The national flag of Mexico is a green, white and red tricolor of vertical bands, featuring the national coat of arms in the center of the white band. It was first seen in 1821 and was known as the ‘Sierra’, but the flag was not officially adopted until September 16, 1968. The coat of arms helps distinguish it from the flag of Italy, although the green and red of the flag of Mexico are a darker shade.

The coat of arms features an eagle holding a serpent in its talon and perched on a prickly cactus. The cactus sits on a rock that is above a lake. The symbols are from an Aztec legend that told them to build a city when they spotted an eagle eating a serpent ~ what is now Mexico City.