

Aquamarine



Birth stone: March

Anniversary stone: 19th year of marriage

History:

A member of the beryl family of gemstones along with emerald this beautiful sea blue coloured stone has always been popular. Brazil is the world's major supplier of aquamarine to date with the infamous Marambaia area being one of the most important sources of fine aquamarine in the world. Other sources of aquamarine include the African countries of Tanzania, Kenya and Nigeria. Gems are also found on the island of Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Russia.

Deriving its name from the Latin “*water of the sea*”, aquamarine comes in varying shades that reflect the colours and calming nature of the sea from delicate pastel blues and lovely greens to deep sky blue.

Characteristics:

Aquamarine is a favourite stone with modern jewellery designers due to its high shine and almost flawless appearance. It is extremely versatile, working well in both yellow and white gold settings and lends itself to a variety of different cuts and styles. A hard wearing gemstone, it is often emerald cut to show its beautiful colour to best advantage. Its gentle lustre and delicate tones combine to make this gemstone fashionable with all ages.

The MOH scale measures a gem's relative hardness on a scale of 1 to 10 based on the stones “scratchability”. Diamond is the hardest at 10, sapphire and rubies measure 9, with pearl and amber at 2 ½. Aquamarine is relatively hard at 7 ½ on the MOH scale.

Care and Cleaning:

Aquamarine is very durable which makes it perfect for everyday wear. To keep it looking its best it will need to be cleaned regularly in order to keep its brilliant sparkle. The best way to clean your aquamarine jewellery is by using warm soapy water and a toothbrush to clean behind the stone to remove any dust or dirt.

Legend and Lore:

Legend says that aquamarine originated as the treasure of mermaids and has long been regarded as the sailor's lucky stone keeping them safe at sea.

Because of its association with the sea, aquamarine is considered to be a gemstone of purification and cleansing, washing the mind with clear thoughts and promoting self-expression. Aquamarine is also said to have a soothing effect on relationships, promoting a long and happy marriage.

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