

# Citrine



*Birth stone:* November

*Anniversary stone:* 17th year of marriage

## *History:*

Citrine, like amethyst, is a member of the quartz family although it is relatively rare in comparison to amethyst and smoky quartz. In fact these stones are often heated to change their colour to resemble citrine in order to keep up with the demand for this popular stone. Occurring in a wide range of colours from pale yellow to yellowish brown and even red, citrine can be found in several places around the world including Brazil, Africa and Russia.

All forms of quartz are piezoelectric, when they are rubbed an electrical charge is created which becomes a magnet that attracts lightweight objects.

## *Characteristics:*

Its striking yellow colour and availability has led to citrine becoming popular as a more affordable alternative to yellow diamonds and sapphires. Often used to create stunning pieces of jewellery, this beautiful yellow gemstone can be combined with other stones such as peridot, amethyst and garnet to great effect.

The Mohs' scale measures a gems 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 at around 3 ½ and amber at 2 ½. Citrine is relatively hard measuring 7 on the Mohs' scale.

## *Care and Cleaning:*

As citrine can be easily scratched, it is not recommended for everyday wear. As with any fine jewellery, citrine should be removed before undertaking any heavy work to protect it from damage. Like amethyst, sunlight can seriously affect the appearance of this gemstone. Prolonged exposure to sunlight or heat should be avoided as this can change its colour, for this reason the use of ultra sonic cleaners should be avoided.

To keep your jewellery looking its best it can be cleaned using warm soapy water and a soft toothbrush to remove any dust from behind the stone.

## *Legend and Lore:*

In the past citrine had many medicinal uses including removing toxins from the body, it was also commonly used as a charm against snake bites. Citrine symbolises light-heartedness, joy and happiness and has a calming influence.

Citrine

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