

NAFTA Folklore



Abrigo Ramo – A lightweight, long sleeve coat made of crude looking natural cloth. It has buttons in front along the entire length of the coat. The sleeves and front of the coat are heavily embroidered with flowers. Also regional handloomed costume dresses made from rough cambaya cloth, hand-dyed and richly decorated with hand-embroidered designs representing traditional regional motifs such as stars, key designs, pyramids, poppies, sunflowers and marigolds. All of the designs are richly and brilliantly colored.

Blusa Huahuaxtla Puebla – An ample blouse worn extensively in the northern hills of the State of Puebla, which is made of handwoven, crude greige cloth. It is pleated in the upper front and back and is heavily decorated around the collar, sleeves and bust with hand-embroidered, multi-colored crosses.

Blusa Huamantla Tlaxcala – A blouse made of natural, plain, handwoven white cloth, traditionally worn in Tlaxcalteca and North Puebla Regions of the country. It is heavily pleated around the bust, shoulders and cuffs and hand-embroidered in geometric motifs representing various farm animals and flowers.



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Blusa Manta de Bollilo – A handmade blouse, worn by peasant women in the Mexican highlands, which comes with a very wide, round or square neckline. The neckline is overlapped by a handmade piece of lace. The front and back of the blouse are heavily pleated.

Blusa Oaxaca – An amply cut, loose fitting blouse of handwoven fabric. Worn extensively in the Mixterzapotec Region of the State of Oaxaca, it is heavily pleated in the front and upper back and is completely edged in multi-colored lace with strips of lace along the sleeves.

Blusa Punto de Cruz – A blouse handmade from crude fabric and adorned with traditional cross-stitch embroidery commonly used by peasants in the central states of Mexico. The neck of the blouse is cut in a square or rectangular shape and is embroidered in a geometric pattern with flowers and leaves. The fabric itself is uniquely woven to form an overall pattern of small squares.



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Calzon Blanco – The most common peasant costume worn in Mexico. The two-piece outfit, consisting of pants and shirt, is made completely by hand in the cottage industry from unbleached greige cloth. The pants are baggy with two slits in the leg at the ankle. Narrow strips of cloth, attached at either end of the slits along the pants leg and at the waist, are used to hold the trousers in place. The shirt is decorated with long vertical pleats in front. A red, handwoven cotton band is worn loosely around the waist as an accessory.

Capa – A cape richly and extensively hand-embroidered with vivid colors. When used by bullfighters, it is intricately hand-embroidered with silver and gold thread.

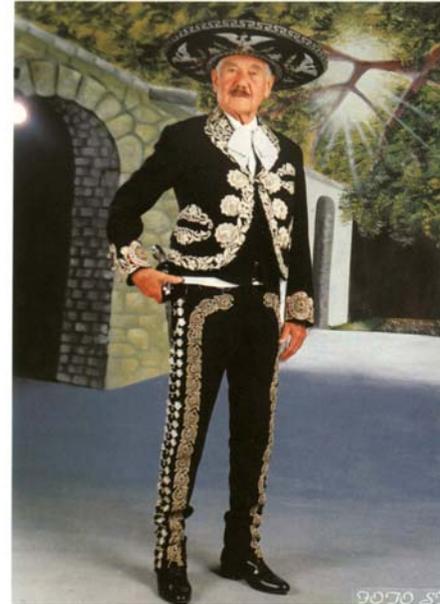
Capote – A red cape lined in yellow, worn by the matador in the bullring.



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Charro – A male costume consisting of a broad-brimmed hat made in cotton velvet, banded and decorated with silver or contrasting cotton ribbons; and a shirt in white cotton percale embroidered with an eagle in the back and birds in the front. It is worn with a large multi-colored bow tie called a “corbaton” made of a strip of cotton material more than a yard long and six inches wide. The jacket is fastened beneath the lapels with double frog-linked silver buttons. The jacket is worn with close-fitting tapered trousers which have an inch wide flap along the outer sides that sometimes is studded with silver buttons, metal studs, or sequins.



Chiapaneca – (From Chiapas). A richly embroidered handmade dress consisting of a huipil, a very wide skirt and a petticoat. The skirt is made of a very wide strip of cotton lace embroidered with large, brightly colored flowers, which are sewn together with the blouse, or huipil. The petticoat is heavily edged with a hand-drawn lace band.



