

AQUAMARINE

Named after seawater, aquamarine's fresh watery hue is a cool plunge into a refreshing pool.



ABOUT AQUAMARINE



Aquamarine's name comes from the Latin for seawater and it was said to calm waves and keep sailors safe at sea. March's birthstone was also thought to enhance the happiness of marriages.

The best gems combine high clarity with limpid transparency and blue to slightly greenish blue hues. Like many beryls, aquamarine forms large crystals suitable for sizable fashioned gems and carvings.

BIRTHSTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

Aquamarine is the birthstone for March and the gem of the 19th wedding 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.

110 KILOS

The largest gem-quality aquamarine crystal mined to date is 19 inches long.

BERYL

Like emerald, aquamarine is a color variety of the mineral beryl.

15,000 FEET

Aquamarine is mined at high elevations in Pakistan's Karakoram Mountains.

FACTS

MINERAL: Beryl

CHEMISTRY: $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}$

COLOR: Greenish blue, light in tone

REFRACTIVE INDEX: 1.577 to 1.583

SPECIFIC GRAVITY: 2.72

Mohs HARDNESS: 7.5 to 8.0

BIREFRINGENCE: 0.005 to 0.009



WHY WE LOVE THIS GEMSTONE

BEAUTIFUL CRYSTALS

Aquamarine grows in beautiful six-sided prismatic crystals that on rare occasions can be more than a foot long.

TRANSPARENCY

Faceted aquamarine is often exceptionally transparent with vitreous luster, so it really sparkles.

DICHROIC

Using a dichroscope, you can see aquamarine is near colorless and stronger blue in different crystal directions.