

# Philippine Costumes

## BAHAG

### Pre-Colonial Period

Early Filipinos used bark or plain woven fabric as material for bahag. The bahag was wrapped around the waist line.

## CAMISA De CHINO

### 18th Century

The camisa de chino is a collarless garment with long cuffless sleeves, worn first by Indios who had to labor under tropical heat. The shirt cut evokes its Chinese origins.

## BARONG TAGALOG

### 19th Century

The barong tagalog has become the national Filipino costume for men, worn for all significant events.

## TAPIS

### Early Spanish Colonial Period

The tapis was used first by tagalog women who had to wrap a thicker material over skirts made of sheer fabric. It was usually worn with the opening in front, and with colors that contrasted with the skirt.

## BARO'T SAYA

### Circa 17th Century

The baro, a collarless blouse, was influenced by the costume of statues by the Blessed Virgin brought by Spanish missionaries. The saya was adapted from the basic lines of European skirt styles during the 1600s.

## MARIA CLARA

### Late 19th Century

The Maria Clara, named after Jose Rizal's heroine in *Noli Me Tangere*, consists of the bell sleeved camisa, floor-length saya, the pañuelo and the tapis, or overskirt.

## BALINTAWAK

### 1930s

The Balintawak consisted of a skirt, butterfly sleeves and a low-cut bodice. Filipinas wore the ensemble during visits to the countryside, particularly Antipolo, Rizal, a popular summer destination for Manila residents.

## TERNO

### Early 20th Century

The Filipino "terno" evolved from the baro't saya and the Maria Clara, and pertains to the matching of blouse and skirt, forming a one-piece creation made of a homogeneous material throughout.

### [Barong Tagalog Costume](#)

The Barong Tagalog, this is the official national costume of Filipino men, originated from the northern part of the Philippines, and is originally made of jusi or pineapple cloth called "pina" (woven from pineapple leaves). It is worn over a Chinese collarless shirt called camisa de Chino. It exhibits the loose, long lines of its Chinese sources, the airy tropical appearance of Indo-Malay costume, the elongated effect of Hindu dressing, and the ornamental restraint of European men's clothing.

Today, barong tagalog can come from different materials and different colors. It is usually used for formal occasion and meetings Mestiza The Mestiza Dress is a formal dress made of expensive lace and fabric adorned with embroideries. It is the sophisticated version of the national costume, the baro't saya (blouse and skirt). Made more popular by former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos, some even called it Imelda dress or terno. Mestiza dress is known for its elegance and butterfly sleeves. It is usually worn for formal occasion.

### [Maria Clara Costume](#)

The Maria Clara, this dress was named after a mestiza heroine of one of the novels of the Philippine National hero Dr. Jose Rizal. Its origin was the national costume of Filipino women which is baro't (shirt) saya (skirt). The Maria Clara gown features a floor-length paneled skirt of silk or satin and it consists of four separate pieces: the collarless waist-length, bell sleeved camisa; the bubble-shaped, floor-length saya; the stiff, neck-covering pañuelo; and the hip-hugging, knee length tapis, or overskirt.

### Rural Costume

The Kimona, this dress originated from the Visayas, can be worn for everyday activities as casual dress or for formal occasion. Its origin was the baro't (shirt) saya (skirt), the national costume for Filipino women during the early years. A casual kimona dress is always worn with matching West Visayan wrap around called "patadyong" as a skirt.

### Cordillera Costume

The Igorot, this attire is used by the tribes in Mountain Province of The Cordillera ranges, called Igorots. They have their own unique costume that makes them distinctive from other tribes in the Philippines. This costume reflects their way of life, cultures, personalities, religious practices and rituals. Igorot costume is very simple. The men wear long strips of handwoven loin cloth called "wanas". The woman wear a kind of wrap-around skirt called "lufid".

### Muslim Costume

This attire is worn by the Muslims who live in the southern part of the Philippines. It features 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. Batik design is also common with this costumes. It shows the mix of Arab, Malaysian and Chinese. Elaborate umbrella makes a nice fashion statement, usually used by a Muslim princess.

Malong, the malong is traditionally used as a garment by numerous tribes in the Southern Philippines and the Sulu Archipelago. Its origin is from the ethnical group of Maranao, Maguindanao and T'boli located in Mindanao. Handwoven malongs are made by the weavers on a backstrap loom. Very rare malong designs and styles can indicate the village in which the malong was made. Handwoven malongs, which are costly- made of cotton and silk, are likely to be used only at social functions, to display the social and economic status of the wearer. But a malong in royal colours is worn only by Maranao men and women of royal status. The malong can also function as a skirt for both men and women, a dress, a blanket, a bedsheet, a hammock, a prayer mat, and other purposes.

