What Is The Birthstone For The Month Of August

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The month of August is unique in the world of gemstones, as it is graced by a vibrant trinity of birthstones. While many months claim a single gem, those born in the heart of summer are celebrated through **Peridot**, **Sardonyx**, and **Spinel**. Each stone offers a distinct narrative of heritage, from the volcanic fires of ancient Egypt to the storied coronations of European royalty.

At PureJewels, we believe that understanding **what is the birthstone for the month of August** requires more than a simple identification. It involves an appreciation of the *karigari*—the artisanal soul—that transforms these raw minerals into meaningful expressions of identity. Whether you are seeking a gift for a loved one or a personal heirloom to mark your own journey, these stones provide a bridge between ancient symbolism and modern elegance.

Key Takeaways

- **Primary Choice:** Peridot is the most recognized August birthstone, known for its signature lime-green hue and volcanic origins.
- **Historical Depth:** Sardonyx is the original birthstone for the month, dating back over 4,000 years with deep roots in protection and courage.
- **Recent Addition:** Spinel was officially added to the August lineup in 2016, prized for its exceptional brilliance and range of colors.
- **Symbolism:** These stones collectively represent strength, prosperity, and protection, making them ideal for birthday gifts.
- **Craftsmanship:** Because of their varying hardness, each August stone requires specific metallurgical expertise and setting techniques to ensure longevity.

At a Glance: The August Birthstone Trinity

Gemstone	Primary Color	Hardness (Mohs)	Symbolic Meaning
Peridot	Olive/Lime Green	6.5 - 7	Prosperity, Light, Healing

Gemstone	Primary Color	Hardness (Mohs)	Symbolic Meaning
Sardonyx	Red/Brown/White Bands	6.5 - 7	Courage, Happiness, Victory
Spinel	Multi-colored (Red, Blue, Pink)	8	Vitality, Restoration, Longevity

The Radiant Peridot: The Gem of the Sun

Often referred to as the "Evening Emerald," Peridot is the quintessential August birthstone. Its light-infused green color does not fade under artificial light, allowing the gem to glow with an ethereal radiance even after sunset. We find this quality particularly symbolic of the enduring spirit—a gem that carries its own light through the shadows.

Peridot is one of the few gemstones that occurs in only one color: green. However, the intensity of that green depends on the amount of iron present in the crystal structure. From pale yellowish-green to a deep, succulent olive, the variations are as diverse as the summer landscapes they represent. For those seeking stud earrings that capture the vitality of nature, peridot is an exceptional choice.

Ancient Origins and Provenance

The history of Peridot is inextricably linked to the island of Topazos—now known as St. John’s Island or Zabargad—in the Red Sea. Ancient Egyptians mined these stones for centuries, often referring to them as "gems of the sun." Legend has it that the island was infested with snakes, making mining difficult until a brave pharaoh successfully drove them away.

Beyond the terrestrial, Peridot possesses a celestial narrative. It has been discovered in pallasite meteorites, leftovers from the birth of our solar system. When you wear a Peridot, you are potentially wearing a fragment of the stars—a piece of cosmic heritage that adds a profound layer of meaning to your jewellery collection.

Symbolism and Healing Properties

Throughout history, Peridot has been cherished as a stone of compassion. It is believed to bring peace to relationships by balancing emotions and mindsets. In the context of anniversary gifts, specifically the 16th wedding anniversary, Peridot serves as a testament to a harmonious and flourishing partnership.

In many cultures, the stone was used as a talisman to ward off "terrors of the night" and evil spirits. When set in 22ct gold, the warm yellow of the metal complements the lime-green tones of the stone, creating a piece that feels both solar and protective. This combination is a staple in high-end artisanal craftsmanship, where color theory meets metallurgical heritage.

Sardonyx: The Voice of Antiquity

Long before Peridot became the modern favorite, Sardonyx held the title of the August birthstone. A variety of chalcedony, Sardonyx is characterized by contrasting layers of brownish-red sard and white onyx. It is a stone defined by its "banding," which creates unique, architectural patterns that appeal to those with a refined eye for detail.

The beauty of Sardonyx lies in its artisanal potential. For millennia, master lapidaries have used the stone’s layers to create intricate cameos and intaglios. By carving through one layer to reveal the color of the layer beneath, artisans could create high-relief portraits and scenes of mythological significance. This preservation of traditional skills is something we deeply respect at PureJewels.

Strength and Protection

In the Roman Empire, Sardonyx was highly prized by soldiers. They would wear carnelian or sardonyx rings engraved with the figure of Mars, the god of war, believing the stone would grant them courage and protection on the battlefield. It was a stone of the brave—a literal "badge of honor" that transitioned from the field of war to the courts of law.

Today, Sardonyx remains a symbol of clear communication and happiness within a marriage. Its grounded aesthetic makes it an excellent choice for mens jewellery, where its earthy tones and historical weight provide a sense of quiet confidence and authority.

The Craft of Roman Seals

One of the most practical reasons for the historical popularity of Sardonyx was its metallurgical compatibility. Hot wax does not stick to Sardonyx, making it the perfect material for signet rings and personal seals. Every time a Roman official pressed his ring into wax to verify a document, he was using a piece of functional art.

