

Men [\[edit \]](#)

A mundu usually has a line of comparatively thicker cloth woven into it near the border called the *kara*. The *kara* can be coloured and comes in various sizes. There is also double coloured and ornamental *kara* (a strip of colour at the end of the mundu). & Costumes Of Kerala. For more ceremonial occasions (like weddings), a mundu has a golden embroidery known as kasavu. The wearer highlights the 'kara' by carefully folding the end of the mundu. The *kara* generally appears on the right-hand side of the person, though styles with the kara on the left side are prevalent. Unspoken rules of etiquette govern the way the mundu is worn. Men will often fold the garment in half to resemble a short [skirt](#) when working, cycling, etc., but it is considered disrespectful to speak to women or one's social superiors with the mundu folded up this way, revealing the legs from the knee down. When faced with such a social situation, the fold of the mundu is loosened with an imperceptible flick and it flutters down to cover the legs completely. Sometimes a belt will be used; a popular Velcro belt that comes in either green or black has yellow pockets to keep valuables and hold the mundu (or lungi) secure.

The 'melmundu' is an upper garment similar to the '[neriyathu]' that is worn by women; 'mundu' and 'melmundu' are part of the traditional [Malayali](#) costume worn by men.

Despite the considerable influence of western dressing forms in South Indian culture, Hindu traditional ceremonies of Kerala (some Hindu castes in other south Indian states) it is mandatory for the men to wear the Mundu. For Hindu Marriages Men has to wear Mundu along with either shirt or a 'Mel Mundu'. It is also considered appropriate for men to wear Mundu during their visits to the temples and attending religious functions, though it is not mandatory at all places. However, it is a mandatory requirement to wear mundu and Mel-mundu for men to visit some famous temples in Kerala like the [Guruvayur Temple](#), the [Padmanabhaswamy Temple](#)) etc. For the convenience of the devotees, temple managements do provide these on rent bear the temple premises itself.

Women [\[edit \]](#)

A variant called a [mundum-neriyathum](#) is used more often by women. The *mundum-neriyathum* is a set of two mundus, both having matching *kara*. The set contains a lower garment similar to those worn by men. The upper mundu, worn with a blouse, is wrapped once around the waist and upper body and left hanging from the left shoulder, resembling a [saree](#). This is often called a set-mundu. This is usually worn during festivals or special occasions.

In [Kerala](#), a *veshti* is a small piece of cloth (generally put on the shoulders) along with a mundu, for formal occasions.

Kerala Lungi [\[edit \]](#)

In [Kerala](#) the [Lungi](#), locally known as *Kalli* or *Kalli Mundu*, is worn by both men and women. It is considered a casual dress or working dress of labourers. Most men in Kerala use lungi as home dress or sleep dress. Lungis are generally colourful, and with varying designs. Lungis are not used during occasions such as weddings or other religious ceremonies. Saffron-coloured mundus are also known and *kaavi mundu*.