### Tribal Costume

The Philippine Tribal Costumes Although the Philippines has developed a mixed culture from the blending of foreign influences with native elements, there are still some ethnological groups whose culture remains unadulterated. Here are some beautiful images of the Filipinos tribal costumes that still remain as part of their traditional culture up to this day.

#### B'laan

The B'laan are one of the indigenous peoples of Southern Mindanao in The Philippines. They are famous for their brassworks, beadwork and t'nalak weave. The people of these tribes wear colorful embroidered native costumes and beadwork accessories. The women of these tribes, particularly, wear heavy brass belts with brass 'tassels' ending in tiny brass bells that herald their approach even when they are a long way off.

#### Bagobo

The Bagobo are proud people with proto Malayan features. They have ornate traditions in weaponry and other metal arts. They are noted for their skill in producing brass articles through the ancient lost-wax process. These people also weave abacca cloths of earth tones and make baskets that are trimmed with beads, fibers and horse's hair.

#### T'boli

The T'boli distinguish themselves from other Tribal Groups by their colorful clothes, bracelets and earrings, this tribe is famous for their complicated beadwork, wonderful woven fabrics and beautiful brass ornaments.

#### Mandaya

The Mandayas are a group of non-Christian tribe, non-Islamic people living in Eastern Mindanao, Philippines They hand down from generation to generation the art of weaving cloth from the fibers of abaca plant, colored with root and mud dyes with intricate figures and patterns depicting the folklore and religion of the tribe.

### Maranaw

Typical Muslim Maranaw costumes. The attire of Maranaw prince and princess. "Maranaw" means 'people of the lake', referring to lands surrounding Lake Lanao. Descending from Muslim Malays, the royal families within this tribe are a mix of Arab, Malaysian and Chinese ancestry. They are famous for their artwork, sophisticated weaving, wood and metal craft, and their epic literature.

### Yakan

Basilan is home to the Yakan Tribes, also known as one of the finest weavers in Philippines. They are known to weave the most intricate designs in their clothes, purses and other accessories.

### Ifugao

The Ifugao, immortalized by their magnificent rice terraces; inhabit the rugged terrain of the extensive Cordillera Mountain Ranges of Central Luzon. Ifugaos have woven on looms and carved works of art from blocks of woods. The rice terraces is a symbol of their industry that will live through the ages.

### Kalinga

The Kalinga are called the "peacocks of the north" because of their attention to appearance and dressing. Kalinga is a landlocked province of northern Cordillera, Philippines. "Kalinga" means enemy, a name that the bordering inhabitants called this tribe because of their headhunting attacks. The name stuck and became accepted by the natives themselves.

### Gaddang o Ga'dang

The Gaddang are an indigenous people from the area of Solano, in the province of Nueva Vizcaya, in the region of Cagayan Valley also known as region II, in the Philippine Islands. The Gaddang tribe was first discovered by the Spaniards in the early 1600's. An early Spanish report written in 1581 identified them as one of ten tribes in the mountains of Northern Luzon.

### Bontoc

They are the people who live in the mountainous areas of Benguet, Ifugao, Mountain Province and Kalinga- Apayao. The tribe's traditional clothing leaves males and females bare above the waist. But because of modern influence, younger members of the tribe wear trousers, shirts, dresses and shoes that lowland Filipinos usually wear. Samal.

### Samal

The Samal are the poorest and least independent of the major Muslim groups. They serve as the "loyal commoners" in the hierarchy of Muslim minorities. Their lives are literally over the sea, where the villages stand on stilts above the coastal waters.

### Ibaloi

The Ibaloi are the highlanders of Benguet and the city of Baguio. The Ibalois are collectively known as "Igorot". They traditionally live by cultivating rice and agriculture.

### Aetas

The Philippines' aboriginal inhabitants called the Aetas provided the pattern for these rough cotton costumes. The Aetas or Negritos are nomads, scattered among the isolated mountainous parts of central Luzon. They are thought to be the earliest inhabitants of the Philippines.

### Pulangiyen

Living in the Pulangi River headwaters in the southern part of Bukidnon, the Pulangiyen is one of the many indigenous natives of the province.

### Matigsalug

The Matigsalug are the Bukidnon groups who are found in the Tigwa-Salug Valley in San Fernando, Bukidnon. "Matigsalug" is a term, which means "people along the River Salug". Their men wear short tight-fitting pants that are of knee length and are hem and turbans for the head decorated with beads and fringed with goat's/horse's hair.

Look more here: [www.Costumes.PhilippineCulture.ph](http://www.Costumes.PhilippineCulture.ph)