

# 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](http://www.crystalconnection.co.uk)

# JANUARY.

MODERN BIRTHSTONE IS GARNET  
ZODIAC FOR CAPRICORN IS RUBY

## ANCIENT TRADITIONAL BIRTHSTONES



January  
Garnet

HEBREW	GARNET
ROMAN	GARNET
ARABIC	GARNET
HINDU	SERPENT-STONE
POLISH	GARNET



January  
Garnet

If you were born in the month of January then just about every tradition including the modern North American one names the garnet as your birth stone. Garnet is the stone for this month in Hebrew, Roman, Arabic, Polish and Russian traditions. In the ancient Hindu tradition the stone for January is the serpent stone. Nobody is quite sure what a serpent stone actually is but it is probably a ruby to symbolize the snake's glittering red eyes.

The word garnet is derived from the Greek word "granatum" which means "pomegranate seed" which reflect the shape and color of the crystals. Garnets are a group of hard glassy minerals (silicates of various metals) used as gemstones and as an abrasive. Pure crystals of garnet are used as gemstones. The garnet family contain 7 major types: almandine, andradite, demantoid, grossularite, pyrope, spessartite, uvarovite stones. Crystal structure of the garnet, the January birthstone Isometric, rhombic, dodecahedron. Garnet is associated with - purity, truth, faithfulness and friendship. The Traditional Metaphysical Properties for this stone are awareness, commitment, regeneration, insight and removing negativity. The healing properties are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to the blood, heart, lungs and infection. The garnet is also used to enhance sensuality and sexuality.

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Crystal Connection  
17 St Peters Walk  
Northampton  
0044 (0)1604626462  
[www.crystalconnection.co.uk](http://www.crystalconnection.co.uk)