

## The Sikh Flag - Nishān Sāhib



The Sikh flag is a saffron-colored triangular-shaped cloth, usually reinforced in the middle with Sikh insignia in blue. It is usually mounted on a long steel pole (which is also covered with saffron-colored cloth) headed with a Khandā (ਖੰਡਾ). The Sikh flag is often seen near the entrance of a gurdwārā (ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ), standing firmly on the platform, overlooking the whole building. Sikhs show great respect to their flag as it is, indeed, the symbol of the freedom of the Khālsā (ਖਾਲਸਾ). Nishān Sāhib (ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਸਾਹਿਬ) is a triangular shaped Kesrī (ਕੇਸਰੀ), orange, or blue, colored cloth with or inscribed on it in the middle hoisted on a pole below a steel Khandā. The Nishān Sāhib is hoisted at all gurdwārās as a statement of Sikh presence.

It is said words "Vāhigurū Jī Kī Fatih" (Victory of God) in

Gurmukhī script was inscribed on the

Nishān Sāhib of Gurū Gobind Singh. During Māharājā Ranjīt Singh's times, the words "Akāl Sahāī" (ਅਕਾਲ ਸਹਾਇ) in Gurmukhī were inscribed on the Nishān Sāhib. During the Sikh Misl period, the "Nishān Vāliā Misl" (ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਵਾਲੀਆ ਮਿਸਲ) used to provide Sikhs for carrying the Nishān Sāhib to all the Misls during battles.

Once, a Nishān Sāhib bearer named Bhāī Ālam (ਭਾਈ ਆਲਮ) Singh fell in the hands of Mughal enemy forces during a battle. He was told to let go of the flag or else his hand would be chopped off. Bhāī Ālam Singh replied that if they chopped his hand off, he would keep holding the flag with his feet. Then he was told that if his feet would also be cut off. Bhāī Ālam Singh replied that in such eventuality he would hold it with his mouth. He was then asked what he would do if they proceeded to cut off his head. Bhāī Ālam Singh replied with confidence, "The Gurū whose flag I am carrying well take care of it." This illustrates the esteem in which Sikhs hold their Nishān Sāhib.

Adapted from: <http://allaboutsikhs.com/basics/sikhsymbols02.htm>

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|  | <div><u>Nishān Sāhib</u></div> <div><u>Activity Book</u></div> |
|  | Name: _____  |

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| <div>This is a Nishān Sāhib.</div> | <div>It is a symbol of Freedom for the <u>Khālsā</u>.</div> |

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| <p></p> <p>The Nishān Sāhib has a Khanḍā on it.</p> | <p></p> <p>The Nishān Sāhib is orange.</p> |
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| <p></p> <p>The Nishān Sāhib is very tall.</p> | <p></p> |
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