



Symbols of Guam



The Guam flag consists of a rectangular field of marine blue, 78 inches long by 40 inches wide, trimmed on all sides by a 2-inch red border. The Guam Coat of Arms sits at the flag's center.

According to the Government Code of Guam, the official Coat of Arms consists of an upright two pointed oval scene with three defining features - the atupat (slingstone), the Galaide (outrigger canoe, also known as a flying proa), and the Tronkon Niyok (coconut tree).

Each element is significant to the Guam culture. The atupat was used by ancient Chamorros as a weapon. The galaide symbolizes the courage of the island's first inhabitants, who traveled across the Pacific before settling on Guam. And the tronkon niyok is a symbol of determination, characteristic of the early Chamorros who braved typhoons and other crises in the early years.

Guam Brand Signature

The Guam brand signature celebrates the unique, diverse and welcoming nature of Guam, its people and the Chamorro culture. The multiple interpretations of its shapes are smiles, the proa, sinahi and the first quarter moon. Welcoming arms, latte capstones, a Spanish fountain and even horns of a carabao all have relevance to a part of the Chamorro history.

The crisp colors of yellow, blue and green convey the bright, sunny tropical climate, the clean ocean waters and the beautiful green and open village landscape.

Introduced in 2009, the Guam brand signature presents a unifying image to the island's nineteen villages.



TRONKON IFIT - Ifil Tree

Guam is home to one of the most durable and desirable types of wood in the world - the Ifit Tree (Intsia Bijugia).

The ifit is slow-growing, and grows to heights of up to 25 meters. It derived from the family of legumes (beans). Ifit trees can be found in both beach strand and mangrove swamp areas, however they occur most in Guam's limestone forest.

The Ifit Tree was used extensively in house construction prior to World War II. Many homes had floors, beams, doors and furniture made of ifit. The wood, usually harvested from dead tree trunks, provides a dark red - nearly black - lumber. It maintains a beautiful luster when sanded or polished, and is characteristically dense and heavy.

Today, many local wood carvers create storyboards illustrating ancient legends using Ifit wood.

PUTI TAI NOBIO - Bougainvillea

Although at first listen, it seems unrelated, an old Chamorro song that laments "ay puti tai nobio, ay puti tai nobio" (or "oh, how it hurts not to have a boyfriend. oh, how it hurts not to have a boyfriend"), is referring to the island's official flower - the Bougainvillea.

The Chamorro name of Bougainvillea refers to the thorns that protect its delicate petals. Common colors of the are a purple magenta or rosy pink. Other varieties are orange, pale yellow and white.

This tropical plant was originally a native species of Brazil. Many believe it was introduced in Guam during the Spanish period after Ferdinand Magellan landed on the island in 1521.



KO'KO' - Guam Rail

The Guam rail is only found on our island. It does not inhabit any other place in the world. Dark brown feathers and white stripes on their stomachs give them distinctive markings.

Rails lay up to four large eggs, and the young leave their nest when they're only one day old. Parents then eat the eggs as a meal. They live off snail, lizards and insects.

The birds live in brushy areas of grassland or forest, most common in northern Guam. Adults can often be seen bathing in rain showers or in tall grass along the road early in the morning.

GUAM HYMN

(Chamorro version)

Fanohge Chamorros, put i tano-ta.
Kanta i matuna-na gi todu i lugat.
Para i onra, para i gloria, abiba i Isla sin parat.
Para i onra, para i gloria, abiba i Isla sin parat.
U todo i tiempo i pas para hita,
Yan ginen i langet na beddision.
Kontra i peligro, na fansafu ham.
Yu'os protehi islan Guam.
Kontra i peligro, na fansafu ham.
Yu'os protehi i Islan Guam.

(English version)

Stand ye Guamanians for your country.
And sing her praise from shore to shore.
For her honor, for her glory, exalt our Island forevermore.
For her honor, for her glory, exalt our Island forevermore.
May everlasting peace reign o'er us.
May heaven's blessings to us come.
Against all perils, do not forsake us.
God protect our Isle of Guam.
Against all perils, do not forsake us.
God protect our Isle of Guam.

