

SUNSTONE

Sunstone's phenomenal varieties show a distinct and lively glitter called aventurescence.



ABOUT SUNSTONE



Sunstone is a member of the feldspar group. Both the orthoclase and the plagioclase feldspar species boast a sunstone variety. Other feldspar group gems include moonstone, non-phenomenal orthoclase, phenomenal and non-phenomenal labradorite, and amazonite.

Sunstone from Oregon is gaining attention as a natural and untreated product of the United States.

BIRTHSTONES & ANNIVERSARIES

Not considered as a birthstone.

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.

FELDSPAR

Sunstone is a member of the feldspar group of minerals.

AVENTURESCENCE

Sunstone can have a sparkly, metallic-looking luster caused by flat, reflective inclusions.

OREGON

Oregon sunstone is a transparent feldspar with glittery copper inclusions.

FACTS

MINERAL: Feldspar

CHEMISTRY: Orthoclase - $KAlSi_3O_8$

Oligoclase and labradorite - solid solution between $NaAlSi_3O_8$ and $CaAl_2Si_2O_8$

Color: Yellow, green, red, red-brown, colorless

REFRACTIVE INDEX:

Orthoclase sunstone - 1.518 to 1.526

Oligoclase sunstone - 1.537 to 1.547

Labradorite sunstone - 1.559 to 1.568

SPECIFIC GRAVITY:

Orthoclase - 2.58

Oligoclase - 2.65

Labradorite - 2.70

MOHS HARDNESS: 6.0 – 7.2

BIREFRINGENCE:

Orthoclase - 0.005 to 0.008

Oligoclase and labradorite - 0.007 to 0.010



WHY WE LOVE THIS GEMSTONE

GLITTERY

Reflective inclusions in sunstone's phenomenal varieties cause a distinct and lively glitter called aventurescence.

NATURAL

Oregon sunstone's colors don't result from treatment. The gem's all natural and it's mined in the United States.

"SPINEL RED"

Red-colored Oregon sunstone is often marketed to consumers as "spinel red." Its vivid hue rivals spinel and even ruby.