



## **Spanish Gypsy Dressing Report**

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Formación | Consultoría y Proyectos



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## Gipsy dressing in the past centuries

The progressive integration of Gipsy people in the civic life has entailed the gradual lost of a part of their cultural aspects in a natural and pacific way, giving an answer to their own wishes.

Gipsy dressing has evolved over centuries.

Starting from the past centuries, we resort to Gipsy paintings in order to show some Gipsy picture belonging the period before the camera discovery; in the following paintings it is possible to know how their every day life was and above all their typical dress:



**Gypsies paintings**

The following pictures show Gypsy dressing of the past century: we can observe their dress related to their folklore.



María Gracia Cortés Campos "La Golondrina "



### Gypsy women of the past century

The main characteristics of a Gypsy dress were:

- **A decorated headdress with intertwined strips:** this element related Gypsies to the North of Africa one. During the years, it suffered some transformations becoming a headdress in the shape of a disc (wheel).
- **A tied cloak on one shoulder:** Gypsy women used it as a way of taking their children.
- **Stripped cloths:** Gypsy women used it as a way of distinction among them.
- **Skirt:** it could be long or quite short to let them their ankles or calf uncovered.
- **Smock:** a typical Gypsy dress, with a high collar closed with a bow.

## Gipsy dressing nowadays

Nowadays, Gypsy people dress the same as their school or neighbourhood friends, so it is more difficult to distinguish a Gypsy by his dress. There is not a big difference between Gypsy actual dresses and the others of the rest of people both in male and female aspect.

Globalization today is in everywhere, so it has inevitably reached also to Gypsies who get dressed or use the same as other people.

At most, it can coincide with the traditional dresses of the several Spanish regions.



**A group of Spanish Gipsy women**



## The Flamenco Dress

The **flamenco dress** is the typical clothing of flamenco dancers in their performances and it corresponds to the typical dress of the Andalusia Region.

Its origin goes back to the end of XIX century and the beginning of the XX one, when Gypsy saleswomen went to festivals with their percale dressing gowns decorated with flounces. They were mainly Gypsy and Andalusian countrywomen.

Successively, the higher class women copied more humble classes' dress, as it showed off women's figures, giving them poise and elegance: above all the neck, round or square, tied hair back in a bun and the accessories, that it means flowers in the hair, necklaces, earrings and shawls. At the same time, the flamenco dress was established as the typical dress of Andalusia, being enriched with flowers, jewellery, shawls, fabrics and fans.

During the years, the flamenco dress suffered many variations according to the period and fashion. In 60s and 70s of the past century, its dimensions changed to let knees and a half leg uncovered. But after that period, the flamenco dress returned to have its original length up to ankles.

Nowadays, there is a big variety of flamenco dresses for women and children.

The new designs are shown in the Flamenco Fashion International Show (SIMOF) in Seville.

## The flamenco dress for women

It consists in a large tailored dress up to ankles, decorated with some flounces on the skirt and sleeves. It can be made in bright colours and patterned. (The most typical is the polka-dot skirt).



**Typical Andalusian dresses**

Traditionally, the flamenco dress requires the tied hair back in a bun decorated with ornamental combs and a shawl leant on the shoulders.

The typical accessories are coloured earrings, fans, ornamental combs and shawls:



**Fans**



**Earrings**



**Ornamental combs**



**Shawl**

## The flamenco dress for men

It consists in a white shirt, a jacket buttoned up just in the first bottom, white turn-up trousers, a scarf tied around the waist, a pair of ankle boots and a hat with a wide brim.

Men has to dress using discreet colours - charcoal grey, black, white, blue -, wearing the hat inclined towards the right temple.



**Male boots**



**Male dress**

## The flamenco dress for children

The flamenco dress for children is very similar than that for women and men. The following pictures show examples of typical dresses:



**Boy dress**



**Girl dresses**