

Traditional costumes in India

Punjab



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Traditional Dress of Punjab

- ▶ The culture of the state of Punjab is the oldest cultures in the entire world. Its uniqueness and diversity is reflected in the poetry of the state, its spirituality, cuisine, education, philosophy, music, art & architecture, science & technology, history & traditions, military warfare etc. The high spiritedness and strong determination of the Punjabi natives show up in the way they dress up. The Punjabi culture is emblematic of a multi-hued, variegated heritage which is mirrored through the various traditional clothing of the Punjabi people. Vibrant colors, multiple designs and comfort elements combine in the traditional dresses of Punjab to make the dresses stand out. To learn in details about the traditional dress of Punjab, read on:

Dresses of Punjabi Women

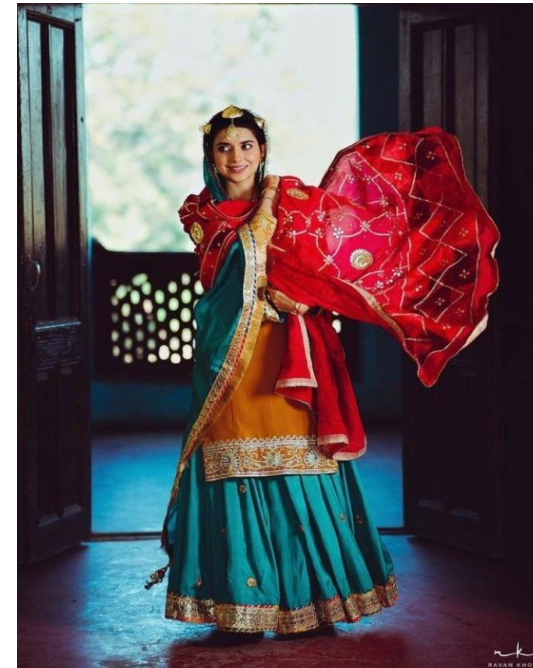
- ▶ Floral embroidery craft of Punjab seen on the traditional dresses of women: When it comes to Punjabi dresses of women we definitely need to know about the Phulkari craft. It is intricate flower embroidery associated with the femininity of the Punjabi women. The craft emerged around the 15th century and has now become famous worldwide. When we speak of Punjabi dresses, Phulkari is the word which comes to our mind at once. A mention of this creative embroidery has been made in the famed romantic novel 'Heer-Ranjha' by Waris Shah. Dresses featuring the Phulkari embroidery are worn by the Punjabi women of various social backgrounds and age groups. Exquisite floral patterns weaved in vibrant colors on the shawls, dupattas, lehengas, kurtas and salwar suits make the attires a true eye-catcher.

Patiala Salwar Suit

- ▶ This traditional Punjabi attire consists of baggy, loose-fitting, pleated trousers paired with short kurtas and Phulkari veil or Dupatta which is distinctly glossy in look. The women of Punjab usually cover their head with the dupatta as per their religious customs. Multiple pleats are a chief feature of this salwar. This fabulous dress is incredibly popular among the Punjabi women from the various parts of the state of Punjab and is indeed highly functional attire. It is super comfortable and attractive attire for the women in Punjab. The style of Patiala salwar originated at the Patiala City of Punjab and thus, has been named a 'Patiala' suit. The many generations of expert weavers from the state of Punjab are involved in stitching these uniquely designed Patiala Salwar suits due to the immense popularity this dress has been received with across the ages. During those earlier times, the Patiala salwar had been a part of the royal outfit of the king. With the passage of time it got transformed into a woman's attire and is also referred to as the Punjabi suit. The Patiala Salwar Suit bears a semblance with the famed Paithani suit.

Punjabi Ghagra

- ▶ The typical Punjabi Ghagra consists of four-pieces of costume worn in a compact form by the women of Punjab. The Punjabi Ghagra includes a Phulkari head scarf, a kurti, a long flared skirt known as Ghagra and a typical Punjabi-style salwar or trouser or the suthan, a unique baggy trouser fitted with a tight elastic band at the ankles. This dress is donned by women during the Gilda performance, a kind of Punjabi folkdance. This dress is utterly colorful and shimmering and makes a Punjabi woman look very graceful.