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Chinanteca – a female costume from Oaxaca completely handloomed by highland Indians. It consists of a huipil made of three long strips of cotton heavily decorated with ruffles, and a wrap-around skirt hand-embroidered in ancient geometric designs. An embroidered strip of ribbons in alternated colors is sewn or appliquéd to the huipil.



China Poblana – A wide skirt called a “castor,” made of red cotton flannel, printed with black geometrical designs and profusely embroidered with sequins. The top and lower edges of the skirt are made of green cotton satin. The blouse is trimmed at the neckline and shoulders with a wide strip of embroidery in a traditional flower design made with thread or with beads and spangles. A traditional multi-colored handmade rebozo and a headdress made of two strands of hand-braided red, white and green ribbons complete the costume.



Deshilado – A heavy tablecloth or doily containing intricate designs exclusively hand-drawn from the fabric itself.

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Fustan – A type of long skirt, sometimes used as a petticoat. Always has a decorative band called a “xmanikte” encircling the lower edge. The fustan is generally heavily hand-embroidered in a cross-stitch with colorful geometric designs or flowers.

Hamaca – A handmade hammock from the Mexican tropics uniquely constructed by a system of knots permitting simultaneous utilization by several people.

Hautleca – A huipil composed of three rectangular pieces of handmade cloth, heavily hand-embroidered with geometric designs representing flowers and birds. From the region of Hautla, Oaxaca.



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Huichol – A man’s costume from Jalisco, which is completely handwoven and embroidered in cross-stitch. It consists of a straw hat decorated with a “borlas” around the top of a flat crown, a long shirt with slit sleeves, and wide-legged trousers also heavily hand-embroidered. The trousers are held in place by a waistband called a “cosihuire” or “queitzaruame,” which is decorated with a number of sashes. The entire costume is covered with a cape called a “tuhuarra,” which is richly hand-embroidered and decorated with a ribbon appliqué. It is completed with an embroidered handmade carrybag or knapsack called a “morrall.”

Huipil – A very traditional, unshaped and sleeveless woman’s dress, heavily embroidered and formed by a rectangular piece of fabric with a hole or slot in the center for the head. In many cases the embroidered decoration is hand-drawn from the fabric itself. The designs appearing in the huipil depict birds, flowers and geometric patterns of pre-Colombian Mexico.

Jorongo – A cloak made of a rectangular piece of cotton fabric with a hole in the center for the head to pass through. Heavily embroidered by hand with designs which appear mainly on that part of the fabric that covers the shoulders.

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Jubon – An amply cut blouse from Campeche and Yucatan made of unbleached greige cloth richly embroidered around the neckline and lower edge with colored flowers and trailing vine designs. The decoration can also be made of lace or ribbons. A special festive type of jubon is also used as part of the mestiza costume.



Malacatera – A cotton dress consisting of two pieces. The skirt is handmade out of a large rectangular piece of cloth, pleated at the waist and horizontally striped in a bold pattern. The huipil is handmade of sheer transparent cotton richly hand-embroidered in the front and at the bottom.

Mestiza – A female costume from Yucatan consisting of a traditional handmade multi-colored huipil, a jubon and a fustan. The jubon is richly hand-embroidered around the neckline and lower edge with colored flowers and trailing vines designs. A decorative band of drawn work which is called “xmanikte” encircles the lower edge of the fustan. The costume is topped off by an elaborate handwoven cotton headdress called a “tuch.”



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Mixteca – A handloomed huipil from the Mixteca region of Oaxaca, consisting of three rectangular pieces of cotton cloth brightly embroidered with birds and sewn together by embroidered narrow bands one or two inches in width. The three pieces of cloth are held together by plain, handmade cotton bands.

Nahuatl – (From Puebla). It consists of a handwoven quetchquemtl decorated and embroidered with animals and/or flowers. The dress also includes a wide skirt named the “enredo” that wraps around the waist and is held in place with a “faja,” a narrow piece of fabric, handwoven with geometric motifs or Greek keys. The entire dress also includes a light, short-sleeved blouse of cotton fabric embroidered at the neckline and shoulders.

