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## Gemstones of Southern Africa: a tour of the subcontinent

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Southern Africa, and South Africa and Botswana in particular, is best known for diamonds as the primary gemstone in the region. However, within the borders of Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa and Mozambique, a host of other gemstones are found, many of which are exploited by informal artisanal miners. These include beryl (aquamarine, emerald, morganite and heliodor), chrysoberyl (alexandrite), gem-quality cordierite, corundum variety ruby corundum, garnet (demantoid, hydrogrossular, rhodolite and spessartine varieties), jeremejevite, quartz (agate, amethyst, carnelian, blue chalcedony, chrysoprase, citrine, rose quartz, tiger's eye and pietersite), sugilite, topaz and tourmaline (elbaite and indicolite) [1].

This submission will highlight the location, geological setting and discuss examples of outstanding gemstones from southern Africa, for example, from **Namibia**: the Erongo Mountains in have produced the finest aquamarine and gem-quality jeremejevite in Southern Africa [2]; Goboboseb Mountains west of the Brandberg yield high quality amethyst [3]; The pegmatites of central Namibia produce gem quality elbaite and indicolite tourmaline; Klein Spitzkoppe topaz [4]; Spessartine garnet from Marienfluss. From **South Africa** [5]: Gravelotte emeralds from the GEM mine in the Murchison Mountains; Diamonds from kimberlites and alluvial deposits in the Northern Cape Province; Gem quality hydrogrossular garnet from the Bushveld Complex; Tiger's eye and jasper from Griquastad in the Northern Cape Province. From **Zimbabwe**: Topaz from St Ann's mine in Mwami; Chrysoberyl (alexandrite) from Novello claims, Masvingo [6]. From **Mozambique** [7]; Tourmaline from the Alto Ligonha pegmatite belt, and several varieties of gem quartz from various localities.



*Figure 1: A selection of faceted coloured gemstones from Southern Africa.*

*References:*

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