

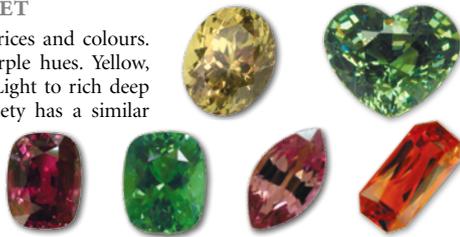
FEBRUARY 2012

BIRTHSTONES

JANUARY... GARNET

Available in a variety of prices and colours. Deep red to pink and purple hues. Yellow, orange and brown tones. Light to rich deep green. Colour change variety has a similar appearance to Alexandrite.

HARDNESS: 7-7.5



FEBRUARY... AMETHYST

Mid to rich deep purple. Available in larger sizes and interesting cuts. It is said to bring luck and protect the wearer from magic and homesickness.

HARDNESS: 7-7.5



MARCH... AQUAMARINE

Light to mid blue, deeper shades are rare. It is said to arouse feelings of sympathy, trust, harmony and friendship.

HARDNESS: 7.5-8



APRIL... DIAMOND

White sapphire is a durable, natural alternative to Diamond. Pink and yellow sapphires can look just as spectacular as rare coloured diamonds. Zircon, a very bright gem can be used instead of champagne, cognac and blue diamonds. Black Spinel is a great substitute for black Diamond.



MAY... EMERALD

Light to rich deep green. Fine quality Emeralds are rare. Currently mined in Zambia, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Columbia and India.

HARDNESS: 7.5-8



JUNE... MOONSTONE

Fine quality transparent white moonstones and those with a fine blue schiller, command high prices while opaque gems are less expensive.

HARDNESS: 6-6.5



JULY... RUBY

Available from small diamond cut rounds to larger single pieces. Quality gems over 1ct are becoming scarce. Star and cabochon in fine quality are rare. Beware of 'bargains' as there are many cheap alternatives that have undergone various treatments and are not considered to be 'Natural Ruby'.

HARDNESS: 9



AUGUST... PERIDOT

Bright vivid light to mid green. Readily available in calibrated sizes up to approx 2ct and larger individual gems which can be absolutely breathtaking. Used in Egyptian jewellery as early as 2000 BC.

HARDNESS: 6.5-7



SEPTEMBER... SAPPHIRE

Blue, pink, purple, yellow, green and white, occasionally fancy colours including orange, apricot and peach. Colour change, star and cabochon varieties are also available. Hard and durable, suitable for all types of jewellery.

HARDNESS: 9



OCTOBER... TOURMALINE

Light to deep pink and green, occasionally red, blue and yellow. Available in many shapes and sizes, a perfect gem for many types of jewellery.

HARDNESS: 7-7.5



NOVEMBER... TOPAZ

Beautiful soft yellow to golden. Less expensive blue and white varieties. Natural pink Topaz is very rare, beware of the coated variety.

HARDNESS: 8



DECEMBER... ZIRCON

Very bright with intense fire due to its high RI and strong dispersion. Light champagne to rich burnt reds and oranges, yellows, greens, vivid sky blue and colourless.

HARDNESS: 6.5-7.5

