

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

JULY

MODERN BIRTHSTONE RUBY
ZODIAC FOR CANCER EMERALD

ANCIENT TRADITIONAL BIRTHSTONES



July
Ruby

HEBREW	ONYX
ROMAN	ONYX
ARABIC	CARNELIAN
HINDU	RUBY
POLISH	RUBY



July
Ruby

Ruby is the traditional birthstone. Some of the properties with which the Ruby is associated - devotion, integrity, courage and happiness. The Traditional Metaphysical Properties are vitality, confidence and strength. The healing properties of the July birthstone are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to the blood and infection and increasing positive thought patterns. The Ruby is also used to enhance energy, generosity and to bring prosperity and success.

Ruby is known to have fire and emotion properties. Ruby is also known as being the anniversary gem stone for the 15th and 40th wedding anniversary. Ruby mining began over 2,500 years ago

All colours of corundum other than red or white are called Sapphire The red colour in ruby is caused by trace amounts of the element chromium. The best shade of red for ruby is often given the name "pigeon blood red", but ruby can be any shade of red up to almost pink

Onyx is normally black. And has been used for seals and pendants. It is a variety of quartz. Onyx can be banded with other lighter colours like agates.

Carnelian gemstones are used in gold and silver jewelry and there are numerous beliefs that surround this gemstone. The gemstone is very suitable for jewelry making and has a hardness of 7 on the Moh's scale that measures the hardness of gemstones. Carnelian belongs to the quartz family of gems and is also referred to by other trade names like, red chalcedony and red agate

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