



**Traditional Clothing
in Germany**

The Black Forest Costume

The well-known costume with the characteristic "Bollenhut" hat is worn in three villages only: Gutach, Hornberg-Reichenbach and Kirnbach. The hat is a straw hat with eleven big balls of wool sown on top in a cross pattern. After their religious confirmation, young women wear hats with red balls until they are married. Once married, they wear hats with black balls. The costume is complemented with a black wraparound skirt, a velvet camisole with puffed sleeves and the Schobe jacket lined in red and black.



The Flemish Costume

The national costume in southern Brandenburg is the red skirt with a green apron. The color of the apron advertises the age of the woman wearing it. Women under the age of 45 wear red aprons, while women beyond 45 wear purplish-blue aprons. These were often embellished with seven rows of pearls and edgings, and the Flemish women are proud of their colorful braids, their black velvet facings and their cloths embroidered with flower patterns.



The Spreewald Costume

Women wore this traditional costume with its extravagant headpiece on a daily basis until the 1930s. The garment was a means of communicating the financial status of its owner. Thus the dress may have been made from brocade in one case, from plain cloth in another. The special headpiece was tied with three individual cloths and was embellished with expensive lace in the same fashion as the blouse and skirt.



The Dirndl Skirt

The dirndl skirt was originally the garment of a peasant girl (from the south German dialect word "Dirne", i.e. 'girl.'). In many places, especially in Bavaria and Austria, the garment has evolved to be a regional costume with special characteristics. An obvious symbolism passed down to the present day is the tied ribbon used to fasten the apron. It traditionally announces the marital status of the woman wearing it: if worn on the right side, it shows that the woman is either married or engaged. If worn on the left side, it shows that the woman is still unattached.

