

The Tibetan National Flag



In the center is a snow-covered mountain, representing Tibet. Tibet is known as the Land Surrounded by Snow Mountains.

Across the dark blue sky, six red bands represent the ancestors of the Tibetan people: the six original tribes, which, in turn, gave rise to twelve descendants. The combination of the red bands for the tribes and the blue for sky represents the incessant enactment of protective deeds of spiritual teachings and secular life performed by the black and red guardian deities with whom the Tibetan people have had a connection for eons.

At the tip of the mountain shines the sun, spreading its rays in all directions. This represents the equal enjoyment of freedom, the Dharma, wealth, and happiness by all beings of Tibet.

On the slopes of the mountain stand a pair of snow lions whose manes blaze with fearlessness, representing the country's victorious accomplishment of the unity of spiritual and secular life.

The snow lions hold aloft a radiant three-colored jewel which represents the reverence of all Tibetans toward the Three Supreme Jewels of Buddhism: the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha.

The two-colored jewel held between the two lions represents the guarding and cherishing of ethical behavior, referring to the essential practice of the Ten Virtues and Sixteen Human Modes of Conduct.

Finally, the gold border represents the spreading in all directions and times of the purified gold-like teachings of the Buddha.