What Is August Birthstone

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The quest to understand **what is august birthstone** leads us into a world of vibrant citrus hues, ancient volcanic fires, and the cool serenity of shifting sands. Unlike many other months that claim a single gem, August is distinguished by a trinity of stones: **Peridot**, **Sardonyx**, and **Spinel**. Each offers a unique narrative, from the "Gem of the Sun" to the legendary "Black Prince’s Ruby."

For those born in the height of summer, these gemstones represent more than just a calendar month; they are symbols of **heirloom** quality and **cultural storytelling**. Whether you are seeking a meaningful gift or an **iconic** addition to your personal collection, the August birthstones provide a spectrum of color and history that resonates with the **timeless elegance** we celebrate at PureJewels.

At its heart, the primary August birthstone is the **Peridot**, a gemstone of exceptional brilliance known for its signature lime-green glow. It is joined by the ancient **Sardonyx**, characterized by its rhythmic bands of red and white, and the modern addition of **Spinel**, a stone of incredible durability and vivid saturation that has graced the crowns of kings for centuries.

Key Takeaways

- **Primary Gemstone:** Peridot is the most recognized August birthstone, celebrated for its unique olive-green hue.
- **Historical Depth:** Sardonyx is the oldest August birthstone, dating back over 4,000 years to ancient civilizations.
- **Modern Elegance:** Spinel was officially added as an August birthstone in 2016, offering a wide range of vibrant colors.
- **Symbolism:** These stones represent **protection**, **strength**, and **boundless prosperity** across different cultures.
- **Artisanal Choice:** August birthstones are favored by **artisans** for their versatility in both **bespoke** 22ct gold and contemporary 18ct settings.
- **Investment Value:** Fine Spinels and high-clarity Peridots are increasingly sought after as **collectible** assets with **enduring** value.

The Luminous Peridot: Nature’s Electric Green

When asking **what is august birthstone**, the most immediate answer is the Peridot. This gemstone is one of the few that exists in only one color: a radiant green, though its shades range from yellowish-green to a deep, brownish-olive. It is the gem variety of the mineral olivine, and its color is dictated by the amount of iron present within its crystal structure.

In the world of **artisanal craftsmanship**, the Peridot is prized for its "double refraction," which gives it a magnificent glow even in low light. The ancient Egyptians affectionately called it the "Gem of the Sun," believing it protected the wearer from the terrors of the night. It was often mined on the island of Zabargad, a location shrouded in mystery and guarded by the Pharaoh's sentries.

For those seeking birthday gifts that carry deep **symbolism**, the Peridot is an **exceptional** choice. It is said to foster harmony in relationships and bring a sense of peaceful joy to the wearer. In our view, a **meticulously crafted** Peridot piece is not merely a seasonal accessory but a **meaningful** expression of one’s personal **journey**.

The Geology of Fire and Stars

The **provenance** of Peridot is as fascinating as its color. Most gemstones are formed in the Earth’s crust, but Peridot is one of only two gems (alongside Diamonds) formed much deeper, in the molten rock of the upper mantle. It is brought to the surface by the tremendous force of volcanic activity, emerging from the fire as a symbol of **refined** resilience.

Even more extraordinary is the presence of Peridot in pallasite meteorites. These celestial stones have traveled through the cosmos for billions of years before landing on Earth. To wear a Peridot is, in some small way, to wear a piece of the stars—a concept that perfectly aligns with our commitment to **luxury with purpose** and the **celebration** of life's grandest stories.

Feature	Peridot	Spinel	Sardonyx
Primary Color	Lime to Olive Green	Red, Blue, Pink, Purple	Red and White Bands
Mohs Hardness	6.5 - 7	8	6.5 - 7
Chemical Comp	Magnesium Iron Silicate	Magnesium Aluminum Oxide	Chalcedony (Quartz)
Symbolism	Prosperity & Light	Vitality & Devotion	Courage & Victory

The Regal Spinel: The Great Imposter Revealed

For centuries, the Spinel was the "hidden" treasure of the gemstone world. Many of the world's most famous "Rubies" in royal **heritage** collections were actually discovered to be red Spinels. The most **iconic** example is the "Black Prince's Ruby" set in the British Imperial State Crown, a 170-carat crimson masterpiece that is, in fact, an uncut Spinel.

Spinel was added to the official list of August birthstones in 2016 to offer a more durable and colorful alternative to Peridot. Because of its hardness (8 on the Mohs scale), it is ideal for **bespoke** rings and **heirloom** pieces intended to be **generational** gifts. It signifies **devotion** and the **enduring** spirit of the wearer.