Churidar Suit

- ▶ This attire is also much loved by the Punjabi women. It consists of a Kameez or tunic and a typical churidar trouser. Unlike the Kameez of the Patiala suit that of the Churidar suit is long enough and reaches below the knees. The trouser is designed in such a way that it hugs the legs and thereby accentuates the beauty of well-toned legs. The Churidar trouser is actually longer than the legs and the extra length is arranged at the ankles in the form of several folds that resemble bangles or 'Churis'. A matching veil or dupatta is used along with the Churidar suit. Churidar suits have now become popular all over the country and women from other states too love to flaunt these suits.



Dresses of Punjabi Men



Jama

- ▶ This traditional dress worn by the Punjabi men folk came into being during the Mughal rule. The attire sits tight around the torso and flares up similar to a skirt at the wearer's knees. A turban or pagdi is worn along with the Jama to give one a royal look. Tight-fitted, leg-hugging pajamas are worn too with the Jama. The Jama generally comes with quite long sleeves tied underneath the wearer's armpits.



Kurta-Pajama

- ▶ Kurta-Pajama is well-known attire for men all over the country. Punjabi men too love to flaunt their traditional Kurta-Pajama look. Kurta is loose-fitting, long-sleeved, sides-slited and straight-cut apparel for the upper body while the pajama is a kind of loose-fitting trouser tied at one's waist with the help of a broad enough string. Kurta-pajamas come in multiple styles and designs and are used mostly as a casual wear by the Punjabi men.



Tehmat

- ▶ The Tehmat also known as the Tamba is a kind of lungi worn by the Punjabi men. It is worn most uniquely with folds in the front. The Tehmat is generally paired with a kurta or shirt. During a special dance by the Punjabi men called Bhangra this Tehmat is worn. The tehmat worn during the bhangra dance are significantly glossy in texture and come with a zari border.



Jacket

- ▶ Over the Kurta Punjabi men often wear a jacket. The jacket when paired with the kurta and Tehmat gives the traditional look a sophisticated edge. The dance costume of the men from Punjab definitely includes a jacket. For casual occasions the Punjabi men flaunt a type of jacket styled like the Jawahar coat.

Accessories

- ▶ No traditional look is complete without the suitable traditional accessories. Given below are some of the traditional accessories of Punjab. These accessories are paired with the traditional Punjabi clothing to give the wearer the typical Punjabi look:



Conclusion

- ▶ The traditional dress of Punjab are a perfect mix of beauty, comfort and bright colors that symbolize unity and victory. The dresses worn by the Punjabis are ideal for the various festive occasions such as Lohri, Tiyan, Vaisakhi, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Holi etc. If you are planning to visit Punjab, make sure to pick some of the best traditional dresses of Punjab for your wardrobe.

Pranda

One of the most distinguished and traditional accessories from Punjab. It is a hair accessory that makes the braid look long and beautiful. Every Punjabi traditional dress must include Pranda or '*Prandi*' in it. A 'Punjabi mutiyar' is incomplete without having a paranda in her wardrobe. Each Paranda has its uniqueness and is designed entirely relying on the occasion. They are known for their style and as an accessory, comes in vibrant colours and adds grace to your hair and your overall look.



Kaintha

Kaintha is neck jewellery, worn mainly by men but nowadays is also very popular among women too. Kaintha includes big and small beads which hang lower and have a circular or heart-shaped pendant. It is especially worn during performing Punjabi folk dance- Bhangra. It is one of the oldest pieces of jewellery worn in ancient Punjab. You must own at least one piece of this jewellery and can add traditional essence to your wardrobe.



Saggi phull

Saggi Phull is worn on the head by Punjabi women while performing Giddha, and other cultural functions with traditional dresses. An ornament named Saggi is a prominent head stud that supports the Punjabi Phulkari or dupatta or any other jewellery. When two additional Sagis are linked to the upper side they are known as Sagi Phul.

