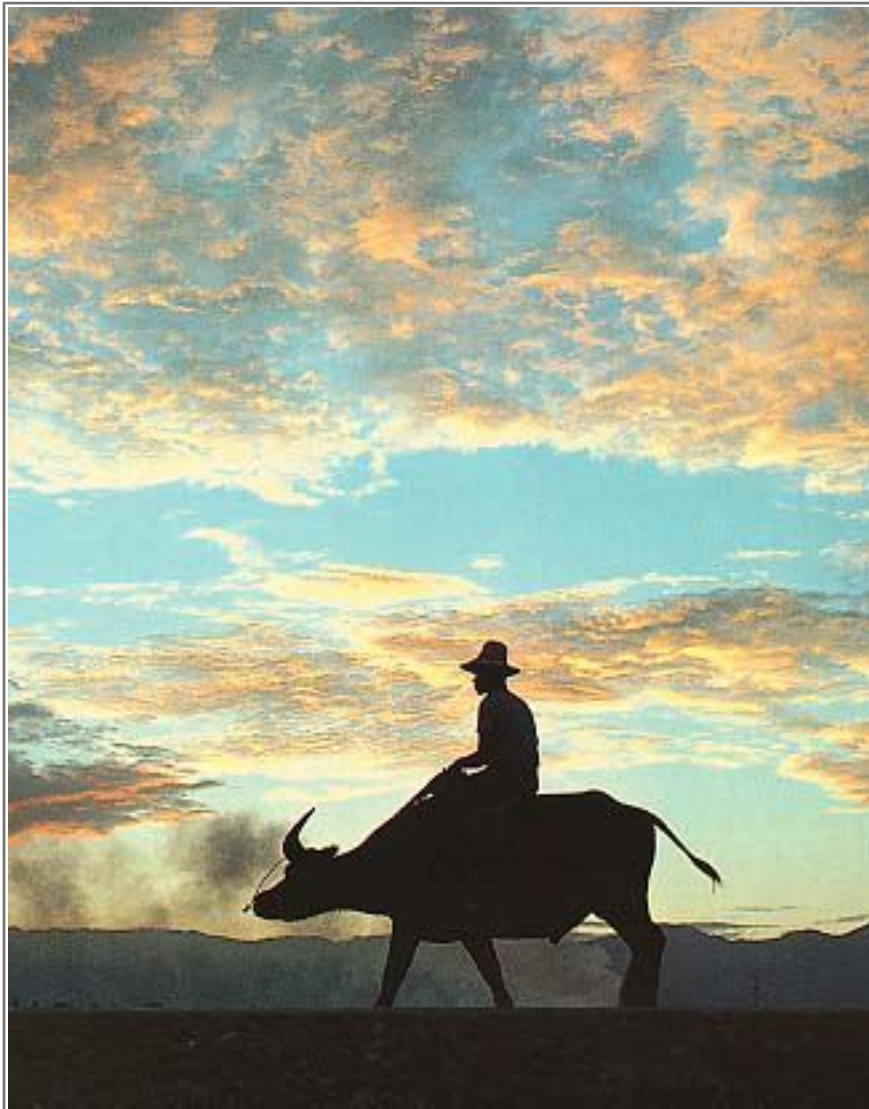


## More about the Filipinos and their Culture



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### **The Indigenous Costumes**

The indigenous costumes found in the Philippines vary markedly from area to area for a number of reasons, among which are early geographic isolation of the various settlements, the different religious customs and differing ethnic influences. This pattern of diversity is beautifully displayed by the "Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company" because for each number in the program the performers wear authentic costumes of the area and period corresponding to the dance.

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## The Different Costumes

Despite the different costumes, however, there are two characteristics which may be said to typify Philippine costumes in general. They are, (a) bright colors, and (b) loose-fitting. A noted artist in Manila, Fernando Zobel, has remarked that "the colors used by Philippine painters are unique to the country, reflecting the particular way in which the eye reacts to the colors in nature around him---the sea, flowers, fields, etc." Perhaps this also explains the choice of colors which Filipinos use in their costumes. The free-flowing quality of Philippine costumes might be explained as the coolest way to dress in a tropical country.

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## The Three Different Costumes

Today the Philippines is a nation rapidly growing and industrializing, and this, plus the effect of its half century of American rule (1898-1946), has contributed to the adoption of Western clothing by the Filipinos. Western-style dresses for women and sport shirts and slacks for men predominate throughout the country today. There are certain Philippine costumes, however, which thrive side-by-side with the recently-adopted Western dress. The women's modern adaptation of the so-called Mestiza dress, or Terno with the unique "butter-fly" sleeves, is worn for formal occasions. In the realm of day-time wear, modern Filipino women frequently wear Visayan-style skirts and blouses, called respectively Patadyong and Kimona. In lieu of dress shirts or sport shirts, Filipino men wear formal or native shirts called Barong Tagalog, more properly, Baro ng Tagalog.

Three major types of costumes may be seen in the Bayanihan performance. They are: costumes of the mountain tribe peoples; costumes of the Muslim Filipinos; and, costumes of the Christian Filipinos.

The mountain costumes are made of handwoven, rather coarse cloth, decorated principally with colored stripes of various designs. The Muslim costumes feature long skirts for the women, frequently woven with metallic threads, and shorter, wrap-around skirts for the men. The women also frequently have overskirts and scarves draped from

the shoulder.

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### Mountain Costumes



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### The Indigenous Costumes

The costumes of the Christian Filipinos show more strongly the Spanish influence. The women's skirts often have aprons and small shoulder scarves. The blouses are usually short and sheer with stiff, puffed short sleeves and a white cotton camisole is generally worn under them. The native shoes for men and women are scuffs for slippers made of either abaca (banana fiber) or of wood. The latter are called bakya.

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**The Maria Clara Costume**

One rather spectacular costume, which deserves special mention, is the Maria Clara, named after the heroine of Philippine hero Jose Rizal's novel. The Maria Clara gown is displayed by Bayanihan in the El Salon Filipino suite of the program, and features a floor-length paneled skirt of silk or satin in stripes of contrasting colors, or of floral print or embroidery. The blouse has wrist-length, richly embroidered flowing sleeves and is made of pine (pineapple fiber). A triangular collar scarf, covering the back and shoulders is worn and the footwear consists of beaded or embroidered slippers.



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**Muslim Dance and Costume**

