Pokémon Omega Ruby and *Alpha Sapphire*

Pokémon Omega Ruby[a] and ***Pokémon Alpha Sapphire***[b] are 2014 remakes of the 2002 Game Boy Advance role-playing video games *Pokémon Ruby* and *Sapphire*, also including features from *Pokémon Emerald*. The games are part of the sixth generation of the *Pokémon* video game series,[1] developed by Game Freak and published by The Pokémon Company and Nintendo for the Nintendo 3DS. Announced in May 2014, the games were released in Japan, North America and Australia on 21 November 2014, exactly twelve years after the original release date of *Ruby* and *Sapphire*, while the European release was the following week.[2]

Omega Ruby and *Alpha Sapphire* received generally positive reviews from critics. As of 31 March 2023, a combined total of 14.57 million copies have been sold worldwide, ranking them as the fourth-best-selling Nintendo 3DS titles of all time.[3]

Gameplay

Though *Pokémon Omega Ruby* and *Alpha Sapphire* are remakes of games from the third generation, they retain changes made in later generations, such as the type split from the fourth generation and unlimited TM usage and triple battles from the fifth generation. They also retain gameplay features introduced in *Pokémon X and Y*, such as Mega Evolution, Pokémon Amie, Super Training and the Player Search System. The games introduced a unique mechanic for Kyogre and Groudon dubbed "Primal Reversion", akin to the broader Mega Evolution feature.[4] The games also let players ride Latios or Latias to "soar" above Hoenn to travel, with some in-game areas being exclusively accessible through this feature.[5]

Setting and story

Pokémon Omega Ruby Pokémon Alpha Sapphire	
North American box art for *Pokémon Omega Ruby* and *Pokémon Alpha Sapphire*, depicting the legendary Pokémon Primal Groudon and Primal Kyogre respectively	
Developer(s)	Game Freak
Publisher(s)	JP: The Pokémon Company
	WW: Nintendo
Director(s)	Shigeru Ohmori
Producer(s)	Junichi Masuda
	Shusaku Egami
	Takato Utsunomiya
	Hitoshi Yamagami
Designer(s)	Masafumi Saito
	Kazumasa Iwao
	Masafumi Nukita
	Suguru Nakatsui
Programmer(s)	Tomoya Takahashi
Artist(s)	Mana Ibe
	Ken Sugimori
Writer(s)	Masafumi Nukita
Composer(s)	Shota Kageyama
	Minako Adachi
	Hideaki Kuroda
	Hitomi Sato
Series	*Pokémon*
Platform(s)	Nintendo 3DS

The setting and story of *Omega Ruby* and *Alpha Sapphire* are largely the same as the original *Ruby* and *Sapphire* games. They begin as the player is seen riding in the back of a moving truck. The player character starts by moving to the Hoenn region from the Johto region with their mother, as their father Norman has been hired as the leader of the Petalburg

Release	WW: 21 November 2014
	EU: 28 November 2014
Genre(s)	Role-playing
Mode(s)	Single-player, multiplayer

City Gym. The player arrives with their parents at the family's new home in the village of Littleroot Town, on the southern edge of the main island. The player character begins their Pokémon Trainer journey by saving Professor Birch, the leading professor in the Hoenn region, from a wild Poochyena, choosing either Treecko, Torchic, or Mudkip to defend him. Following the defeat of the wild Pokémon, the player receives the chosen Pokémon as their starter. The player then travels around Hoenn to complete the Pokédex and battle the eight Gym Leaders of the Hoenn Region.

