



Amethyst

Birthstone Month: February

Anniversary: 6th

Season/Zodiac: Pisces

Interesting Facts/History

Amethyst is the exquisite purple gem belonging to the quartz species. Quartz is found in many localities and comes in a wide range of colours. Though Amethyst is one of the most striking and elegant purple gems, because it is readily available, it is modestly priced.

Name Derivation

The Greeks named Amethyst from the word “amethystos” meaning “not intoxicated” dating back to an ancient tale involving Bacchus, the god of wine. As the story goes, drinking wine from an Amethyst goblet would prevent one from becoming inebriated.

Varieties, Value and Colour Symbolism

Amethyst is the most valuable variety of the quartz species. The finest quality Amethyst is medium to medium dark in tone, vivid in intensity, and Purple, reddish Purple to bluish Purple in hue. Purple has long been the colour of royalty and nobility. It is a deep, passionate colour that evokes emotions. People who desire purple colours are individuals who like to make a personal statement, and express their unique taste.

Where the Gem is Mined

Amethyst is mined principally in Brazil, Zambia, and also Uruguay, and Namibia.

Durability

Hardness (*resistance to scratching*) = 7 on the Moh's Scale.

Toughness (*resistance to breaking, chipping, cracking*) = Good.

Stability (*to heat, light, chemicals*) = Avoid exposure to heat, and intense sunlight. Abrupt temperature change may fracture the gem. Keep away from strong chemicals.

Care and Cleaning

Ultrasonic = Usually Safe.

Steam Cleaning = Risky, best to avoid.

Repair Recommendations = In any type of repair involving heat, Amethyst must be removed from the setting.

Enhancements

Amethyst is routinely subjected to heat as a normal part of the processing phase to improve the colour. Amethyst is sensitive to heat and sudden temperature changes should be avoided.

Fashion Significance

Lovely Amethyst in its rich purple colours symbolizes royalty and aristocracy. Since it is plentiful in nature, it represents an incredible value for the person who appreciates its elegant colour, availability in a wide range of shapes and sizes, and its prevalent use by many designers the world over.