

BIRTHSTONES

JANUARY

Garnet

Symbolizes loyalty, and strength...believed to bestow its wearer with happiness and sincerity.

FEBRUARY

Amethyst

The Amethyst is said to strengthen relationships and give its wearer courage. At one time, only royalty could wear the gem. Ancient Greeks thought that the amethyst guarded against intoxication. In fact, amethyst comes from amethystos, a Greek word meaning "sober."

MARCH

Aquamarine

The Aquamarine represents Marital Bliss. It also helps you be in touch with your spiritual being. It was once was thought to cure heart, liver, and stomach diseases—all one had to do was drink the water in which the gem had been soaking. Early sailors believed that aquamarine talismans, etched with the likeness of the sea god Neptune, protected them against ocean dangers.

APRIL

Diamond

The Diamond symbolizes love, eternity and strength. It was was once thought to bring courage. In Sanskrit, the diamond is called "vajra," which also means lightning; in Hindu mythology, vajra was the weapon of Indra, the king of gods.

MAY

Emerald

The Emerald was one of Cleopatra's favorite gems. It has long been associated with fertility, rebirth, and love. Ancient Romans went so far as to dedicate this stone to Venus, the goddess of love and beauty. Today, it is thought that emeralds signify wisdom, growth, and patience.

JUNE

Alexandrite

Alexandrite is very rare and very few people have actually seen one. It is green in daylight and red in artificial incandescent light. It is a symbol of love and jealousy at the same time. Poets say it's an emerald by day and ruby by night. Alternative gems: emerald, ruby or rhodolite.

JULY

Ruby

The Ruby was regarded by ancient Hindus as the "king of gems." It was believed to protect its wearer from evil. Today, the ruby's deep-red color signifies love and passion. Alternative gem: Rubelite, which is a red tourmaline.

AUGUST

Peridot

The Peridot symbolizes strength. It is sometimes called the evening emerald for its light green color. It was once believed that the green peridot crystals found in volcanic ashes were the tears of the volcano goddess, Pele. When set in gold, this gem was said to protect the wearer from nightmares.

SEPTEMBER **Sapphire**
The Sapphire was once thought to guard against evil and poisoning. Traditionally a favorite stone of priests and kings, the sapphire symbolizes purity and wisdom. Color: blue, pink (rare), orange, brown and colorless. Alternative: Iolite.

OCTOBER **Opal & Pink Tourmaline**
The **Tourmaline** comes in a rainbow of colors. It has a powerful influence on love and friendship, as it represents permanence and stability.
The **Opal** represents faithfulness and confidence. The word comes from the Latin opalus, meaning "precious jewel." Necklaces with opals set in them were worn to repel evil and to protect eyesight.

NOVEMBER **Golden Topaz or Citrine**
The **Citrine** has cheerful qualities, which include making its owner lighthearted and hopeful. It also relaxes the body and helps cleanse it of toxins. Natural citrine it is a pale yellow to orange color.
The **Golden Topaz** symbolizes love and affection. It is believed to give the wearer increased strength and intellect.

DECEMBER **Turquoise and Blue Zircon**
The **Blue Zircon** was said to aid sleep, bring prosperity, and promote honor and wisdom in its owner.
The **Turquoise** symbol is regarded as a love charm. It is also a symbol of good fortune and success, and it is believed to relax the mind and to protect its wearer from harm. Turquoise rings, in particular, are thought to keep away evil spirits.