



Quartz

Little Rock, Arkansas

Water-clear, well-formed, large quartz crystals have been mined in the Little Rock, Arkansas region for many generations. These pure, sharp, gem-quality crystals are eagerly sought by collectors all over the world. Most of these crystals have to be cleaned after they are mined. This specimen is coated with orange iron oxide. When the coating is removed, the specimen will be perfectly colorless.

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Calcite

Brushy Creek Mine,
Reynolds County, Missouri

The gray, scalenohedral calcite crystals from the Brushy Creek Mine are world famous. Groups and individual, single crystals are common. Twinned crystals are commonly found as well. Some of these crystals are coated with a sprinkling of iridescent chalcopyrite.

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Benitoite

San Benito Co., California

In 1907, J.M. Couch was camping near New Idria, California. When he woke up, the morning sunlight was bouncing off of thousands of sparkling blue crystals. What he discovered was a new mineral that had never been known before. This mineral was eventually named "Benitoite" because it was found in San Benito County. It is California's official State Gemstone.

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Gypsum

Australia

Gypsum is number 2 on the mineral hardness scale. It is so soft that it can be scratched with your fingernail. Gypsum crystals can be as fine as hair and as large as a bus! Pure gypsum is colorless, but yellow, brown, green, golden yellow, black, and white gypsum is also known. Gypsum is crushed into a powder and heated. This drives off the water in its crystal structure. The white powder this creates is Plaster of Paris. Add water to this powder and the plaster can be used to make walls and decorative items.

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Garnet

Jeffrey Mine, Asbestos,
Canada

The mineral name "Garnet" comes from the Latin word "Granatum" which means "a pomegranate" because groups of small, red garnet crystals look like the seeds found inside a pomegranate. Garnet crystallizes in the cubic (isometric) crystal system. Most garnet crystals have 12 faces, and each face has 4 sides. This crystal form is called "Dodecahedral." The clear, cinnamon-orange garnets from the Jeffrey Mine are some of the finest garnet crystals in the world.

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Fluorite

Cave-In-Rock, Illinois

Fluorite is one of the most common minerals. Some of the best fluorite specimens came from the Illinois-Kentucky fluorite district. Pictured here are intergrown purple fluorite cubes. The fluorite from this region is also blue, yellow, and colorless. Sometimes a single crystal can have two or more colors.

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Wulfenite

Red Cloud Mine,
Yuma, Arizona

Mineral collectors agree that the Red Cloud mine is one of the world's great sources of mineral specimens, especially wulfenite. It was first opened in the 1870's. It was mined for its silver and lead ores. The well-formed, bright red, transparent, glassy wulfenite crystals have no value as an ore. But they are extremely valuable today to mineral collectors. Even very small specimens can be very expensive.

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Malachite

Democratic Republic of
the Congo, Africa

Malachite is a beautiful green copper mineral. It often forms as enormous masses. When the masses are sliced open, you can see it has zones or bands, each of which is a slightly different shade of green. Massive malachite is cut and polished to make jewelry and other decorative items like bowls, statues, boxes, and vases.

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Fantasy Pocket

Cave-in-Rock, Illinois

Nearly every public and private mineral collection in the United States has fluorite from the Illinois-Kentucky fluorite district. The region was mined for over 175 years. In this "Fantasy Pocket" you find yellow fluorite cubes, small orange calcite crystals, purple fluorite, light blue celestite, greenish chalcopyrite balls on a light yellow calcite, long grayish-white strontianite, light blue fluorite cubes in front of a large orange calcite, a single gray galena cube on purple fluorite, and a second galena crystal on yellow calcite.

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