

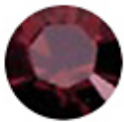
Guide to Birthstones

Although dating back to biblical times (and in particular the Book of Exodus 28 and 39), the custom of wearing Birthstones in Europe probably first became popular in Poland in the 16th century. By the 17th century, gemstones had become firmly associated with specific months of the year. Wealthy members of European society would wear each month's stone over the course of that month in order to be in harmony with the celestial spirits. As the months changed, the wearer hoped the stone would bring them the special properties associated with it. For instance, Garnet would bring the wearer tranquility, protect against fevers and also against harm during travel. Whilst Ruby would bring clarity of mind and protect against harm from natural causes. Ultimately this meant that each individual would have to invest in a set of twelve gemstones. By the 18th century, probably as a financial necessity, members of society began wearing only the gemstone that represented the month of their birth. Nowadays a Birthstone is usually offered as a gift to symbolise the qualities attributed to the month of birth of the recipient.

Below you will find British and American Birthstone lists and an indication of whether the stone selection is Traditional, Modern or an Alternative. Each entry comes with a brief description of the values that these stones represent in each region.

The British Birthstone List

Defined in 1937. (Source: The National Association of Goldsmiths)



JANUARY BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Garnet

Birthstone Colour – Deep Red

Representing – Eternity, Faith & Truth



FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Amethyst

Birthstone Colour – Purple

Representing – Health, Luck, and Wittiness



MARCH BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Aquamarine

Birthstone Colour – Pale Blue

Representing – Happiness & Understanding



MARCH BIRTHSTONE – ALTERNATIVE

Bloodstone

Birthstone Colour – Dark Green & Red

Representing – Happiness & Understanding



APRIL BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Diamond

Birthstone Colour – White or Clear

Representing – Eternity Courage & Health



APRIL BIRTHSTONE – ALTERNATIVE

Rock Crystal

Birthstone Colour – White or Clear

Representing – Eternity, Courage & Health



MAY BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Emerald

Birthstone Colour – Green

Representing – Fidelity, Goodness & Love



MAY BIRTHSTONE – ALTERNATIVE

Chrysoprase

Birthstone Colour – Green

Representing – Fidelity, Goodness & Love



JUNE BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Pearl

Birthstone Colour – White

Representing – Beauty, Nobility & Peace



JUNE BIRTHSTONE – ALTERNATIVE

Moonstone

Birthstone Colour – White

Representing – Beauty, Nobility & Peace



JULY BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Ruby

Birthstone Colour – Red

Representing – Enthusiasm, Love & Strength



JULY BIRTHSTONE – ALTERNATIVE

Carnelian

Birthstone Colour – Red

Representing – Enthusiasm, Love & Strength



July BIRTHSTONE – ALTERNATIVE

Onyx

Birthstone Colour – Black

Representing – Comfort & Relaxation



AUGUST BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Peridot

Birthstone Colour – Pale Green

Representing – Love, Peace & Success



AUGUST BIRTHSTONE – ALTERNATIVE

Sardonyx

Birthstone Colour – White & Reddish Brown

Representing – Love, Peace & Success



SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Sapphire

Birthstone Colour – Deep Blue or Indigo

Representing – Serenity & Truth

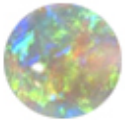


SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE – ALTERNATIVE

Lapis Lazuli

Birthstone Colour – Deep Blue

Representing – Serenity & Truth



OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Opal

Birthstone Colour – Multi-coloured

Representing – Health, Hope & Purity



OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE – ALTERNATIVE

Tourmaline

Birthstone Colour – Multi-coloured

Representing – Health, Hope & Purity



NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Topaz

Birthstone Colour – Yellow

Representing – Courage, Sincerity & Wisdom

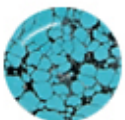


NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE – ALTERNATIVE

Citrine

Birthstone Colour – Yellow

Representing – Courage, Sincerity & Wisdom



DECEMBER BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Turquoise

Birthstone Colour – Blue

Representing – Happiness, Love & Luck

The American Birthstone List

