

# Coat of arms of Guatemala

The **emblem of [Guatemala](#)** was adopted in 1871. It comprises:

- A [wreath](#) of [bay laurel](#) branches, the symbol for victory;
- The [resplendent quetzal](#), a [bird](#) that symbolizes [liberty](#);
- A parchment scroll on which is written *LIBERTAD 15 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1821* in gold (15 September 1821 is the date of [Central America](#)'s independence from [Spain](#));
- Two crossed [Remington rifles](#) with [bayonets](#) indicating Guatemala's willingness to defend itself by force if need be;
- Two crossed swords, representing honor.

The emblem was designed by [Swiss](#) artist and engraver [Johan-Baptist Frener](#), who lived in Guatemala from 1854 until his death in 1897.

The emblem also appears on the middle third of the [flag of Guatemala](#). The quetzal previously appeared in the flag of [Los Altos, Central America](#) in the 1830s.

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- [Guatemala - Coat of Arms](#) at *[Flags of the World](#)*

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