



Tanzanite

Birthstone Month: December

Anniversary: 24th

Season/Zodiac: Capricorn

Interesting Facts/History

Tanzanite is a very special and unique gemstone. World-wide it occurs only in one specific location. Its blue colour which shimmers in a slightly purplish hue is magnificent indeed. Because of its unusually attractive flair it is one of the most sought-after and popular gemstones in the world.

Name Derivation

This magnificent gem was named for its source Tanzania, in East Africa. It has been found nowhere else on earth.

Varieties, Value and Colour Symbolism

Tanzanite is the purplish Blue variety of the gem species Zoisite. The most valuable Tanzanite is medium dark in tone, vivid in saturation, and slightly violetish Blue. Some people desire the more purplish to violet Tanzanite shades which are more available and affordable. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and Tanzanite delivers.

Where the Gem is Mined

A relative newcomer to the gem kingdom, Tanzanite was discovered in the East African Country of its namesake in 1967.

Durability

Hardness (*resistance to scratching*) = 6-7 on the Moh's Scale.

Toughness (*resistance to breaking, chipping, cracking*) = Poor to Fair. Avoid subjecting to sharp blows, rough handling and sudden temperature changes, especially gems set in rings.

Stability (*to heat, light, chemicals*) = Avoid heat and sudden temperature changes. Stable to light. Avoid strong solvents and acids.

Care and Cleaning

Ultrasonic = Never.

Steam Cleaning = Never.

Repair Recommendations = Intense heat must be avoided. Tanzanite must be removed from their settings when performing most repair work.

Enhancements

Virtually all Tanzanite is subjected to heat as a normal part of the fashioning process to improve the color of the gemstone. No special care is required.

Fashion Significance

The desire to own something unique and rare has always been a decisive criterion for assessing the value of special gemstones. Tanzanite is always fascinating because of its unusual appeal that will hold everybody in its thrall. The deep blue with the slight purple shade is one of the most extravagant colours available. It symbolizes immaculate but unusual elegance. Whoever purchases such a unique gemstone wants to be set apart from the masses. Wearing it communicates self-confidence and individuality.