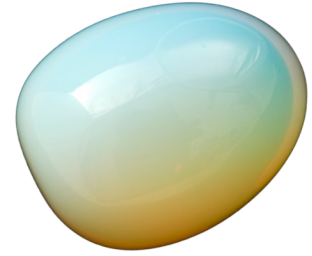


Opal

Opal's mesmerizing colors and patterns, combined with its rich history and attributed healing properties, make it a gemstone cherished by many. Whether as a piece of jewelry or a talisman, opal continues to enchant and intrigue people around the world.



Fun Facts:

Formation and Origin: Opals are formed from a solution of silicon dioxide and water. When water runs down through the earth, it picks up silica from sandstone, and this silica-rich solution finds its way into cracks and voids, where the opal forms. Most of the world's opals come from Australia, which produces about 95% of the global supply.

Types of Opal: There are several types of opal, including black opal, white opal, fire opal, and boulder opal, each with its unique color patterns and characteristics. Black opal is the rarest and most valuable, known for its dark body tone and vibrant play of color.

Color Range: Opals can display a wide range of colors, including but not limited to, blue, green, pink, red, and yellow. The play-of-color is caused by the diffraction of light by silica spheres within the opal.

Historical Significance: Opals have been treasured since ancient times. The ancient Romans considered opal a symbol of hope and purity, while the ancient Greeks believed it could grant the power of prophecy.

Healing Properties: Many believe opals have healing properties. They are said to encourage freedom and independence, stimulate creativity and originality, and help release anger and claim self-worth.

Birthstone: Opal is the birthstone for October, making it an ideal gift for those born in that month. It symbolizes faithfulness and confidence.

Water Content: Opals can contain up to 20% water, which is why they may crack if exposed to very dry conditions or sudden changes in temperature.

Care and Maintenance: Due to their water content and relative softness (rating about 5.5 to 6.5 on the Mohs hardness scale), opals require careful handling. They should be cleaned gently with mild detergent in warm water and never exposed to harsh chemicals or ultrasonic cleaners.

Symbolism and Beliefs: In addition to their supposed healing properties, opals are often associated with protection, loyalty, and assurance, and are believed to avert evil and protect eyesight.

Unique Characteristics: Each opal is unique. The specific conditions under which an opal forms contribute to the one-of-a-kind play-of-color that each stone displays, making every opal a singular work of natural art.