

Tune up your style with the tunic!

The tunic is described in the dictionary as a loose wide-necked garment that extends to the hip or knee and is usually worn with a belt or gathered at the waist. I describe it in fashion terms as one of the "must haves" of summer! These simple tops come in a variety of styles, and I'll clue you in to a few top looks here. The list is endless! You can find prime examples of this easy and breezy garment at the Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center near you. I will give you some ideas on what to look for, and how any woman can incorporate this fun style into their wardrobe.



The style seen most often here is the classic white cotton tunic that goes everywhere you do all summer long. Sometimes worn with jeans, shorts or other casual items, it has a chic and easy style all its own, and can be accessorized so easily with belts, statement necklaces and bracelets. This is the one you should look for first just because it is the most versatile!



The simple tunic has often been used on the beach as a cover-up in between swimming or sun tanning. When worn for this purpose it is usually made of lightweight cotton that allows just enough coverage to keep you modest as you make your way to the refreshment stand or back to your car in the parking lot. It also serves as a top when you slip your jeans or shorts over your swimming attire. Short or long sleeved it should just skim the body without being too voluminous. You don't want to come off like "Mrs. Roper" on "Three is Company!" Her tacky caftan/tunics are legendary!



The ethnic tunic is comprised of fabric that reflects an international vibe. Whether African inspired designs, Mediterranean or middle eastern, rest assured this is a statement piece that can be worn with jeans, shorts, skirts, and even over other simple sun dresses. Look for bright and fun prints that capture that "international" vibe and you'll be doing well. Vibrant solids in jewel tones will also work to take your fashion to "far away" places. Pair with it accessories that have a similar flavor, like chunky wooden necklaces and bracelets, or bright golden medallions and chains.



The evening tunic has more of a "wow" factor, and has metallic threads running through the fabric, or is embellished with sequins or beading detail. This type of shirt can be worn during the day, but it can sometimes be a little over the top if you're not careful. When wearing elaborate tops, remember to keep all the other elements of your ensemble on the simple side, and let the sparkles be the star!



Floral tunics give off more of a romantic look. They may have drawstring waists for definition, or even a drawstring at the neckline to adjust coverage. This girly style employs ruffles, lace, gathering and other feminine details that make this style absolutely perfect to wear with a full summer skirt, jeans or even some flowing pajama type pants.



This fabulous summer top can easily be layered over tank tops or any t-shirt but especially when made of a sheer fabric. You should never wear a sheer top over just your undergarments. This would make this look tacky and not terrific. The tunic should be a summer staple for every woman no matter what her size or shape. The easy fit and fabric that flows away from the body make this a no brainier for anyone who has a few figure flaws that they want to camouflage. Keep in mind that whether short sleeved, long sleeved, plain and simple or bright and brassy, you'll find lots of options to check out at the Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center near your own home and give your summer style a "tunic tune-up".