This legacy of functionality and beauty continues today. While we may no longer use wax seals for our correspondence, the **personalised ring** remains a powerful way to carry one's heritage.

Choosing a Sardonyx for such a piece connects the modern wearer to a 4,000-year-old tradition of identity and integrity.

Spinel: The Great Imposter Unmasked

For centuries, the world’s most famous "rubies" were actually Spinels. From the "Black Prince’s Ruby" in the British Imperial State Crown to the "Timur Ruby," this gemstone has lived a secret life at the center of royal collections. It wasn't until the birth of modern gemology that Spinel was recognized as its own distinct mineral species.

In 2016, the jewelry industry officially acknowledged the allure of this stone by naming it the third August birthstone. Spinel is beloved by connoisseurs for its brilliance—it is singly refractive, meaning it possesses a clarity and fire that few stones can match. Its inclusion in the August calendar provides a sophisticated alternative for those who find Peridot too vibrant and Sardonyx too traditional.

A Spectrum of Color

While the red Spinel is the most famous, the gemstone occurs in a breathtaking array of colors, including cobalt blue, vibrant pink, and deep violet. This versatility makes it an ideal candidate for a **personalised necklace** or a personalised pendant where specific color meanings can be honored.

- **Red Spinel:** Often associated with vitality and passion, it was used by ancient healers to treat blood disorders.
- **Blue Spinel:** A rare and sought-after variety that symbolises tranquility and spiritual growth.
- **Pink Spinel:** Soft yet enduring, it is frequently chosen for kids jewellery to represent new beginnings.

Durability and Brilliance

One of the practical advantages of Spinel is its hardness. Rating an 8 on the Mohs scale, it is significantly tougher than Peridot or Sardonyx. This makes it exceptionally well-suited for everyday wear. Whether set in an engagement ring or a bespoke bangle, Spinel is a stone that can withstand the rigors of time, becoming a true heirloom for future generations.

A Spinel’s brilliance is also "natural"—unlike many other gemstones, it is rarely treated with heat or chemicals to enhance its color. When you purchase a Spinel, you are often seeing the raw,

unadulterated beauty of the earth, refined only by the master’s touch in the cutting room. This authenticity is a hallmark of luxury with purpose.

The Evolution of Birthstone Traditions

The concept of birthstones is not merely a modern marketing invention; it is a tradition rooted in deep cultural storytelling. The origins are often traced back to the Breastplate of Aaron, described in the Book of Exodus, which was adorned with twelve gemstones representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Over centuries, these stones became associated with the zodiac signs and eventually the months of the year.

In the Eastern tradition, particularly within *Navaratna* jewelry, gemstones are chosen based on their planetary alignment. Here, the focus is on the cosmic energy the stone can channel for the wearer. August’s stones, particularly Peridot with its solar associations, align perfectly with this philosophy of wearing jewelry as a form of spiritual and physical protection.

The 1912 Standardization

It was only in 1912 that the American National Association of Jewelers (now Jewelers of America) officially standardized the birthstone list. This list has been updated only a handful of times, with the addition of Spinel in 2016 being a significant milestone. This update reflects our growing collective understanding of gemology and a desire to offer more choice to the modern consumer.

For us at PureJewels, this evolution represents the journey of craftsmanship. As we discover more about the earth’s treasures, our ability to curate and design pieces that resonate with your personal story also expands. We see these stones not just as minerals, but as milestones in a lifelong celebration of identity.

Choosing Your August Birthstone: A Consultative Guide

Selecting the right stone is a personal journey. It requires balancing aesthetic preference with symbolic meaning and lifestyle needs. When you are considering **what is the birthstone for the month of August**, we invite you to think about how the piece will fit into your daily life and your long-term legacy.

Design Intelligence: Matching Stone to Setting

The setting you choose is just as important as the stone itself. In our London workshop, our artisans consider the light-reflecting properties of each gem to determine the best metal and

mounting. If you are looking for hoop earrings, you might opt for smaller, pavé-set Peridots to create a subtle shimmer. For a **personalised ring**, a larger, solitaire Spinel might be more appropriate to showcase the stone's exceptional fire.

1. **For the Traditionalist:** A Sardonyx signet ring or a beaded necklace pays homage to the very roots of August's history.
2. **For the Romantic:** Peridot set in 22ct yellow gold evokes a sun-drenched, Mediterranean feel that is both warm and evocative.
3. **For the Modernist:** A cobalt blue Spinel in a sleek, minimalist setting offers a contemporary look with royal heritage.

Considerations for Different Life Stages

Jewelry is often a gift to mark a transition. For a child's first pieces, perhaps a gold spoon or a dainty charm, the symbolic protection of Peridot is a beautiful gesture. For a graduate or professional achievement, the "courage" of Sardonyx provides a grounding energy as they embark on a new journey.

When selecting wedding gifts for an August bride, we often recommend incorporating all three stones into a bespoke layout. This not only honors her birth month but creates a piece of *bespoke* jewelry that is truly unique to her story—a celebration of her past and her future combined.