Whether set in a personalised ring or a more elaborate setting, Spinel captivates with its brilliance. Its high refractive index ensures that it sparkles with a fire that rivals even the finest sapphires and rubies, making it a favorite for those who value **design intelligence** and **artisanal excellence**.

The Palette of the Soul

One of the most remarkable aspects of Spinel is its incredible variety of colors. While the "Cobalt Blue" and "Jedi Red" varieties are the most **collectible**, Spinel also occurs in delicate shades of lavender, grey, and peachy-pink. This diversity allows for a truly **curated** experience when choosing **exceptional materials** for your jewellery.

In our **karigari** tradition, we appreciate the way a stone's color can interact with **22ct gold**. A vibrant pink Spinel set against the deep, buttery yellow of high-purity gold creates a **cultural storytelling** piece that bridges the gap between traditional aesthetics and modern **luxury**. It is a stone for the bold, the creative, and those who appreciate **integrity and trust** in every facet of their purchase.

Sardonyx: The Ancient Guardian

Sardonyx is the oldest of the August birthstones, with a history that stretches back to the era of the Old Testament and the Roman Empire. It is a variety of chalcedony that combines layers of brownish-red sard and white onyx. The result is a striking, striped appearance that has been used for **masterfully** carved cameos and intaglios for millennia.

In ancient Rome, soldiers would go to battle wearing Sardonyx talismans carved with the image of Mars, the god of war, believing the stone would grant them extraordinary courage and protection.

Today, it remains a symbol of **strength** and **victory**, making it a popular choice for mens jewellery and signet rings.

For us, Sardonyx represents the **preservation of traditional skills**. The art of lapidary—carving stone—is a testament to **heritage craftsmanship**. A piece of Sardonyx jewellery is not just a decorative item; it is a link to a **legacy** of **artisans** who have worked with the earth’s treasures for four thousand years.

Gifting August Birthstones: A Celebration of Milestones

Selecting a gift based on a birthstone is a gesture of **refined** thoughtfulness. It transforms a simple present into a **meaningful** marker of a person’s **journey**. For an August birthday, you have three distinct paths to choose from, depending on the personality and style of the recipient.

If they prefer **timeless elegance** and subtle, natural tones, a Peridot personalised pendant is an **exquisite** choice. The green hue is particularly stunning when paired with white metals or high-karat yellow gold, offering a look that feels both ancient and contemporary.

For those who desire **luxury** with a bold edge, Spinel is the answer. Its brilliance makes it a perfect centerpiece for stud earrings or statement pieces. Because it is available in so many colors, you can select a shade that perfectly matches the wearer’s unique aura.

Marking Life's Great Chapters

The August birthstones are not limited to birthdays alone. They are often chosen as **anniversary gifts** (Peridot is the traditional stone for the 16th wedding anniversary) or as **wedding gifts** to symbolize the green, growing start of a new life together. In many cultures, these stones are also given as kids jewellery or protective talismans for children.

- **Birthdays:** A personal celebration of one's entry into the world.
- **Anniversaries:** A testament to **enduring** love and shared history.
- **Graduations:** A symbol of **personal achievement** and a bright future.
- **Cultural Festivals:** Used in diwali gifts or eid jewellery to signify spiritual renewal.

The Art of Selection: Quality and Provenance

At PureJewels, we believe that understanding **what is august birthstone** also requires an understanding of quality. For Peridot, the most valuable stones are those that exhibit a "grassy"

green without brownish or yellowish undertones. These are usually found in larger carat weights, as smaller stones tend to be lighter in color.

When selecting a Spinel, clarity and "cut" are paramount. A **masterfully** cut Spinel will reflect light evenly across its surface, showcasing its incredible fire. As a **generational** jeweller, we emphasize stones that are **hallmarked** for their quality and sourced with **integrity and trust**. We look for gemstones that possess a certain "soul"—a depth that suggests they are ready to become a part of your family’s **legacy**.

Sardonyx, while more modest in price, requires an eye for symmetry and color contrast. The sharpest, most distinct white bands against a deep reddish-orange ground are the most desirable. These stones are often used in **artisanal** carvings where the layers are utilized to create 3D effects, a peak expression of **design intelligence**.

Buying for Longevity

When investing in fine jewellery, it is essential to consider the **heirloom value**. A gemstone is a fragment of history, and its setting should be equally **enduring**. We often recommend **22ct gold jewellery** for its cultural weight and historical resonance, though 18ct gold or platinum may be better suited for the daily wear of a ring containing a Peridot.

