

So there is an event coming up with a Middle Eastern theme and you want to dress appropriately but don't want to break the bank or spend ten years figuring out what to wear? Here are some suggestions on how to dress so you fit in without killing yourself. The patterns included here are from other SCAdians, articles and websites websites, plus from some professional patterns. They are not for commercial use. They are only to aid you in constructing appropriate and basic garb. This is of course, not an in-depth study, it is merely to give folks some options for styles of dress if they are attending a Middle Eastern themed event and want to blend in.

Men's Options –There seems to be some similarities in the dress of the men in the nomadic and early periods of the Middle East. As the cultures became more settled and developed different city habits, the clothing became more distinct.

Early Andalusian/Moorish Garb(Early Period):

Men in this area wore pants (similar to sarwal); an undertunic and an overtunic. The under tunic was generally called the qamis or chemise. This was a plain white linen or cotton tunic. The over tunics came in two styles: either an al-shaya-a short, close fitting tunic or an al-jubba-a long, loose fitting tunic. The tunics were often decorated with tiraz bands on the arms. An over-robe or coat which was open all the way on the front, called a durr'a, could also be worn. There was also the burnus which was a hooded cloak. On their heads they wore turbans, made of a narrow strip of cloth which was called the mi'zar.

Seljuk Men (Early Period):

The men's outfit included trousers, tunic, coat and hat. The trousers or the ichton were simple straight legged pants. They were loose but not harem pants! The tunic is most likely a pull over the head t-style tunic or a cross over tunic. I could not find any good images of these tunics. The yalma or coats were done as cross over styles with a close fitted round neck-line. The coats were lined and decorated with tiraz bands. The hats were called boerks and seem to be a bowl shape that was decorated and made to suit the weather.

Ottoman Turks (Mid to late period):

The Ottoman men wore pants, also called sarwal. These were loose pants that tapered down to the ankle. Their under tunics, gomelks, generally had long straight sleeves and went down to the knee. They wore caftans or entari (anteri) on top of the gomlek. These coats had several lengths and styles of decorations depending on the use of the coat, the rank of the wearer and the season. Often the men's coats had round collars or small stand up collars. They wore several layers of coats again depending on rank and season. The men generally wore a turban wrapped around a small cap or hat. The color of the turban and size of the turban represented your religion, rank and job.

Following are some images of these styles of dress:

Andalusian Dress: This image is from Violante de Sant Sebastians handout on Andalusian garb.

Courtly Gentleman

The last drawing is of a courtly gentleman. He wears a turban and a silk jubba with tiraz. (Where the tail of the turban would normally be worn hanging straight down the back, in this picture it is drawn hanging over his shoulder to indicate the length.) His slippers peek out from beneath his robes.



Next we have the Seljuk Man. This is from an early miniature showing Mamluk cavalry.



Finally, an Ottoman Turk. This image is from a miniature showing scholars in the Sultan's court.



Instructions on Turbans:

Here are some websites on how to tie a turban:

<http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-tie-a-turban-4>

http://ddfr.best.vwh.net/Medieval/miscellany_pdf/Other_Articles_V_Turban.pdf