



Amethyst

Amethyst belongs to the Quartz family and derives its name from the Greek Amethystos – meaning 'not drunken' as it was thought to ward off drunkenness.



Originally considered a most valuable gem along with Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby and Emerald, Amethyst lost its value when extensive deposits were found in Brazil and Uruguay.

Amethyst crystals are found inside geodes of up to 3½ metres tall. The purple colour comes from manganese and iron inclusion in the silica at the time of forming. Due to extreme heat, natural ironizing radiation substituted the growing quartz in the structure. This colour can be intensified by further chemical radiation after mining. Heating Amethyst can create Citrine or Prasiolite which is also called 'Green Amethyst'. Amethyst can fade upon prolonged exposure to light.



Uruguay Amethyst



Australian Amethyst

Most Amethyst comes from Brazil and Uruguay, although it also can be found in South Korea, Canada, Russia and USA. Although Amethyst has been found sporadically in Australia, it is not considered to be of a high quality.