

Traditional Himachal Pradesh Dresses of Men

There are mainly two classes in which the community of Himachal Pradesh has been divided: Rajput and Brahmins. The attires are largely identical, but some differences can be noted.

Rajput Men wear tight **Churidar Pyjamas** with **kurta** and **long silk overcoat** over it. The overcoats are designed with yak leather and gold threads which help them keep warm. They wear a **turban** on their heads which are colour-dyed and starch-stiffened. Turbans along with moustaches are considered as a symbol of pride and honour among the Rajputs.

Brahmin Men can be seen wearing dhoti and kurta along with a waistcoat or an overcoat and sometimes a turban. Priests mostly wear white clothes and a small soft towel-like cloth on their shoulders.

For occasions and festive ceremonies, men wear new kurta pyjamas along with embroidered caps or turbans and sometimes shawls.



Traditional Himachal Pradesh Dresses of Women

Rajput women wear long kurtas stretching from their neck to their toe. This began following the purdah (veil) system which is no more prevalent in the region. They also wear **Ghaghris**, **Salwar-Kameez** and **Cholis**. Cholis are the shirts which are worn on the upper part with a long skirt and a lot of bangles.

Brahmin women also wear similar clothing like salwar kameez and ghagra choli. For occasions and celebrations like weddings, they wear long pyjamas, traditional ghagra choli woven at homes with intricate embroidery and new rings and bangles. Footwear is designed by grass and animal skin to keep the feet warm.

Traditional Jewelry & Ornaments of Himachali Women

There are many ornaments and jewelry that are worn by both Brahmin and Rajput women:

Chakk (silver domed and worn on the top of head), **Chanderhar** (necklace or pendant worn in weddings), **Chiri** (similar to maangtika), **Toke** (wristbands), **Pari** (foot necklace), **Jhumka** (earrings), etc.

Pashmina Shawl

It is a kind of Shawl that is made from the hair of Pashmina goat. These shawls are demanded all over the world throughout the year. The special trait of this shawl is that it is very light weighted and soft but still keeps warm in harsh and cold winter. They are sold in different colour shades with intricate embroideries and delicate designs which make them very costly at times. To the Pashmina fibre, some soft silk is also added to make it feel smoother and shine brighter.



