



GIA®

TANZANITE



Exotic tanzanite is found in only one place on earth, near majestic Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Tanzanite's most-prized colors are a strongly saturated pure blue or violetish blue.

TANZANITE - COLOR

A deep, saturated blue is what most consumers prefer although others favor gems with an intense bluish purple bodycolor. Exceptional tanzanite displays an intense violetish blue with red flashes caused by its pleochroism. As with any colored gem, paler hues are more affordable.



TIPS AND ADVICE

SIZE AND COLOR ARE RELATED.

Tanzanite usually has to be large to reach a deep saturated blue or purple. Small accent stones that are less than a carat are commonly a lighter color.

TANZANITE - CLARITY

Tanzanite, which is a variety of the mineral zoisite, is usually free of eye visible inclusions. If any inclusions are present that pose a durability problem – such as fractures – they may lower the value.



CONSIDER A PROTECTIVE SETTING.

With a hardness of 6 to 7 and poor toughness, tanzanite is not an ideal ring stone for everyday wear. A setting that surrounds the tanzanite with metal or gems will help protect it.



TANZANITE - CUT

Tanzanite is available in a wide range of shapes, but cushion and oval cuts are more common.

Because of its pleochroism (it shows two or more distinct bodycolors when viewed in different directions), cutting direction determines the gem's overall face-up color. Cutting a tanzanite to emphasize the bluish purple color usually wastes less rough than cutting it to get a pure blue or violetish blue color. The cutter has to make a choice between a smaller top-color gem and a larger bluish purple one.

DON'T COMPROMISE ON CUT.

The quality of the cut can make a big difference in beauty. Your tanzanite should reflect light back evenly across the entire gem. Poorly cut gems are much less marketable.

WORK WITH A KNOWLEDGEABLE JEWELER.

Because tanzanite is an unusual gem, make sure you choose a jeweler who has gemological knowledge and expertise. A jeweler who knows and loves tanzanite should have a selection to show you so you can see quality differences side by side.

TANZANITE - CARAT WEIGHT

Fine tanzanite with a strong, deep color is often found in pieces weighing 5.00 carats or more. Smaller sizes in less saturated color are typically found in mass market jewelry.



FAQ

Q: IS TANZANITE DURABLE FOR RINGS?

A: Zoisite has a hardness of 6-7 on the Mohs scale and has fair to poor toughness, therefore, tanzanite is not an ideal choice for a ring that will be worn every day, especially if you are an active individual. Consider a setting that protects the stone or choosing tanzanite for a ring you don't wear every day. To care for your tanzanite, it is best to use warm, soapy water to clean your gem. Never use an ultrasonic or steam cleaner.

Q: IS BLUE OR PURPLE TANZANITE MORE VALUABLE?

A: Tanzanite shows different colors in different crystal directions. Because blue is usually located on the short axis of the crystal, it is often more difficult to cut a large blue stone. As a result blue is more rare than purple and commands a premium.

Q: IS TANZANITE TREATED?

A: Tanzanite is routinely heat-treated to modify its color from a predominately brownish appearance to a predominately blue to purple appearance.

Q: IS THERE SUCH A THING AS PINK OR GREEN TANZANITE?

A: In addition to blue and violet colors, zoisite can also be found in pink and green. Although some sellers refer to these colors as pink tanzanite and green tanzanite, GIA refers to them as pink and green zoisite.

Q: WHAT'S AAA QUALITY TANZANITE?

A: Although individual companies might create their own quality descriptions, like AAA, AA, A to denote the range of quality of their goods, no standard quality grading scales exist for tanzanite.

Q: DOES GIA GRADE TANZANITE?

A: GIA doesn't grade tanzanite. GIA Gemological Identification Reports assess the characteristics of a mounted or loose tanzanite (weight, measurements, shape, cutting style and color), and indicate any detectable treatments.

GIA exists to connect people to the understanding of gems.

As a long-standing scientific authority, GIA is not only a unique source for gem knowledge, its grading reports inspire confidence wherever they appear.

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