What Is December Birthstone

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The month of December, characterized by its crisp air and the quietude of winter, is unique in the world of gemology for being represented by a trio of breathtaking blue gemstones. For those born in this transitional month, the question of **what is december birthstone** reveals a lineage of minerals—Turquoise, Zircon, and Tanzanite—that span across cultures, continents, and millennia.

At PureJewels, we view these stones not merely as decorative elements but as vessels of history and **artisanal excellence**. Each stone offers a different shade of the celestial sky, from the earthy robin’s-egg blue of Turquoise to the deep, hypnotic violet-blue of Tanzanite. These stones have adorned the regal necks of Pharaohs and the sophisticated modern collections of today’s connoisseurs.

Choosing a birthstone is a deeply personal **journey**. Whether you are seeking a **bespoke** piece to celebrate a milestone or exploring **heirloom** quality gifts for a loved one, understanding the provenance and symbolism of December’s treasures is the first step in finding a piece that resonates with your soul.

Key Takeaways

- **Multiple Identities:** December is one of the few months with three official birthstones: Turquoise, Zircon, and Tanzanite.
- **Ancestral Heritage:** Turquoise is one of the oldest gemstones used in **karigari** and jewellery making, dating back to ancient Egypt and Persia.
- **Modern Rarity:** Tanzanite is a 20th-century discovery, found only in a small area at the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, making it 1,000 times rarer than diamonds.
- **Optical Brilliance:** Zircon (not to be confused with synthetic cubic zirconia) is a natural gemstone renowned for its "fire" and high refractive index.
- **Symbolism:** These stones are traditionally believed to bring **devotion**, protection, and prosperity to the wearer.
- **Investment Value:** High-grade Zircon and Tanzanite are considered **collectible** assets due to their limited geographic origins and **exceptional quality**.

Defining the December Birthstones

In the most technical sense, the December birthstone refers to a curated group of blue gemstones officially recognized by the American Gem Trade Association and the Jewelers of America. While Turquoise was the original standard, Zircon and Tanzanite were added to the calendar to offer diversity in hue and brilliance.

A quick summary of their characteristics:

- **Turquoise:** An opaque, phosphate mineral known for its distinctive blue-to-green palette and historical **provenance**.
- **Zircon:** A brilliant silicate mineral that occurs in many colors, though the vivid "Starlight" blue is the preferred choice for December.
- **Tanzanite:** A blue-violet variety of the mineral zoisite, prized for its pleochroism—the ability to show different colors when viewed from different angles.

Feature	Turquoise	Zircon	Tanzanite
Luster	Waxy to Dull	Adamantine (Diamond-like)	Vitreous (Glass-like)
Hardness (Mohs)	5.0 to 6.0	7.5	6.5 to 7.0
Color Range	Sky Blue to Teal	Electric Blue to Honey	Ultramarine to Violet-Blue
Transparency	Opaque	Transparent	Transparent

The Soul of Turquoise: A Legacy of Protection

Turquoise is a stone that bridges the gap between the terrestrial and the divine. In the world of **heritage craftsmanship**, it has been a staple for thousands of years. From the turquoise-inlaid masks of the Aztecs to the **karigari** traditions of the East, this stone is synonymous with **timeless elegance**.

We often find that clients are drawn to Turquoise for its matte finish and organic feel. It does not demand attention through sparkle; rather, it commands respect through its rich, saturated color and the story of the earth written in its "matrix"—the dark veins of host rock that sometimes spiderweb across the surface.

For those seeking a **meaningful** gift, Turquoise represents health, wealth, and a ward against negative energy. It is an ideal choice for **kids jewellery** or daily staples like **stud earrings**,

where the stone’s vibrant hue can brighten the face without being overly ostentatious.

The History of Persian Turquoise

The finest Turquoise has historically come from the Nishapur district of Iran, often referred to as "Persian Turquoise." These specimens are prized for being "clean"—meaning they lack the dark matrix found in many North American varieties. This pure, robin's-egg blue has been a mainstay in royal **legacy** collections for centuries.

