

BIRTHSTONE GUIDE

January: Garnet or Rose Quartz

Garnets are mostly seen in a deep red color but are also available in pink and purplish-red, green, orange, and brownish-red. Garnets have been said to have healing powers and in the past were used as a symbol of commitment.

February: Amethyst

The purple stone amethyst is a member of the quartz family. Legend tells that its color was given by Bacchus the Roman God of wine and revelry. Amethyst has a wide variety of legends ranging from preventing intoxication to enhancing psychic abilities.

March: Aquamarine or Bloodstone

Aquamarine is a blue stone ranging in color from light bluish-green to pastel blue. Its name is derived from the Roman names for water (aqua) and sea (marinus). Aquamarine has been said to be a cure for laziness and also to provide courage to the wearer.

Bloodstone is dark green in color and usually has orange or reddish spots. This stone is a member of the chalcedony family, which includes stones such as onyx and agate. The myth behind the name is that the orange and red spots are said to be the blood of Christ.

April: Diamond

The diamond is most commonly seen in its beautiful colorless state, but also appears in nature in red, yellow, pink, green, blue, and purple. Diamond is the hardest substance known to man. The ancient Greeks believed that diamonds were splinters of stars fallen to Earth.

May: Emerald

Emerald has a wonderful green color that is unmatched by any other gemstone. It is one of the most precious and desirable gemstones in the world. Emeralds are said to soothe tired eyes and were often worn by travelers. The name Emerald is derived from a Sanskrit word that means “the green of things that grow.”

June: Pearl or Moonstone

Pearls are formed as the product of a defense mechanism of an oyster. When an irritant is introduced into the shell the oyster begins surrounding it with a substance known as nacre. This is how a pearl is formed. A pearl's beauty comes from its luster. Pearls have come to be representative of modesty, chastity, and purity and are also a symbol of a happy marriage.

Moonstone is an alternate birthstone for June. This stone has a white or bluish sheen inside the translucent stone. These are mostly seen in colorless, white, or peach tones.

July: Ruby

Ruby is a rich, red-colored gemstone that has a hardness surpassed only by diamond. Rubies are believed to be capable of bringing passion to relationships, curing lovers' quarrels, and preserve the health of the wearer.

August: Peridot

Peridot is a light yellow-green to dark green stone that is created from volcanic action. Peridot is said to be a powerful amulet against evil and was also said to relieve the wearer from nightmares.

September: Sapphire

Sapphires, most commonly seen in deep blues, also come in colors such as yellow, pink, orange, green, and violet. Sapphires hardness is equal to the ruby. Sapphires are believed to be one of the most powerful gemstones providing protection and prosperity.

October: Opal or Tourmaline

Opal is one of the most unique gemstones due to the rainbow of colors contained within each stone. In the middle ages it was believed that wearing opals would prevent fair-haired woman's' blond hair from darkening. The opal is a symbol of hope, innocence and purity.

Tourmaline comes in virtually every color of the spectrum, but is most often seen in pink and green.

November: Topaz or Citrine

Topaz is available in red, orange, peach, pink, gold, yellow, and blue. Topaz is a symbol of love and affection and is thought to bring friendship and fidelity.

Citrine is a type of quartz that appears in colors such as orange-brown, pink, peach, and reddish-orange. It is most commonly seen in the popular yellow and orange varieties. Citrine was thought to be a **protective talisman against the plague, bad skin, and evil thoughts.**

December: Turquoise, Blue Zircon, Tanzanite

Turquoise has a very long history, as it was one of the first stones worn as jewelry. It appears in shades of blue ranging from light to robin's egg blue.

Blue Zircon is a light-colored, transparent blue stone that was believed to have healing powers and also to provide its wearer with wisdom, honor, and riches.

Recently there has been a move to make Tanzanite the official birthstone of December. The American Gem Trade Association recently added it to its birthstone list, citing its affordability and a distinctive beauty that rivals sapphire. The tanzanite is a beautiful stone that can be cut to emphasize either its blue or violet color.