chains represent the Kingdom of Granada. These were former Kingdoms of Spain, two others that are also represented here are the Kingdom of Castile, and the House of Bourbon. Two columns symbolize the pillars of Hercules, Gibraltar and Cueta. The columns have the words plus extra written on them; it means "further beyond" in Latin.