



Traditional Costumes



Erasmus+

Traditional Costumes

The traditional costume of Poland is called in Polish “stroje ludowe”.

National costumes of Poland vary by region. They are not worn in daily life but at folk festivals, folk weddings, religious holidays, harvest festivals and other special occasions. The costumes may reflect region and sometimes social or marital status.





Traditional Costumes

Central Poland-region Mazovia

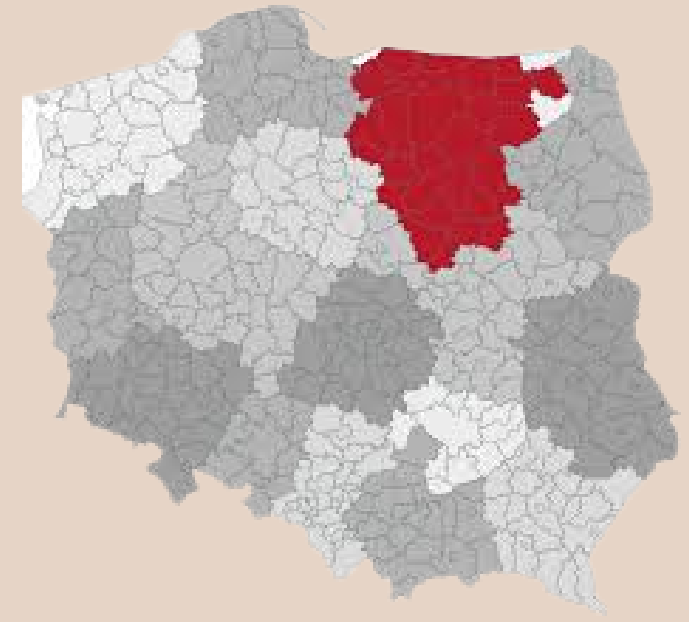
A typical style dress for this part of the Masovia region, the costume boasts beautiful black embroidery which decorates the top part of the white sleeve of women's shirts – an arrangement picked up by young ethno-designers. Ankle-length skirts were covered by slightly shorter aprons of white, blue, green or different shades of yellow. Pastel-coloured silk ribbons were braided into the hair and beaded necklaces. Maidens would wear their braided ponytails up in a crown, while married ladies would wear a white, embroidered linen coif head scarf. Men completed their look with tall top hats and felt hats.





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WARMIA I MAZURY



The Warmia regional women's costume was the wide, frilled, three-metre-long dress was made of velvet or silk and worn with a cap elaborately embroidered with real gold and silver. These caps, tied at the chin, were real laced masterpieces, to say the least. They were usually sewn by nuns and could only be worn by married women. The headpieces differed in shape, embroidery and decoration.

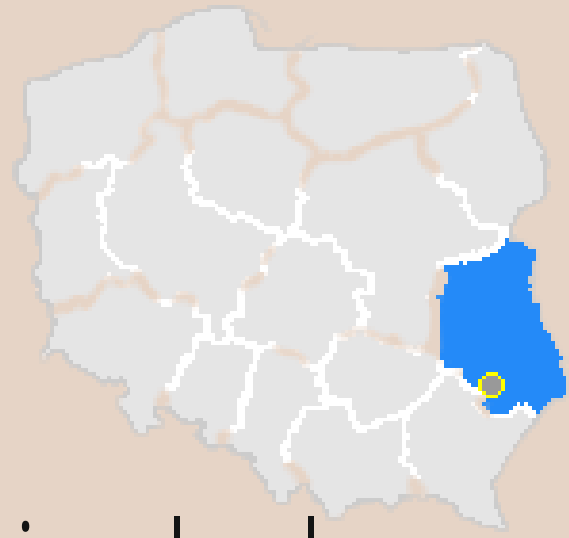
The complexity depended on the owner's age, wealth and the occasion for which the headdress was worn. Those with a particular fondness for fashion would add splendour with a pair of earrings or by doing their hair up with hairpins (called harnatle).





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WARMIA I MAZURY



Here is an example of a particularly modest costume: simple, made independently, usually using linen or wool. 'The women's costume was archaic and unique, it recalled the literary and artistic image of the Slavic costume'. It comprised a shirt, a skirt and a linen apron. As usual, the most sophisticated elements were the headpieces – bonnets with ribbons flowing down till the waistline, fastened on wooden rims for the married woman. A so-called oberek under the headscarf was worn at the turn of the 20th century.

Pink - coloured beaded necklaces adorned their necks.

The most characteristic part of the men's costume was a sack in the shape of a horseshoe, called a kalita, and was worn mostly on holidays, always on the right shoulder.





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SOUTH OF POLAND: TATRY MOUNTAINS and KRAKÓW

The traditional men's costume consists of white trousers with decorated legs and a white embroidered shirt. In addition, every man must wear a belt, also known as an armband. A decorative element of men's costumes is a highland pin characteristic of the place of origin or even the family. A metal pin in the shape of a rhombus with rounded tops may be of various sizes, more or less decorated. A hat made of black felt and kierzpce (moccasins) complete the outfit. Men's outer garments include a serdaki (vest), waistcoats and a cuchy (coat) put on over a white shirt. All items are decorated with floral motifs.

The women's costume is certainly more varied and decorative. Apart from the traditional but richly decorated white shirt made of linen or batiste, an embroidered corset (festive) or serdak (casual) is essential for the costume.



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Depending on one's financial status, the corset is made of velvet or silk and is carefully fitted to the woman's figure. The front of the corset is laced with a red ribbon tied in a large bow. Another element of the women's costume is a long skirt, vast and wrinkled, made of fabric with a repeated decorative motif, usually floral. Of course, an inseparable element of the outfit, also for women, is kierzpce (moccasins). In addition, every woman should obligatorily have a scarf, and the most precious jewellery are beads. The more strings of genuine beads a highlander woman wears and the more scarves she has in her wardrobe, the higher her social status.



Costumes of KRAKÓW

