

# 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)

# MARCH

MODERN BIRTHSTONE IS AQUAMARINE  
ZODIAC FOR AQUARIUS GARNET

ANCIENT TRADITIONAL BIRTHSTONES



March  
Aquamarine

HEBREW	BLOODSTONE
ROMAN	BLOODSTONE
ARABIC	BLOODSTONE
HINDU	GOLD-SIVALINGA
POLISH	BLOODSTONE



March  
Aquamarine

The modern North American stone for this month is aquamarine. However in Hebrew, Roman, Arabic, Polish and Russian traditions it is the bloodstone. In the ancient Hindu tradition it was a stone unknown to us today called gold-sivalinga.

Aquamarine is coloured by trace amounts of iron, and most gem aquamarines have been heat treated to produce the popular blue-green colours from less desirable yellow or pale stones.

Some of the properties with which the Aquamarine is associated - faithfulness, courage and friendship. The Traditional Metaphysical Properties are awareness, quick response and easing communication problems. The healing properties are reputed to be effective for health problems relating to throat problems and stress-related illness.

The word Aquamarine is derived from the Latin words "aqua marina" which means "sea water" which reflect the colour of the crystals. A transparent, pale green variety of beryl, used as a gem. The Aquamarine is a member of the Beryl (beryllium aluminum silicate) family. Crystal structure is Hexagonal.

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