

## **FEATURES OF UZBEK CLOTHES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*National features of every country can be noticed through its traditions, customs, cuisine and traditional clothing as well. It is important to mention that Uzbek clothes are a part of wealthy cultural traditions and life style of Uzbek people. Their clothes are very bright, gorgeous and comfortable. In urban places it is unusual to meet people in national clothes, nowadays; it is worn on traditional holidays and festivities. But in rural places it is still a part of daily and holiday garments.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Clothes, Nation, Custom, Tradition, Uzbek, Social, Fabrics, Religion.*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The clothes of the Uzbeks' forefathers living on the territory of Uzbekistan have been forming in conformity with the peculiarities of natural conditions, way of life and tribal traditions. Archaeological miniatures of manuscripts preserved until our time give a fairly clear idea of the Uzbek traditional clothing, its forms and evolution.

The main factor that influenced the ethnic clothing of the Uzbeks, assuredly, was Islam. Traditional Uzbek clothing continued to preserve features of archaism until the 20th century. Men's, women's and even children's clothes were practically the same in form and cut.

The basis of national men's suit is a "chapan"<sup>1</sup>. The chapan is a long-sleeved, knee length or longer, and made from fabric with a variety of colorful stripes. The bottom of the sleeves, center edges, hem, and neckline of the coat were sewn round with a decorative braid, which was believed to protect a person from evil powers. Wearing two or more coats at the same time was common in both winter and summer, and gave a man a certain prestige while showing the prosperity of the family. The outer coat could be padded with batting. The coat or shirt was tied with a big folded handkerchief or a band which is called "belbog"<sup>2</sup>. This band was a significant accessory, and could be made of fine fabrics, decorated with complicated silver embroidery, studded with stones and silver coins, and hung with little bags for tobacco and keys. Shirts usually were wide and white. They were made of cotton. Some of them had patterns named "jiyak"<sup>3</sup>. Pants that are called "ishton"<sup>4</sup> were loosely cut, but narrowed to the bottom and were tucked into soft leather boots with pointed toes. Skullcaps were popular all over Central Asia. The "duppi"<sup>5</sup> is an Uzbek cap made of velvet or wool, beautifully embroidered with silk or silver threads. Over the cap men could drape a turban, or "chalma"<sup>6</sup>, in different colors.

Traditional Uzbek women's suit consists of conspicuous khan-atlas tunic-dress and wide trousers. Holiday garments were made of satin fabric richly embroidered with golden thread. Women's coats were similar to men's chapan. For centuries cotton has been used extensively for clothing in Uzbekistan. Home-woven striped and white cotton were the most common fabrics for everyday wear. Fabrics were "khanatlas"<sup>7</sup>, "bekasam"<sup>8</sup>, "alacha"<sup>9</sup>, "atlas"<sup>10</sup> and "kalami"<sup>11</sup>.

In addition, women's headdress consists of three elements: a skull-cap, kerchief and turban. An inalienable part of traditional holiday garments of Uzbek women are gold and silver jewellery: bracelets, earrings, necklaces. Most of Surkhandarya women prefer the colors of red nuance as a symbol of welfare. Moreover, the embroidery pattern was chosen not by chance, it always had magic or practical function. One could know about the owner's social status by the patterns, though sometimes they bear other meanings. For instance, repeating geometrical pattern on the braiding was a something like an amulet. Fabrics were brightly colored, in shades of red, yellow, blue, green, violet, and orange.

Clothing of black or dark blue colors was not popular in any region of Uzbekistan due to a superstition. Sogdian patterns have preserved the traces of Zoroastrian influence. The colors in this region were chosen on the basis of the position in society. For example, prevailing blue and violet nuances in a woman's dress showed her husband's pride of place, while greenish motifs were frequently used by peasants and craftsmen.

A robe - "mursak"<sup>12</sup> served as upper clothing for women, as well as for men. The robe was made long and loose, like a tunic. For the summer it was light, and for the winter it was quilted on cotton wool.

After the "emancipation of the women of the East" in the twenties of the last century and the lifting of the "burqa"<sup>13</sup>, the Uzbek women began to use a headscarf.

Footwear consisted of "makhsi"<sup>14</sup> (ichigi - beautiful boots without a back, with a soft sole, without a heel) and boots made of coarse leather or rubber. These are very comfortable and warm shoes and to this day they are popular.

Headdress is one of the main elements in the traditional Uzbek clothing. The national headwear in many countries of Central Asia, including Uzbekistan is a tubeteika (skull-cap).

Tubeteika is derived from the Turkic word "tubé", which means "top, peak". Tubeteika is worn by everybody: men, women, and children. Only elder women do not wear tubeteikas.

Today it is uncommon to meet a man in the tubeteika in large cities; mainly it is an important element of holiday garments at family parties and religious celebrations. The common form of the Uzbek tubeteika is tetrahedral and slightly conical. Traditional men's tubeteika is black and embroidered with anin-wrought white pattern in a form of four "paprikas" and 16 miniature arches. An everyday tubeteika, "kalampir"<sup>15</sup>, is one of the simplest and widely used cap, its importance must not be underestimated. This tubeteika is an essential attribute for some events even in the environment of a country-wide influence of the European culture. There are smart tubeteikas enriched with bright and colorful embroideries and patterns for special festival occasions. Each region of Uzbekistan has its own national headdress 'tyubetyka' (in russian) in height and pattern. Despite the wide range of variety it is considered that there are only six main schools of tyubetyka embroidery in Uzbekistan: Ferghana, Tashkent, Kashkadarya-Surkhandarya, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khorezm-Karakalpak. For special, festive cases there are smart tyubetykas that are rich in bright and gold embroidery and patterns.

A modern version of a woman's clothes in Uzbekistan is made up of a dress, pants and a headdress. The length of the dress varies up to the knee and below. Pants still maintain an indispensable part of the Uzbek wardrobe. As for shoes, they differ in the decor. Also there are

skullcaps, in solemn occasions the Uzbeks wear beautifully decorated skullcaps.

At the end of the twentieth century, domination of the western style of clothing was observed. However, the production of clothing is still happening in accordance with the traditional design, the presence of national patterns and colors.

The Uzbeks with pleasure combine their clothes with modern European clothes. The mixture of these two styles gives every woman the charm and uniqueness.

Most of the men and women in Uzbekistan today, especially in the city, dress modernly, according to European standards.

If today you want to see Uzbek traditional costumes, you can come to Uzbekistan and get on some Uzbek national holiday or festival. Riot of colors, Uzbek music, traditional beautiful wear and the atmosphere of the holiday will bring to your stay in Uzbekistan a breath of eastern life.

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