

TOPAZ

Honey yellow. Fiery orange. Cyclamen pink. Icy blue. In warm or cool tones, topaz is a lustrous and brilliant gem.



ABOUT TOPAZ



Topaz actually has an exceptionally wide color range that, besides brown, includes various tones and saturations of blue, green, yellow, orange, red, pink, and purple.

Colorless topaz is plentiful, and is often treated to give it a blue color. Topaz is also pleochroic, meaning that the gem can show different colors in different crystal directions.

BIRTHSTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

Precious topaz is a birthstone for November and blue topaz is a birthstone for December.

Blue topaz is the gem of the 4th anniversary and Imperial topaz is the gem of the 23rd anniversary.

TREATMENTS

There are a number of processes used to alter the color, apparent clarity, or improve the durability of gems.

SYNTHETICS

Some gemstones have synthetic counterparts that have essentially the same chemical, physical, and optical properties, but are grown by man in a laboratory.

IMITATIONS

Any gem can be imitated—sometimes by manmade materials or by natural materials chosen by man to impersonate a particular gem.



WHY WE LOVE THIS GEMSTONE

KILOS

Topaz comes in some of the gem world's largest crystals: the largest are kilos, not carats.

SLIPPERY

Faceted topaz takes such a high polish it's slightly slippery to the touch.

PLEOCHROIC

Topaz is pleochroic, displaying different colors in different crystal directions.

1768

The royal court in Portugal celebrates the discovery of Imperial topaz in 1768.

271 KILOS

A transparent topaz crystal discovered in Minas Gerais, Brazil weighs an astounding 596 pounds.

10 MEV

Irradiating colorless topaz with electrons at energy of 10 million electron volts creates a sky blue color.

FACTS

MINERAL: Topaz

CHEMISTRY: $\text{Al}_2(\text{F},\text{OH})_2\text{SiO}_4$

COLOR: Yellow, orange, brown, pink to red to purple red, blue, light green and colorless

REFRACTIVE INDEX: 1.619 to 1.627

SPECIFIC GRAVITY: 3.53

MOHS HARDNESS: 8

BIREFRINGENCE: 0.008 to 0.010