

## Tajik national costume

Tajik costume has seen a long historical development and evolution and represents cultural and beliefs system. In particular should be noted that Tajik people pay special attention in the color of the fabric from which costumes are made. Ancestors of the Tajik people – Sogdian and Bactrians made their clothing from the cotton and silk fabrics. The white color was particularly common as it symbolized happiness and cleanness. In addition, for the special event clothes colorful fabrics were used. This tradition has been preserved for centuries and today also people make clothes for different occasions based on the century old styles of color and patterns. The female clothes for special occasion are made from *adras* or *atlas*, in addition there is a rich tradition of embroidery clothes made from cotton fabrics.

Traditional Tajik female clothes include tunic dress, a hem, vest coat, overcoat, *yaktah* (a robe), headscarf, head, woven socks and shoes. Traditional female dresses of Tajiks have long sleeves and around the neck and edges of the sleeve and skirt are embroidered. Underneath the embroidered dresses women usually wear a white plain dress. In Rasht, Darvoz and Badakhshon female dresses are also adorned by colorful had woven ribbons. The front piece of the dress, often the chest part is fully embroidered and that is called *peshak*. The hems are made either from the matching fabric or other fabrics are ankle long with a hand woven ribbon attached in the lower part.

The city dwelling Tajik women usually worn dresses made from *adras*, *shohi* (a form of silk fabric) or *atlas* and they wore overcoats or robes made from velvet.

Women hats are also common element in Tajik costume and have specific regional characteristics in the northern regions are square and in other regions can be round-shaped. There are types of hat called *toqi* in Tajik, which are worn by young girls and newly wedded. Elderly wom-

en would put a scarf on top of their hats.

Tajik women headscarf is called a *ruimol* and has very rich types, such as *shol*, *farang*, *zargaroni* and *rubast*. These are made from silk or cotton fabrics sometimes hand embroidered or sometime with tapestry pattern. Elderly women usually wear darker color headscarves. The way women ties their headscarf also have age characteristics that is younger and older women would tie their headscarf differently. The style of wearing or tying headscarf known is *tagi manah*









(the scarf tied from the front under the chin), *peshoniband* (from the forehead) and etc.

Traditional men's clothing among Tajiks were short tunics made from cotton fabrics, overcoats, cotton filed coats, *toqi* – hat, turban. In mountain regions men also used to wear *chakman* - an overcoat made from animal skin.

Traditional male tunics were not richly ornamented as female one and they were exclusively made from cotton fabrics. The overcoats were worn with a handkerchief tied in the waist. Men *joma* – overcoats (robe like) were made from colorful horizontal lined pattern cotton fabrics such as *alocha* or *beqasab*.

The early 20th century the European men wear was introduced and this gradually replaced many traditional men's clothing except few such as overcoats or robes or hats. Today Tajik men were the traditional clothing in mixed with the European.

Traditional Tajik costume has great regional diversity and are easily distinguished by their type, stitching style and types of fabrics used. In rural areas majority men still wears traditional coats, robes and heats.