Along the way, the player character encounters the antagonist group Team Magma in *Omega Ruby* or Team Aqua in *Alpha Sapphire* who wish to use the power of the legendary Pokémon, Primal Groudon in Omega Ruby, and Primal Kyogre in Alpha Sapphire, to change the world to suit their desires. Team Magma wants to use Groudon to dry up the oceans and expand the landmass, thereby allowing humanity to progress further. Meanwhile, Team Aqua wishes to summon Kyogre to flood the lands and revert the world to a prehistoric state, which will allow Pokémon to live more freely. However, unlike in the original games, depending on the game version, Archie and Maxie will actually use the correct orb, leading to their Primal Reversions. With the help of Hoenn League Champion Steven Stone, and the Gym Leader Wallace, the player defeats their respective team and then either captures or defeats the legendary Pokémon to prevent a global drought / heavy rainfall and thus ensuring the teams' mutual reformation. The player then advances on to the Hoenn League, challenging the Elite Four and then the Hoenn League Champion, Steven, to become the new Hoenn League Champion. The player also has the option of participating in the various Pokémon Contests throughout Hoenn, using their Pokémon to put on a performance for an audience and judges. Aside from the gameplay, 21 new Mega Evolutions were added since *Pokémon X and Y*, as well as "primal reversions" for Groudon and Kyogre, which function similarly.

A new side quest is featured in *Omega Ruby* and *Alpha Sapphire*, called the "Delta Episode".[6] The player must work with the new character, Zinnia, as well as Steven and Professor Cozmo, to find a way to stop a meteor from crashing into the planet. This also requires capturing the legendary Pokémon Rayquaza in order to stop the meteor that holds the mythical Pokémon Deoxys.

Release

Pokémon Omega Ruby and *Alpha Sapphire* were released in Japan, North America and Australia on 21 November 2014, exactly twelve years after the original release date of *Ruby* and *Sapphire*, while the European release was the following week.[2] They are the third remake pairs in the franchise following *Pokémon FireRed* and *LeafGreen* for the Game Boy Advance in 2004 and *Pokémon HeartGold* and

SoulSilver for the Nintendo DS in 2009. As with *Pokémon X and Y*, the games include all official translations, unlike previous generations where games contained only certain languages depending on the region or country they were originally distributed.[7][8]

Reception

Reception	
Aggregate score	
Aggregator	**Score**
Metacritic	83/100 (*Omega Ruby*)[9] 82/100 (*Alpha Sapphire*)[10]
Review scores	
Publication	**Score**
Famitsu	37/40
Game Informer	8.75/10[11]
GameSpot	8/10[12]
IGN	7.8/10 (*Alpha Sapphire*)[13]
Joystiq	★★★★★[14]
Nintendo World Report	9/10[15]
Polygon	8/10[16]
Hardcore Gamer	4/5[17]

Pokémon Omega Ruby and *Alpha Sapphire* received generally positive reviews from critics.[9][10] *GameSpot*'s Peter Brown praised the 3D visuals and the super training mechanic, but believed the game failed to fully resolve general issues in the game formula.[18] *IGN*'s Kallie Plagge also praised the game's 3D reinvention of Hoenn and online functionality. Plagge was, however, critical of the over-abundance of HMs needed to play the game as well as the perceived imbalance favoring Water-type Pokémon and the reliance on water-based routes. She remarked that while the Dive feature was novel in the original release, it had since become tedious.[19]

At the 2014 Game Awards it was nominated for *Best Remaster,* but lost out to *Grand Theft Auto V*.[20][21]

Sales

The games sold 3,040,000 copies in their first three days of sale. Of the total sales, 1,534,593 copies were sold in Japan, the rest were sold in North America and Australia.[22] *Omega Ruby* and *Alpha Sapphire* had the biggest launch in the series history in the United Kingdom, beating the previous record held by *Pokémon Black* and *White*.[23] By the end of 2014, the games had sold 2.4 million copies in Japan.[24] As of 31 March 2023, a combined total of 14.57 million copies have been sold worldwide, ranking them as the fourth-best-selling Nintendo 3DS titles of all time.[25]

Notes

a. Japanese: ポケットモンスター オメガルビー, Hepburn: *Poketto Monsutā Omega Rubī*, "Pocket Monsters: Omega Ruby"

b. Japanese: ポケットモンスター アルファサファイア, Hepburn: *Poketto Monsutā Arufa Safaia*, "Pocket Monsters: Alpha Sapphire"

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External links

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