



THE CARPATHIAN TRADITIONAL FOLK COSTUME – A VISUAL LANGUAGE OF ETHNIC AND SYMBOLIC IDENTITY: ROMANIA VS UKRAINE


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The Carpathian Folk Costume

A Visual Language that represents cultural heritage,
ethnic identity, and social symbolism.

Costumes are far more than clothing: they are a
profound visual archive of history, culture, and social
structure, that delineate distinct identities within a
shared geography.






Shared Roots, Separate Paths: The Carpathian Context

The Carpathian Mountains connect Northern Romania (Maramureș, Bukovina, Transylvania) and Western Ukraine (Transcarpathia, Hutsul region)

Visual Language: Every pattern, color, and cut communicates the wearer's age, social status, and marital condition.



Romanian Port Popular: Vibrant Colors & Floral Narratives

Ia (embroidered blouse) and **Catrință/Fotă** (woven aprons/skirt).

Floral Motifs (Roses, Vines): Predominant theme, symbolizing fertility, life, and the beauty of nature.

Maramureș: Distinctive white-on-white embroidery with sharp red/black accents;

Transylvania: Rich beadwork and metallic threads, heavier wool.



Ukrainian Vyshyvanka: Geometric Code & Archaic Protection

Vyshyvanka (embroidered shirt) and **Kersetka** (vest), secured by the heavy **Krayka** (wool belt).

Geometric Motifs (Rhombuses, Octagons):

Less decorative, highly symbolic, representing ancient cosmological beliefs.

Intense, dense colors: Red (Sun, protection), Black (Earth, sorrow), and Orange/Yellow (Fire, energy).





The Stitch Tells the Story: Embroidery Comparison

Romanian Technique

Dominant Stitches: Punctul înaintea acului (Running stitch), Punctul de la fir (decorative filling).

Aesthetic Goal: To create soft, flowing, often multi-colored surfaces.

Ukrainian Technique

Dominant Stitches: Cross-stitch (Cruciulița).

Aesthetic Goal: To achieve tight, precise geometric blocks; emphasis on symmetry and structure.



Side-by-Side: The Visual Contrast

The costumes, while distinct, underscore the resilience of textile tradition in the Carpathian region.

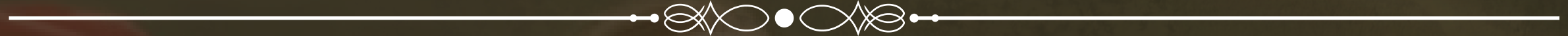


Romanian costume emphasizes beauty and connection to the natural world.



Ukrainian costume emphasizes ancient symbolism and protective geometry.





Thank You

