

# The Intrigue of Gemstones

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The fiery red of a ruby, the intensity of a green emerald, the deep blue of the sapphire, and the brilliance of the diamond all draw our attention as we gaze into their amazing colors! From everyday chic to evening glamour, we have incorporated them into our lives as body-adorning jewelry. Today, gems have found their place in art and décor, becoming a valued symbol in cultures all over the world.

Gemstones have been around for thousands of years, all of which has been connected to the pomp and drama of royalty and many museums showcase collections of these gemstones. Fascinated by these orbs of color, dating back to the earliest recorded history, the Romans thought that diamonds were slivers of stars falling down to earth and the ancient Greeks felt that they were tears from the gods.

The word jewel is taken from the French word *joie*, meaning joy and happiness which is why gemstones have been given as tokens of love, a fine gift that continues to reflect the giver's intention.

Many gems are believed to hold special meanings that have intrigued us for centuries. Amethyst is said to promote clarity in thinking, sparkling diamonds represent purity, while opals with their fire-like flashes of color are said to bring hope. Truth is connected to the sapphire stone, turquoise to prosperity, and emerald promotes abundance. Aquamarine is believed to offer courage.

As the intrigue of gemstones continues, we marvel at their attention-drawing brilliance, and appreciate their beauty.



January~GARNET: A deep red glittering stone that's incredibly popular and can be mistaken for a ruby. Quality garnets are considered fine stones.

February~AMETHYST: One of the very few stones with its unique purple coloration, amethyst is a variety of quartz and comes in various shades of purple.



March~AQUAMARINE: Resembles the hues of the Gulf. The word aquamarine comes from the Latin words for 'water' and 'of the sea.'

April~DIAMOND: Known as "a girl's best friend," this gemstone comes in a variety of colors, with white being the most popular.

May~EMERALD: A deep green stone, a favorite gem of female icons such as Cleopatra and Elizabeth Taylor.

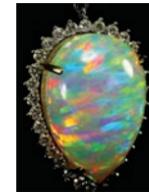
June~PEARL: The only gemstone found within the shells of living creatures. Pure white and the iconic black pearls are the most popular.

July~RUBY: True red in color and a favorite with kings and prominent individuals around the world, the ruby is known as the King of Gems.



August~PERIDOT: Bright lime-green in color with considerable variations. Although it has been a prized stone since ancient times, it is known as a modern birthstone.

September~SAPPHIRE: Deep indigo blue, this valuable gem is found only in specific areas of Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Kashmir.



October~OPAL: Comes in all colors with a brilliant play of colors, flashing rainbow, and fire shades.

November~TOPAZ: In its natural state, topaz is colorless, but through trace element impurities, it can produce pale blue or golden brown to yellow-orange and pink hues.



December~TANZANITE: Can change colors when held in the light to blues, golden, green, lilac, and peacock. Many December brides have chosen this stone as an elegant alternative to a diamond.




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