

Camisa de Chino



CAMISA DE CHINO

At certain, likely fluid moments in the last four hundreds years, the naked torso of the indigenous man was gradually sheathed in a full skirt, exchanging half nudity for a collarless garment with long, cuffless sleeve. Many colonized indios discovered the clothing possibility in what was to be called, in Spanish, the Camisa. Tailored out of light usually translucent materials such as sinamay, piña cloth or cotton, the camisa became standard wear of those social strata who had to labor in the enervating warmth of the tropics. In due course, the camisa was devoted to the local weaver's many decorative skills. Fine embroidery, supplementary weft floats (suksuk), cut-openwork embroidery (calado and doble calado) and such details as pleating pockets, in time indigenized a shirt cut which was generally thought to have originated in China. And, in the nineteenth century, the Camisa de Chino would metamorphose - with the addition of the collar, cuffs and elaborations such as shirts and pleats - into the Filipino Barong Tagalog.

source: www.filipinoheritage.com

Ref: http://www.seasite.niu.edu/tagalog/Cynthia/costumes/camisa_de_chino.htm



Literally, "chinese shirt". This traditional Filipino male garment is a loose cotton shirt with long sleeves and a round, open neck, with two or three buttons down the chest. It is typically plain white, although they can be found in peach, cream, or other pastel colors.

Adopted from the garb of Chinese sailors, this is the stereotypical work clothing of the Filipino farmer or fisherman, due to its wide availability and low cost. Westerners may see it most often worn by folk dancers performing the tinikling or other dances, or on waiters in native-themed restaurants.

It is also traditionally worn under the barong tagalog, for formal occasions, where the color of the camisa usually matches the color of the barong worn over it. Short-sleeved camisa de chinos are also sold for use under short-sleeved barongs.

I usually use mine as sleepwear (like loose, comfortable t-shirts).

The archetypical Filipino lower-class hero, Andres Bonifacio is most often portrayed wearing a camisa de chino, open at the neck, brandishing his trademark bolo (machete) in battle.

<http://everything2.com/title/camisa+de+chino>