Padas A Mano – A rather primitive hand-printed or hand-painted fabric depicting rural or religious scenes. Often used as wall tapestry. Generally comes in two sizes, 20” x 20” or 79” x 138”.

Quechquemtl – A type of closed cape made from two rectangular pieces of cloth formed into a square with a hole in the middle for the head. It covers the bust, the back and the shoulders and is handwoven in decorative designs.

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Ranchera Jalisco – A very wide full dress, the bottom portion of which is made of large, pleated horizontal bands of brightly colored fabric. The bands of fabric are decorated with lace at the point they are sewn together. Handmade lace is also used extensively to decorate the top portion of the dress.



Rebozo – A long, narrow shawl, woven by hand in single or multi-colored designs with fringe edges or ends of edges hand-knotted.

Resplendor – The Tehuana headdress is of Zoque origin, folded specially to allow the edge made of beautiful, intricately designed lace, to remain rigid on top of the head in the shape of a halo. It is made of stiff cotton lace and ribbon, well starched, with pleats at the edges. It is also called “bida-moro.”

Rodete de Tlacoyal – A very heavily knotted rope-like piece of material worn in a twisted configuration on the head.

Sarape – A type of blanket made of rough, handwoven fabric, in bright, multi-colored stripes.



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Tehuana – A female costume from Oaxaca consisting of an ample white petticoat bound with handmade lace, a bright skirt with a wide starched and pleated lower edge made of wide cotton lace and embroidered all over with geometric or flower design, a short huipil that falls slightly below the waist, and a headdress handmade of cotton lace and heavily starched, which is called a “resplandor.”

Terno – A male costume consisting of pants and jacket, used by a bullfighter at the start of his career. It is hand-embroidered on the sides of the pants and jacket with fancy, handwoven ribbon in contrasting colors. It is often heavily decorated in silver and gold.

Traje Regional Tarasco – A Michoacan peasant dress handmade from cambaya cloth. It has a unique yoke around the collar which is elaborately hand-embroidered with flowers and animals, utilizing a stitch pattern that gives the motif a very primitive appearance.

Vestido de la Costa del Golfo – A dress made entirely by hand of delicate cotton lace, either white or in colors. Worn extensively in the states of Veracruz, Tabasco and Campeche at festivals and weddings.

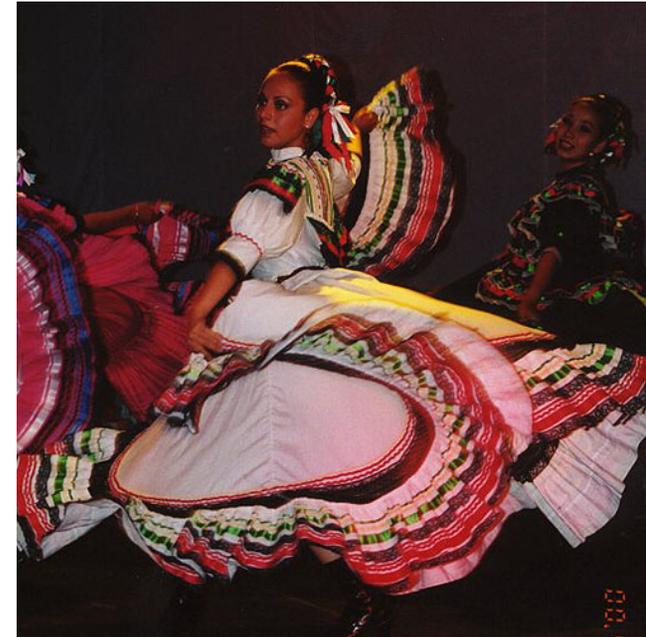
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Vestido Encaze – A very lightweight, transparent, heavily embroidered, handmade dress made out of strips of lace, which is often used for holidays and weddings.

Vestido Miraflores – An ankle length, long-sleeved dress made from cambaya handloomed and hand-dyed fabric. The sleeves and bottom portion of the dress are delicately hand-embroidered in brilliantly colored floral or bird motifs. Frequently the dress is also decorated with various colored ribbons sewn along the edges of the entire dress.

Yalalteca – A female costume from Oaxaca consisting of a very large huipil which falls almost to the knee, richly decorated with geometric designs, and a loosely fitting skirt or wrap-around of striped red and white cotton.



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