

## Slovenian Male Traditional Costume

The national costume of Slovenia certainly looks European. In Slovenian it is called “Narodna noša” (narodna nosha). It was established and unified in the 19th century. Until then, there were many regional Slovenian costumes with their unique features. Some areas used their folk clothing until World War II, but today, Gorenjska (Upper Carniola) folk costume is considered the national dress of Slovenia. And Slovenians around the whole country use it.

Slovenian traditional clothing was worn mostly for special occasions and holidays in the 18th-19th century. Nowadays, it is used by folklore singers and dancers, or for cultural festivals, celebrations, to entertain tourists. Very seldom are these outfits worn by ordinary people in everyday life.

The man’s costume consists of a white shirt, long underwear pants, leather breeches, a vest, a scarf, long leather boots and a hat. This is at least as much in the Alpine Tradition. It is only very slightly different from that worn in parts of Austria. An Alpine style felt hat and pocket-watch on a chain and fob complete the costume.

The base is a linen shirt with full sleeves, as is true for almost all folk costumes. The cut is very similar to that of the woman's costume, with a shoulder inset on the sides of the body. The shirt has long sleeves and is usually plain, without any embroidery or openwork. The underwear pants are white, cotton, and also plain. They are long and often have straps at the bottom to tie them to the ankle and are reminiscent of those worn in Spain.



Leather, knee-length breeches are worn over the underwear pants and are ornamented with green stitching. The breeches are similar to the Austrian or German ones, but in those countries, men never use underpants. Traditionally they are made of leather from the Red Deer, but in practice, they are made of many types of leather. When high leather boots are worn, the white underwear trousers are sometimes hidden. But it is common and normal if they are seen between the breeches and boots.

The boots may be ordinary, or they may have a cuff at the top, which may be ornamental or occasionally they may be very tall, extending above the knee.



The male vest used in Slovenia is called “lajbič” or “telovnik”. Usually, it is red or black but other colours are also used. The vest can be made from different materials depending on the wealth and status of a wearer: velvet, cotton, wool, etc. But almost always it is embellished with embroidery or prints; floral patterns are the most common. Generally it is made of either a solid colour or a material with a small ornament repeated across its surface. Rich Slovenian men used vests with silver buttons. Usually the bottom is cut straight across, but you do see ones with the two points which are typical of western vests. The vest is the main object of ornament which distinguishes one man from another.



Male headdresses usually are black felt hats with flowers or feathers as a decoration. Some adornments are really beautiful and look very noble.



And the last accessory in Slovenia is a scarf. The most interesting thing about this item is the way of wearing. It is worn on top of the shirt but beneath the vest. So, you can see only the ends of the scarf on the shoulders of the wearer. Sometimes they simply sew a corner or piece of shawl to the vest.

