

Malong Tube Skirt

MARANAO, LANA DEL SUR PROVINCE, NORTHWESTERN MINDANAO ISLAND, SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. *There are three generalized tube skirts of the Maranao that can be recognized according to how they are woven and the manner in which colors are employed. The different varieties are identified with specific and endearing names at times. The three are: landap, andon and plaids which can be striped and checkered.*



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1. *Landap malong* (beautiful to look at) – This type is distinguished by wide strips of cloth in red (*mariga*), yellow (*binaning*), violet (*birmoda*), blue (*biro*), abaca leaf green (*ombos a waka*) and green (*gadong*). These are decorated with narrow strips of *langkit* sewn vertically (seven-inch wide *lakban*) and three horizontal (three-inch wide *teberan*), one in the middle and two at both ends, crossing the *lakban*. Depending on the colors of the broad panels of cloth, they may be named as follows:
 - a. *Landap a benaning* – yellow landap, (preferred by women in the aristocracy)
 - b. *Landap a gadong* – green landap

- c. *Landap a mariga* – red landap
- d. *Landap a maitem* – black landap
- e. *Landap a ranbayong* – violet landap
- f. *Landap a kasomba* – pink landap

2. *Andon malong* – This type is woven using the tie-dye method and is generally worn by women. It has an identifying weaving and dyeing pattern that is distinctly Maranao. Colors vary according to the local palette.
3. Plaids, stripes and checkered types – There is a wide range of geometric design patterns used in this type that are also individually named:
 - a. *Ampik* – malong with geometric designs
 - b. *Barabas* – geometric designs of primary colors, blue, orange, yellow, etc.
 - c. *Batador* – with asterisk designs
 - d. *Binolotho* – with rainbow design
 - e. *Palikat* – with two primary colors forming geometric squares, uses yellow as primary color
 - f. *Pakabimban* – tri-color malong with minor white lines
 - g. *Ripara gadong* – geometric design with a dominant green color
 - h. *Piakambebetada* – primary colors are arranged forming squares in geometric pattern
 - i. *Nilalang* – checkered design
 - j. *Sinaopak a bales* – small, square, checkered design about 1x1 inch
 - k. *Kosta* – contrasting lines and cross lines of primary colors with minimum use of the black lines

Sub-styles of the malong have fascinating names: *mataragandung* (darling, maiden) and the *pakabinban* (seductive, attractive). *Andon* is a feminine type of wear and is the most complex, artistic and expensive; *bagadat* is an old style with stripes preferred by elders; *bombol a mera* (peacock feathers) designs have meanings.