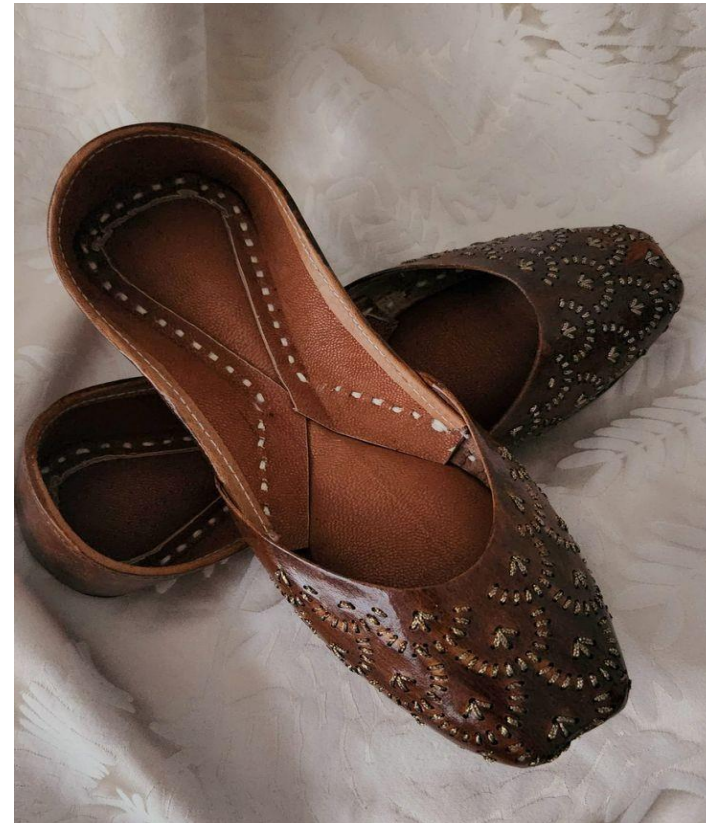
This beautiful ornament is a must-have for your Punjabi traditional jewellery collection.



Punjabi jutti

Who doesn't know or like Punjabi Jutti? Most comfortable footwear ever known!! Handcrafted leather footwear is beaded and embroidered with silk threads. Looks phenomenal when worn with Punjabi traditional dresses.

It comes in various patterns and different types of embroideries. Punjabi Juttis have an outstanding blend of traditional and contemporary fashion styles and are also known for the latest fashion trend.



Panjeb

Panjeb or Payal is a well-known foot ornament worn by women of Punjab. It is not just limited to Punjab, maximum Indian culture includes Payal in their traditional wear. You can have them in various styles whether it is embedded with Kundan, pearls, stones or just simple Ghungroos.

In Punjabi culture, a traditional Panjeeb is made up of silver metal and includes 100 Ghungroos on each anklet.

You can **buy Payal** and add to your wardrobe according to your taste and style. Some like them to be heavy and some go for the lighter ones. In any shape or size, this ornament looks promising and adds a conventional touch to your attitude.



Phulkari

Last but not least Punjabi Phulkari!

A heavy dupatta embroidered with threads, Phulkari means floral work, the designs include not only flowers but also cover motifs and geometrical shapes.

A traditional dress is incomplete without a phulkari. All Punjabi wedding rituals include phulkari in one or another way. They are available in a wide range of colours and designs. Phulkari work was originally done on fabrics dyed in specifically four colours which are red, white, black and blue with each colour having its own importance.



Pagdi

- ▶ Pagdi is a traditional headwear worn by the Punjabi men. It is a comfortable headwear made out of cotton or any other breathable fabric. Punjabi men wear the Pagdi almost all the time and the color of the pagdi is usually matched with that of the shirt or kurta. The Pagdi is also referred to as the 'Pag'. It involves the use of a long fabric that is tied upon the head of a Punjabi by means of a special winding technique. The Sikhs wear a kind of pagdi or turban referred to as the 'dastar'. When a sikh boy ties the pagdi for the first time, it is done through a special ceremony at the famed Golden Temple known as the Pagdi/Dastar bandhi rite.

