



Paraiba Tourmaline

STONE: Paraiba Tourmaline

COLORS: Mint green to neon blue

HARDNESS: 7-7.5

OPTIMAL

CRITERIA: Intensity of neon color and clarity are the two most important criteria. Finding clean large gemstones adds to the value as these are hard to find.

CARE &

MAINTENANCE: Use a soft cloth with water or water and mild soap.
Care must always be given to how the stone is handled.

BACKGROUND: A Paraiba is a Tourmaline that contains copper in its chemical composition and is from the Paraiba region in Brazil. These gemstones are highly coveted for their unusual neon-blue color. Most Paraiba Tourmaline are heavily included stones, similar to Emeralds, so it is hard to find clean gemstones. Since the original mine yields very few gem-quality stones, a large, clean Paraiba is among the rarest gemstones. As a result, a Paraiba is extremely precious.

Recently, Tourmalines have been found in Nigeria and Mozambique that also contain copper and look similar to the Paraiba Tourmalines found in Brazil. The major international labs are currently considering how to label these African tourmalines. Assuming the stones have the same chemical composition, it is likely they will be called Paraiba Tourmalines but will also be identified with a country of origin.

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