

Costumes and Ornaments of the Lahaulis

Head-dress:

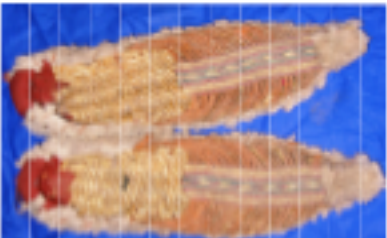
The men wear a round Kullu style cap. The Bodh women do not wear caps while the Swangla, Shipi and Lohar women wear a similar flat round cap called montsi. Unmarried women remain bare-headed by custom.



Mutik Kanti



Pappu



Pullah

Costumes:

Due to the cold climate, the popular fabric for clothes is wool. The men wear loose trousers of thick, dark coloured wool, called suthan with a full-sleeved shirt called kurta. Over this, they wear a long and loose Tibetan gown called kattar, which may be white or brown in colour. It is tied at the waist with a sash or girdle called skyerag. The women's clothing is quite similar with certain minor differences. The women's trousers are more like a chudidar pyjama (tight trousers with gathers near the ankles). They wear a gown called dugpa over a kurta, and this is also tied at the waist with the skyerag. While the men's gown is buttoned on the right, the women's is tied in front with strings. The women usually wear a green or yellow jacket over the gown during winter. The women may also use a woolen shawl or chaddar during the winter months. During summer, cotton clothes are sometimes used. The women generally prefer colours such as red, crimson and black, while the men prefer white, light cream, grey and dark blue. Colourful knitted socks in intricate designs called pappus is the trademark of Lahaul. These are also used as gifts for special occasions. The characteristic footwear of the Lahaulis for walking on snow is the pullah, made of straw and treated bark, and sometimes lined with fur. The straws are dyed different colours and then woven interspersed with the natural coloured ones to give the pullahs colourful patterns.

Ornaments:

The men only wear gold ear-rings called murki and gold neck rings called kyanti. The women wear a number of ornaments. A dungri is a square piece of silver or shell, used to tie the braid. Kirkisti is a saucer shaped silver or gold ornament that is tied to the back of the head with several small plaits. The poshal is an ornament consisting of a pair of ambers that is tied to the centre of the forehead with threads. The tarka is a silver clip used to tie hair on either side of the forehead. Chota-phuli and bara-phuli are the gold nose-pins. Gold or brass ear-rings embedded with imitation beads called along are worn in the ears. Mutik kanti and tuka kanti adorn the neck, while a pair of silver bangles called nang is worn on the wrist. The nyagthag is a silver ornament studded with precious and semi-precious stones that adorns the breast. Dung kitsi is worn around the waist.



Tuka Kanti



Kirkisti



Along



Nang or Nagchi