In our experience, the use of Turquoise in **22ct gold jewellery** creates a striking contrast. Use of high-purity gold enhances the warmth of the stone, making it a favorite for **festive gifts** and **cultural storytelling** pieces that honor traditional aesthetics while remaining **refined** for a contemporary audience.

The Brilliance of Blue Zircon: Nature’s Hidden Fire

There is a common misconception that Zircon is a synthetic material. At PureJewels, we take pride in educating our patrons on the **exceptional quality** of natural Zircon. It is, in fact, the oldest mineral on Earth, with some crystals dating back over 4 billion years.

Zircon possesses a "fire" that rivals that of a diamond. This is due to its high double refraction, which causes light to split into two rays as it passes through the stone. This creates a mesmerizing depth and a lively dance of light that makes it a perfect centerpiece for an **personalised ring**.

The "Starlight" Blue

While Zircon appears in many shades, the blue variety is traditionally achieved through careful heat treatment of reddish-brown Zircon found primarily in Southeast Asia. This process, a masterclass in **metallurgical expertise** and thermal craftsmanship, produces a shade of blue that is unlike any other in the gemstone kingdom—bright, energetic, and deeply translucent.

When selecting a Zircon, consider its setting carefully. Because Zircon can be slightly brittle at its facet edges, we often recommend protective settings such as bezels or **masterfully** crafted prongs that ensure the stone’s longevity as an **enduring** family **heirloom**.

Tanzanite: The Rarity of a Single Source

Tanzanite is a relatively new addition to the December family, having been discovered in 1967. Found only in a four-kilometer strip of land in Tanzania, its **provenance** is so singular that experts

believe the world’s supply may be exhausted within a single generation.

This rarity imbues Tanzanite with an air of **luxury** and exclusivity. It is the gemstone for the woman or man who celebrates their own unique **journey**. Its color—an exquisite blend of royal blue and deep violet—shifts as you move, revealing flashes of red or burgundy in higher-grade specimens.

A Statement of Sophistication

Tanzanite is best suited for evening wear and special occasions. We often incorporate this stone into **drop earrings** or a **personalised necklace** to allow the stone to capture the light. Its **luxurious** depth makes it a standout choice for **anniversary gifts** or a treat for oneself after a significant personal achievement.

Owning a Tanzanite is a commitment to the **preservation of traditional skills**. Because the stone is pleochroic, the lapidary (the artisan who cuts the stone) must possess **design intelligence** to determine which axis will yield the most vibrant blue. A single misstep can result in a paler, less valuable stone.

Choosing Your December Gemstone: A Guide to Purpose

Selecting **what is december birthstone** for your collection depends largely on your lifestyle, aesthetic preference, and the narrative you wish to convey. At PureJewels, we believe that every **meticulously crafted** piece should reflect the wearer’s identity.

For Daily Wear and Cultural Connection

If you value **artisanal** texture and a connection to ancient civilizations, Turquoise is your stone. Its durability (when handled with care) and opaque beauty make it a versatile companion for both casual and **refined** attire. Consider Turquoise for **personalised pendant** designs that sit close to the heart.

For Unmatched Sparkle and Brilliance

For those who love the "fire" of a diamond but desire a dash of celestial color, Blue Zircon is the **iconic** choice. It offers a **luxury** look with a unique optical signature that is sure to spark conversation. This stone is particularly effective in high-karat gold, where the yellow tones of the metal accentuate the electric blue of the Zircon.

For the Collector and the Visionary

Tanzanite is for the individual who understands the value of **provenance** and rarity. As a **collectible** gemstone, it represents a moment in geologic history that can never be repeated. It is a stone of **devotion** and deep emotional resonance, making it an exceptional choice for **wedding gifts**.

