

Aquamarine

MARCH

Used in jewellery since 500BC

Once believed to ward off seasickness

Alternative birthstone for May

Mohs Hardness 7.5 - 8

Aquamarine grows in 6-sided prismatic crystals that can be up to a foot long

It is the gem of the 19th wedding anniversary

It is in the beryl family of gemstones - along with emerald, morganite and heliodor.

Associated with courage, faithfulness and friendship .

Be sure to keep aquamarines away from heat as it doesn't take much to permanently alter the colour



With a name derived from the Latin for seawater, it is obvious to see why this gem has always inspired thoughts of the ocean, it was even believed to be the treasure of mermaids.

The colour range of aquamarine is quite narrow, from a watery blue to a deeper greenish seafoam blue, and it is chemically very similar to emerald.

Both in the beryl family of minerals, aquamarine gets its colour from iron impurities whereas the green of emerald comes from chromium.

The largest faceted aquamarine is called the Dom Pedro, an obelisk shaped stone, it weighs 10,363 carats and can be viewed at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC.

Historically it was believed to soothe relationships and was often given as an anniversary gift as well as being carried into battle by soldiers as a talisman of protection. It was also thought to bring rains when they were desperately needed, and even to curse enemies with drought.



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