

Birthstone Information

Birthstones tend to be a very personal choice, even to the point that people who don't like the colour of their true birthstone will find any excuse to claim another. You may notice that the colours of the modern and traditional birthstones tend to be the same, implying that (historically speaking) the traditional colour is the important consideration and blue topaz would not be an acceptable birthstone choice for November, only golden topaz. Also, blue sapphire is the traditional colour for September. Note that sapphires come in every colour of the rainbow (except hues of red, given the name ruby), as do tourmalines and even diamonds. Garnet, usually thought of as a red birthstone, actually is available in a variety of colours including orange, green, and even the lovely deep purple colour of grapes. Remember, however here at **Crystal Connection** we believe that there are no wrong birthstone choices. And we can take any stone and turn it into a unique, personal gift for you or any member of your family.

It would seem that the custom of wearing birthstones first became popular in Poland during the fifteenth or sixteenth century. And it is thought that each birthstone is worn in turn during its month, as the power of the stone is heightened at that time. This would seem to be an excuse for buying all twelve stones and rotating them.

Most scholars believe that the original tradition of birthstones arose from the breastplate of Aaron, a ceremonial garment set with gemstones to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. These were set in gold filigree and each stone was engraved with the name of the tribe. People of Jewish heritage may wish to select their birthstones based on tribal names. Paul E Desautels (1920-1991) the curator of minerals at the US National Museum of Natural History, author of the Gem Kingdom offered the following list which uses modern gemstone names.

RUEBEN	CARNELIAN
SIMEON	PERIDOT
LEVI	EMERALD
JUDAH	GARNET
ISSACHER	LAPIS LAZULI
ZEBULUN	ROCK CRYSTAL
JOSEPH	ZIRCON
BENJAMIN	AGATE
DAN	AMETHYST
NAPHTALI	CITRINE
GAD	ONYX
ASSHER	JASPER

The choice as always is with the customer. For a wide selection of tumbled gemstones, collector's minerals and birthstone jewellery visit www.crystalconnection.co.uk

FEBRUARY

MODERN BIRTHSTONE IS AMETHYST
ZODIAC FOR AQUARIUS GARNET

ANCIENT TRADITIONAL BIRTHSTONES



February
Amethyst

HEBREW	AMETHYST
ROMAN	AMETHYST
ARABIC	AMETHYST
HINDU	CHANDRAKANKTA
POLISH	AMETHYST



February
Amethyst

Your birth stone is the amethyst according to just about every tradition including the modern North American, Hebrew, Roman, Arabic, Polish and Russian traditions. In ancient Hindu it was one of the many Indian birth gem stones that are not known to us today. It was called the chandrakankta.

The traditional colours associated with the Amethyst is a pale lilac to violet to a deep rich purple colour. A popular gem used in jewelry. The meaning of colours through the ages represented many aspects of life. Social, religious, biblical and Christian symbolism were all reflected in the colour purple. The original symbolic meaning of the colour purple was for penitence and mourning. However, it became symbolic with wealth and power and strongly associated with Royalty as the dyes used for purple materials were extremely expensive to produce.

The word Amethyst is derived from the Greek word "amethystos" which means "remedy against drunkenness" which is reflected in the properties of this stone. The Amethyst is a member of the Quartz (silicon dioxide) family. Crystal structure is hexagonal.

For those who were born in the month of February the Amethyst is the traditional birthstone. Some of the properties with which the Amethyst is associated - stability, peace, balance, courage, inner strength, sincerity and a calm disposition. The healing properties are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to the withdrawal symptoms of any sort of addiction, headaches, insomnia, arthritis, pain relief, circulatory system issues and general healing.

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Information taken from varied sources and should be used for reference purposes only.

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