The Craftsmanship Behind the Stone

At PureJewels, the journey of a gemstone from the earth to your **curated** collection is one of immense **integrity and trust**. We work closely with master **artisans** who understand the soul of these materials. Whether it is the traditional **goldsmithing** techniques used in our 22ct collections or the precise engineering of our platinum settings, we prioritize **artisanal excellence** .

Our **karigari**—the art of Indian craftsmanship—is particularly suited to the vibrant blue of December's stones. The use of intricate filigree, granulation, and **hand-hallmarked** metals ensures that the final piece is not just jewellery, but a work of wearable art.

The Significance of Hallmarked Quality

When investing in **luxury with purpose**, **exceptional materials** must be matched by certified purity. Every piece of **22ct gold jewellery** we provide is **hallmarked** in the UK, ensuring that your **legacy** is built on a foundation of **integrity**. This is especially important for **generational** pieces like a **gold spoon** for a newborn or a **personalised bracelet** for a graduation.

Caring for Your December Treasures

Each of the three December birthstones requires specific care to maintain its **timeless elegance** and **enduring** luster. As your trusted **consultative** jeweler, we recommend the following **masterfully** tested practices:

- **Turquoise:** Being porous, Turquoise should be kept away from perfumes, oils, and harsh chemicals. Simply wipe it with a soft, dry cloth after wearing.
- **Tanzanite:** Avoid ultrasonic cleaners. This stone is sensitive to thermal shock and should be cleaned with mild soap and lukewarm water.
- **Zircon:** While durable, Zircon should be stored separately to prevent the facets from scratching other stones or being scratched by harder gems like diamonds.

Investment and Gifting: A Celebration of Moments

Whether you are browsing our **jewellery under 550** or commissioning a **bespoke** masterpiece, a December birthstone is a profound way to celebrate a **journey**. These stones are popular choices for **birthday gifts**, **christmas gifts**, and even **anniversary gifts** marks of **devotion**.

For men, the deep hues of Zircon or Tanzanite in **mens jewellery**, such as signet rings or lapel pins, offer a sophisticated alternative to traditional metals. For children, a simple **initial pendant** set with a small Turquoise can serve as a first introduction to the world of fine gemstones.

Frequently Asked Questions

Which December birthstone is the "true" one?

There is no single "true" birthstone. Traditionally, Turquoise is the most ancient, while Zircon and Tanzanite were added to the official list to provide more choices in terms of color intensity and brilliance. All three are authentic representations of December.

Is blue the only color for December birthstones?

While all three are prized for their blue hues, Zircon actually naturally occurs in green, red, yellow, and brown. However, the vivid blue remains the symbolic standard for those born in December.

How can I tell if my Turquoise is real?

Genuine Turquoise should have a cool, stony feel and a weight that feels substantial. At PureJewels, we emphasize **provenance** and **integrity**, sourcing only authentic, natural stones that meet our high standards for **exceptional quality**.

Is Tanzanite a good investment?

Tanzanite is often considered a **collectible** gemstone because it is found in only one location on Earth. As the mines reach the end of their lifespan, the scarcity of high-quality Tanzanite is expected to increase its **heirloom value**.

Can I wear Zircon every day?

Yes, Zircon is relatively hard (7.5 on the Mohs scale), making it suitable for daily wear. However, we recommend a **refined** setting that protects the edges of the stone, such as those found in our

masterfully crafted rings.

What is the spiritual meaning of Turquoise?

For centuries, Turquoise has been a symbol of **devotion**, friendship, and protection. Many cultures believe it acts as a bridge between the sky and the sea, bringing peace and tranquility to the wearer.

The journey to find the perfect December birthstone is one of discovery. We invite you to explore our **curated** collections, where **heritage craftsmanship** meets **modern luxury**. Whether it is the earthy appeal of Turquoise or the celestial fire of Zircon, your choice will become a cherished part of your family’s **legacy**.