For those mindful of their budget, our **curated** collections offer various entry points. You may explore jewellery under 550 for elegant birthstone accents, or jewellery under 750 for more substantial pieces that feature **exceptional materials** and **meticulously crafted** details.

Advanced Insights: The Mysticism of Green and Red

The color green, represented by Peridot, has long been associated with the heart chakra in various Eastern traditions. It is thought to cleanse the emotional body and open the heart to new **celebrations** of life. This **cultural storytelling** adds a layer of **meaningful** depth to the stone, moving it beyond a mere fashion choice.

Conversely, the red of Spinel and Sardonyx speaks to the root chakra—the center of **strength**, grounding, and **vitality**. The interplay between these colors in the August birthstone suite provides a balanced energy: the light, expansive joy of Peridot and the grounded, fierce protection of Sardonyx and Spinel.

In our experience as curators of **luxury**, we find that clients are often drawn to the stone that resonates with their current life **journey**. Are you in a season of growth and new beginnings? Peridot may be your stone. Are you standing firm in your **personal achievement** and protecting your **legacy**? Then Spinel or Sardonyx may call to you.

Care and Preservation of Your August Treasures

To ensure your August birthstone remains an **enduring** part of your collection, proper care is essential. While Spinel is quite hardy, Peridot is a softer gemstone and can be sensitive to rapid temperature changes and certain household chemicals. We advise a gentle touch to preserve its **timeless** luster.

- **Cleaning:** Use warm, soapy water and a soft brush. Avoid ultrasonic or steam cleaners, especially for Peridots.
- **Storage:** Store birthstone jewellery in separate pouches to prevent harder stones (like diamonds) from scratching them.
- **Wear:** Remove your jewellery before engaging in strenuous activity or using harsh cleaning agents.
- **Professional Care:** Visit an **artisanal** jeweller annually for a professional check of the settings and a delicate cleaning.

By following these simple steps, you ensure that your **bespoke** pieces remain as radiant as the day they were first **masterfully** set. This preservation is a key part of maintaining **heirloom** quality for future generations to enjoy.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can August have more than one birthstone?

Yes, August officially has three birthstones: Peridot, Sardonyx, and Spinel. This variety allows individuals to choose a stone that best reflects their personal style, whether they prefer the lime-green of Peridot, the rhythmic bands of Sardonyx, or the multicolor brilliance of Spinel.

Is Peridot a rare gemstone?

While Peridot is found in several locations globally, including Arizona, Myanmar, and Pakistan, **exceptional** "eye-clean" specimens in large carat weights are quite rare and highly **collectible**.

Its volcanic and meteoric **provenance** adds a layer of rarity and intrigue to every piece.

Why was Spinel added to the August list?

Spinel was added by the Jewelers of America and the American Gem Trade Association in 2016 to provide more options for consumers. It was chosen for its **exceptional** durability, wide color range, and its historical significance as a stone of the **heritage** royal collections.

What color of Spinel is best for an August gift?

While red is the most traditional Spinel color due to its history as a "Ruby" lookalike, cobalt blue and vibrant pink are also highly prized. For a **meaningful** gift, we suggest choosing a color that resonates with the recipient’s personality or matches their favorite **22ct gold jewellery**.

Is Sardonyx suitable for modern jewellery?

Absolutely. While it has an **ancient legacy**, the bold, graphic stripes of Sardonyx look incredibly striking in modern, minimalist settings. It is a favorite for **bespoke** signet rings and **personalised bracelets** that aim for a look of **quiet luxury** and **strength**.

Which August birthstone is the most durable?

Spinel is the most durable of the three, with a Mohs hardness of 8. This makes it an excellent choice for personalised rings that are worn daily. Peridot and Sardonyx are slightly softer (6.5 to 7) and require more careful handling to avoid scratches.

How do I know if my Peridot is real?

Natural Peridot often contains tiny inclusions called "lily pads," which are characteristic of the species. To be certain of **integrity and trust**, we always recommend purchasing from a reputable **fourth-generation jewellery house** where stones are **meticulously crafted** and professionally vetted.

The journey to discovering **what is august birthstone** reveals a trio of gems that are as diverse as the people who wear them. From the volcanic depths of the Earth to the reaches of outer space, these stones carry a **legacy** of **protection**, **beauty**, and **artisanal excellence**. At PureJewels, we invite you to explore these **timeless** treasures and find the piece that will tell your story for **generations** to come.