August Birthstones in Cultural Storytelling

In the tapestry of Indian jewelry, color has always been a language. The vibrant green of Peridot is often used to symbolize growth and renewal, mirroring the lush landscapes of the monsoon season. In the context of *karigari*, these stones are frequently paired with intricate gold work, where the metal itself is treated as a canvas.

Whether it is through the use of *meenakari* (enameling) to highlight the hues of the gemstone or *kundankari* to set the stones in pure gold, the goal remains the same: to create a piece that is a "wearable heirloom." The August birthstones, with their rich historical narratives, provide the perfect foundation for such artisanal excellence.

Festival Gifting and Religious Symbolism

The month of August often coincides with significant cultural celebrations, making birthstone jewelry a popular choice for festival gifts. During occasions like Raksha Bandhan or Janmashtami,

giving a piece that incorporates an August birthstone adds a layer of personalization to the spiritual significance of the day.

For those seeking religious pendants, a Peridot or Spinel can be incorporated into the design of an om pendant or a ganesh pendant. The green of the Peridot is particularly auspicious in many Eastern traditions, symbolizing prosperity and the favor of the divine.

Maintaining the Brilliance of Your August Gems

As a fourth-generation jewelry house, we understand that we are not just sellers of jewelry, but custodians of your memories. To ensure your August birthstone jewelry remains a legacy piece, certain care standards must be upheld. Each of the three stones requires a slightly different approach based on its mineral composition.

Care and Cleaning Best Practices

While Peridot and Spinel are generally durable, they should be protected from harsh chemicals and extreme temperature changes. Sardonyx, being a porous chalcedony, requires even more delicate handling. We recommend a gentle approach to preserve the stone's luster and "provenance."

- **Cleaning:** Use lukewarm, soapy water and a soft-bristled brush. Avoid ultrasonic cleaners, especially for Peridots which may have internal inclusions that could fracture under stress.
- **Storage:** Store birthstone pieces in separate compartments or soft pouches. Harder stones like diamonds can easily scratch the surface of a Peridot or Sardonyx.
- **Professional Maintenance:** We suggest bringing your heirloom pieces to us annually for a professional inspection. This ensures that the settings remain secure and the stones continue to shine with their original brilliance.

Buying Considerations for the Discerning Client

When you are ready to invest in an August birthstone, quality and integrity are paramount. At PureJewels, we take pride in our transparent sourcing and our commitment to **hallmarked** excellence. Every piece we create is a blend of exceptional materials and design intelligence.

If you are working within a specific budget, you can **shop by price** on our digital storefront to find the perfect balance of luxury and value. Whether you are looking for jewellery under 250 for a thoughtful gesture or a more substantial investment piece, our curated collections cater to every

stage of your journey.

The Ethical Choice

In the modern world, the "journey" of a gemstone includes its path from the earth to your hands. We prioritize stones with clear provenance, ensuring that your celebration of life does not come at the cost of another's well-being. This integrity is what transforms a simple purchase into a meaningful legacy.

When looking at Spinels, for example, many of the finest specimens come from Mahenge in Tanzania or the legendary mines of Myanmar (Burma). Understanding where your stone comes from adds a layer of "story-driven" value that elevates the jewelry beyond its physical form.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does August have three birthstones?

August has three birthstones because the list of official gemstones has evolved over time. Sardonyx was the original ancient stone, Peridot was added later to provide a more colorful option, and Spinel was added in 2016 to offer variety in durability and color for modern consumers.

Which August birthstone is the rarest?

Natural, untreated Spinel—particularly in "Jedi" pink or cobalt blue—is arguably the rarest and most valuable of the three. High-quality, large Peridots with deep green saturation are also becoming increasingly difficult to source as older mines are depleted.

Is Peridot suitable for an engagement ring?

Peridot is a 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale, making it softer than diamonds or saphires. While it can be used for an engagement ring, it requires a protective setting (like a bezel) and the wearer must be mindful of potential impacts. For a more durable August engagement stone, we often recommend Spinel.

What is the difference between Peridot and Emerald?

While both are green gems, they belong to different mineral families. Emerald is a variety of beryl and has a deeper, cooler green color, often with many inclusions. Peridot is olivine and has a warmer, yellowish-green hue. Peridot is also generally more affordable while being just as vibrant.

Can Sardonyx be used for daily wear?

Yes, Sardonyx is quite tough. However, it is a form of chalcedony, which means it can be sensitive to chemicals. It is best to remove Sardonyx rings when using cleaning products or perfumes to prevent the stone from dulling over time.

How can I tell if my Spinel is real?

Spinel was historically confused with rubies and sapphires because they often occur together in nature. To verify a Spinel, a professional gemologist will use a refractometer; Spinels are singly refractive, whereas rubies are doubly refractive. At PureJewels, we ensure all our stones are masterfully identified and certified.

The journey through the birthstones of August is one of fire, light, and history. Whether you are drawn to the solar radiance of **Peridot**, the ancient strength of **Sardonyx**, or the royal brilliance of **Spinel**, your choice is a reflection of a story that is uniquely yours. We invite you to explore our 22ct gold jewellery collections, where these stones are brought to life through generations of expertise and a commitment to timeless elegance.