

Lungi

For other uses, see [Lungi \(disambiguation\)](#).

The **lungi** (لونگی) (লুঙ্গি) (/ˈlʊŋɡi/), also known as a sarong, is a traditional garment worn around the waist in India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Burma, Brunei, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, the Horn of Africa and the southern Arabian Peninsula. It is particularly popular in regions where the heat and humidity create an unpleasant climate for trousers.

1 Design

Unlike dhotis (Mundu), which are linear like sheets, lungis are sometimes sewn into a tube shape like a skirt. They are especially worn in hot regions. There are also cheaper “open” lungis, in identical dimensions but not sewn into a tube shape. The standard adult lungi is 115 cm in height and 200 cm in length, when open. Children’s lungis are available in approximately 2/3 of this size. They are normally woven from cotton and come in a variety of designs and colors. Silk lungis are available for ceremonial purposes such as weddings. The most common styles are either solid-colored or plaid, reflecting the relative ease and cost-effectiveness of producing these patterns on a power loom. Blue is particularly popular, since it fades to pleasant tones in contrast to other colors. Regardless of the design or color, lungis are often lined at the top and bottom with a black/white stripe containing reinforced weaving to prevent fraying.

2 Usage

Depending on local tradition, lungis can be worn by men and/or women (rarely). They are tied or fastened in various ways, and can be used in different cultural activities, ranging from normal daily life to elaborate wedding ceremonies. For daily purposes, a simple “double twist” knot is most popular, where two points in the upper edge of lungi are brought together and twisted around twice, with the ends tucked in at the waist. However, it is also common for wearers to simply tie a double “pretzel knot” from 2 points on the upper border, which produces a more secure knot. The lungi’s length can also be adjusted, for example, by tucking in the lungi at the waist to make it resemble a short skirt.

3 Regional variations

3.1 Bangladesh

The lungi (Bengali: লুঙ্গি /luŋgi/, Sylheti: লুঙ্গি /longi/) is the most commonly seen dress of Bangladeshi men, although it is not normally worn for formal occasions. In Bangladesh, lungis are worn by men, almost universally indoors and commonly outdoors as well. Elaborately designed tartan cotton, batik, or silk lungis are also often presented as wedding gifts to the groom in a Bangladeshi wedding. The typical Bangladeshi lungi is a seamless tubular shape, as opposed to the single sheet worn in other parts of South and Southeast Asia. In Bangladesh, the lungi industry is concentrated in Sirajganj, Kustia, Pabna and Khulna. Bangladeshi women do not traditionally wear lungis, although non-Bengali tribal women do wear similar garments in some parts of southeastern Bangladesh.

In April 2013, the Baridhara Housing Society—a housing society in Dhaka—banned lungi, and began refusing entry to those who wore them. However, many opposed the ban, taking to social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter to criticise the decision. A march took place on 13 April to oppose the ban.

Meanwhile, U.S Ambassador Dan W. Mozena has been seen wearing a lungi in front of his house.^[1] Some famous lungi companies in Bangladesh are Pakiza Lungi, ATM Lungi, and Allaher dan Lungi House (Jalalpur Notun Para Pabna)

3.2 Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, the Lungi is commonly worn by Afar region people. As the climate is very hot in the Afar region, the Lungi makes the perfect garment.

3.3 India

In India, the customs behind wearing lungis vary by state.

In Kerala, the lungi is generally colourful and available in various designs, and it is worn by both men and women. It is also called Kaili mundu. Physical laborers typically use it as a working dress. A Kerala dhoti is plain white and known as vella mundu, and it often bears golden embroidery (known as “kasavu” mundu), especially at the border; it is worn as formal attire and on ceremonial oc-



Hatashe wearing the Lungi (লুঙ্গি) (लुङ्गी) (lundi), also known as a Sarong

casions like weddings, festivals, etc. Saffron-coloured mundus are known as kaavi munde. The men sometimes tuck up their mundus (Kerala dhoti) or lungis with the



A boy in a village of Narail, Bangladesh wearing a lungi with simple twist knot

bottom of the garment being pulled up and tied back on to the waist. This would mean that the mundu (Kerala dhoti) or lungi only covers the body from the waist to the knees.

In Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, only men wear this garment, and it is worn slightly differently from men in Kerala; Keralites tie the mundu to the right side, while the Tamilians tie it to their left. However, there are exceptions and some of the Muslim communities in Kerala also tie the mundu to their left. It is also known as “Kaili” or “Saaram/Chaaram” in South Tamil Nadu. The Muslims of Tamil Nadu are found to favor white-colored lungis for formal occasions.

In Karnataka it is customary for village residents to wear the lungi at all times and for all occasions. The garment is always worn for marriages; the bride and groom fathers and the groom himself wear white panche. If a family can afford it, they typically choose a pure silk panche for the marriage ceremony.

It is common in Konkan side of Karnataka state. Mostly used by Nawayath people who hails from Bhatkal Almost all of them wears it as their daily attire. It is as a mark of their tradition in Bhatkal. Mostly you will find them sewn like cylindrical shape. White lungi is common in them

In Punjab (both Pakistani and Indian portions), lungis are worn by both men and women. The male lungi is also called a tehmat,^{[2][3]} while the female lungi is called a laacha. They are part of traditional dance attire in Bhangra dance groups, but are also popular in rural areas as home wear. They are generally tied in a different way than in other parts of India and are, as a rule, unstitched and very colourful. Wearing the lungi has declined in the Punjab region in recent years.^[4]

In Odisha, and West Bengal the lungi is primarily worn at home by males of all classes of society. Hindu men generally avoid wearing lungis on the street.

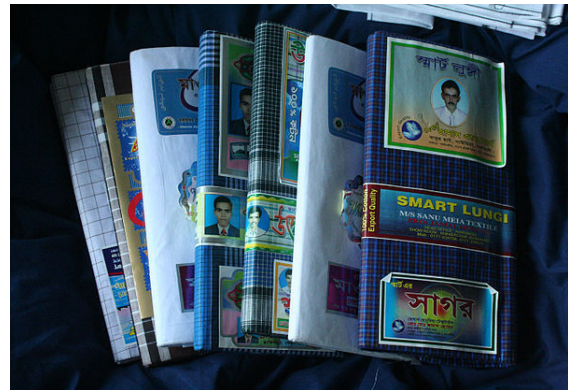
In Odisha, Sambalpuri with the Sambalpuri pattern and mule based lungis from Khordha are available in addition



Hatashe wearing the Lungi (লুঙা) (lundi) in short style, also known as a sarong



Hatashe wearing the Lungi (লুঙা) (lundi), also known as a Sarong



A collection of lungis purchased in Dhaka, showing original wrapping

3.6 Oman

In Oman, the garment is called an Izaar. A white Izaar is typically worn underneath the Thobe and a coloured Izaar may be worn by fishermen and during times of manual labour without a Thobe. Sometimes, as part of traditional dance attire, a shorter knee length Izaar is worn on top of the traditional garment.

3.7 Saudi Arabia

In Saudi Arabia, the garment is called an Izaar. The tribal people of the southwestern regions like Asir generally wear their own woven Izaar, similar to those used by tribes in Northern Yemen. They are often black in colour, unstitched and may have tassels. Other Saudis may wear imported Bangladeshi, Indian, or Indonesian plaid or striped Izaars as comfortable home wear or for sleeping. It is very common in coastal areas, and is also worn extensively by fishermen.



The border of a Bangladeshi lungi, showing the black & white reinforced weave border to minimize fraying



Bangladeshi actor Zubair Hasan from Sydney, Australia wearing a traditional lungi and holding up a colorful lungi.



Bhangra dancers in lungi

3.8 Somalia

In Somalia, the lungi sarong is referred to as a *macawis*. It is commonly worn by Somali men as casual wear. The traditional color of the macawis is plain white. However, due to trade with the Southeast Asian islands and the Indian subcontinent as well as the location of Somalia on the Spice Route, colourful Southeast Asian-style lungis are becoming more and more popular.

3.9 Thailand

In Thailand, it is known as a “pa kao mah” (Thai: ผ้าขาวม้า) for men and a “pa toong” (Thai: ผ้าถุง) for women.

3.10 Yemen

In Yemen, the garment is called a Futah and is worn by males of all ages.

3.11 Mozambique

In Mozambique, it is known as capulana.

4 In popular culture

In 2013, a song called *Lungi Dance* was made and used as a promotion song. It was written, composed and sung by the rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh and starred himself along with Shahrukh Khan and Deepika Padukone.

5 See also

- Sarong
- Indian Dress
- Kilt
- Kanga
- Shendyt

6 References

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