In 1912, in an effort to standardise Birthstones, the organisations associated with the Jewelers of America officially adopted a list of gemstones, detailed as *Traditional* in the table below. The list was not changed until 1952 when a nationwide survey of men's buying preferences showed that the available choice between June and December was not being followed and that a new buying pattern had emerged. These changes are detailed as *Modern* in the table below. More recently two attempts were made to add Tanzanite as December's stone. Although December already had two stones representing it the American Gem Trade Association announced in 2002 that they had added tanzanite to December's birthstone list. This addition is also detailed as *Modern*. Later in 2006 the Tanzanite cartel decided that a new marketing strategy would help their business and announced that Tanzanite would be a birthstone not just for a particular month of the year but should be presented on the birth of each child, no matter which month they were born in. The Jewelers of America accepted the idea hoping it would help increase sales of birthstone jewellery. This list is currently the most widely used in the United States and many other locations including the Far East and Australia. (List Source: The American National Association of Jewelers)



JANUARY BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Garnet

Birthstone Colour – Deep Red

Representing – Health, Perseverance, Prosperity & Strength



FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Amethyst

Birthstone Colour – Purple

Representing – Security, Sobriety, Spirituality & Wisdom



MARCH BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Aquamarine

Birthstone Colour – Pale Blue

Representing – Beauty, Happiness, Honesty, & Loyalty



MARCH BIRTHSTONE – MODERN

Bloodstone

Birthstone Colour – Dark Green & Red

Representing – Endurance



APRIL BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Diamond

Birthstone Colour – White or Clear

Representing – Clarity, Eternal Love, Invincibility & Purity



MAY BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Emerald

Birthstone Colour – Green

Representing – Foresight, Patience & Understanding



JUNE BIRTHSTONE – MODERN

Alexandrite

Birthstone Colour – Green

Representing – Balance, Confidence & Joy



JUNE BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Moonstone

Birthstone Colour – White

Representing – Balance, Good Fortune & Passion



JUNE BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Pearl

Birthstone Colour – White

Representing – Balance, Confidence & Joy



JULY BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Ruby

Birthstone Colour – Red

Representing – Love, Integrity, Passion, Promise & Success



AUGUST BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Peridot

Birthstone Colour – Pale Green

Representing – Dignity, Fame, Protection & Success



AUGUST BIRTHSTONE – MODERN

Sardonyx

Birthstone Colour – White & Reddish Brown

Representing – Relaxation & Security

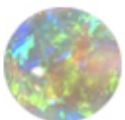


SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE – MODERN

Sapphire

Birthstone Colour – Deep Blue or Indigo

Representing – Commitment, Loyalty, Sincerity & Truth



OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Opal

Birthstone Colour – Multi-coloured

Representing – Confidence, Faith & Hope



OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Tourmaline

Birthstone Colour – Multi-coloured

Representing – Balance, Endurance & Safety



NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Yellow Topaz

Birthstone Colour – Yellow

Representing – Courage, Strength & Wisdom



NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Citrine

Birthstone Colour – Yellow

Representing – Cheerfulness, Fidelity, Health, Hope & Youth



DECEMBER BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Tanzanite

Birthstone Colour – Blue

Representing – Contentment & Understanding

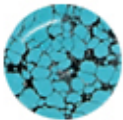


DECEMBER BIRTHSTONE – MODERN

Zircon

Birthstone Colour – Blue

Representing – Honour, Wealth & Wisdom



DECEMBER BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Turquoise

Birthstone Colour – Blue

Representing – Happiness, Love & Luck



DECEMBER BIRTHSTONE – TRADITIONAL

Blue Topaz

Birthstone Colour – Blue

Representing – Happiness, Love & Luck.

If that is not enough choice there are also Birthstone lists for the *hour*, *day of the week*, and *season*. However, our listings end with a day of the week list, which identifies a Birthstones for the day of a persons birth:

Day of the Week Birthstone List



MONDAY BIRTHSTONE

Pearl



TUESDAY BIRTHSTONE

Ruby



WEDNESDAY BIRTHSTONE

Amethyst



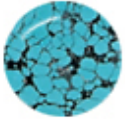
THURSDAY BIRTHSTONE

Sapphire



FRIDAY BIRTHSTONE

Carnelian



SATURDAY BIRTHSTONE

Turquoise



SUNDAY BIRTHSTONE

Topaz

For more information about the history of Birthstones, read *The Curious Lore of Precious Stones* by George Frederick Kunz, a compendium of all the powers that have been associated with gemstones through the ages.

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