

Women | Muslim Women's Costume and Jewellery

'Islam enjoins both men and women to dress modestly and women are expected to cover their heads.'

Islam enjoins both men and women to dress modestly. Muslim women are expected to cover their heads and wear long-sleeve garments that reach from the neck to the ankle. Beyond these general conventions observed by all, Muslim female costume has always varied greatly from culture to culture and from period to period in terms of textiles, design, layering of garments, the style of headdress and accessories. Social class and ethnic background have also played a role in a woman's appearance.



Name:

Kaftan

Dynasty:

Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century 'Alawid

Details:

Museum of the Udayas

Rabat, Morocco

Justification:

This expensive Moroccan kaftan shows Ottoman influences. It has two embroidered bands. The neck opening has buttons and lace edges.



Name:

Kütahya ceramics

Dynasty:

Hegira 12th–13th century / AD 18th–19th century Ottoman

Details:

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts

Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Turkey

Justification:

The costume of a provincial 12th- / 18th-century Ottoman woman is illustrated by this plate. She wears a kaftan with a shirt beneath it, a wide trouser and the characteristic headdress.



Name:

Tabica (small board)

Dynasty:

Late 13th century Mudéjar

Details:

National Archaeological Museum

Madrid, Spain

Justification:

A tile that illustrates the contemporary 7th- / 13th-century outfit of an ordinary Spanish woman, including a shirt and thin outer garment (izar).



Name:

Silk garment

Dynasty:

Hegira 1245 / AD 1830 Ottoman

Details:

Islamic Museum, al-Aqsa Mosque / al-Haram al-Sharif
Jerusalem

Justification:

Affluent women could afford expensive attire as seen here; this outfit belonged to the wife of the Ottoman ruler of Jerusalem.
