



Ruby

Birthstone Month: July

Anniversary: 15th and 40th

Season/Zodiac: Capricorn

Interesting Facts/History

Ruby has always been highly prized by Emperors and Kings, and is known as the “king or leader of precious gems” surpassing all others in virtue. As a talisman, ruby preserves the body and mental health of the wearer by removing evil thoughts, controlling amorous desires, and reconciling disputes. Ancient warriors believed ruby would protect them from attack in battle. Ruby’s red colour represents stimulation, heat, life and power. Ruby as a medicine was said to cure liver, stomach and intestinal disorders.

Name Derivation

From the Latin word “Ruber” meaning red.

Varieties, Value and Colour Symbolism

Ruby is the red variety of the gem species corundum. All other corundum is called sapphire. Ruby is the most rare. The finest quality rubies are medium dark in tone, are very intense or saturated, and are a pure Red to slightly purplish Red in hue. Rubies under 2 carats are readily available and those over 8 carats are extremely rare and valuable. The colour, or hue Red has much symbolism attached to it. Our eyes must advance to bring red colours into focus, hence it attracts much attention; i.e. stoplights and signs. Red is the colour of excitement, heat, passion, romance, lust, and love-the heart. It can also be seen as conjuring up fiery anger and rage. No matter the emotion, red is a passionate colour.

Where the Gem is Mined

The majority of Ruby is mined in Southeast Asia including the top producers: Thailand, and Myanmar (Burma) as well as Sri Lanka and Africa.

Durability

Hardness (*resistance to scratching*) = 9 on the Moh’s scale, second only to diamond.

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

Stability (*to heat, light, chemicals*) = Stable, a very long-wearing gem.

Care and Cleaning

Ultrasonic = Usually safe. Do not use if the Ruby has internal fissures.

Steam Cleaning = Usually safe. Do not use if the Ruby has internal fissures.

Repair Recommendations = Most types of repair work can be done without removing Rubies from their mountings.

Enhancements

Most Rubies are subjected to heat as a normal part of the processing phase to improve their colour. This enhancement is permanent, stable, and does not require any special care.

Fashion Significance

Ruby has always been the pinnacle of the gemstone family. Rare, sought after, emotional, passionate, vibrant, it has captured the heart like no other gemstone. Desired by both men and women alike, this most precious gem is perfect for any occasion.