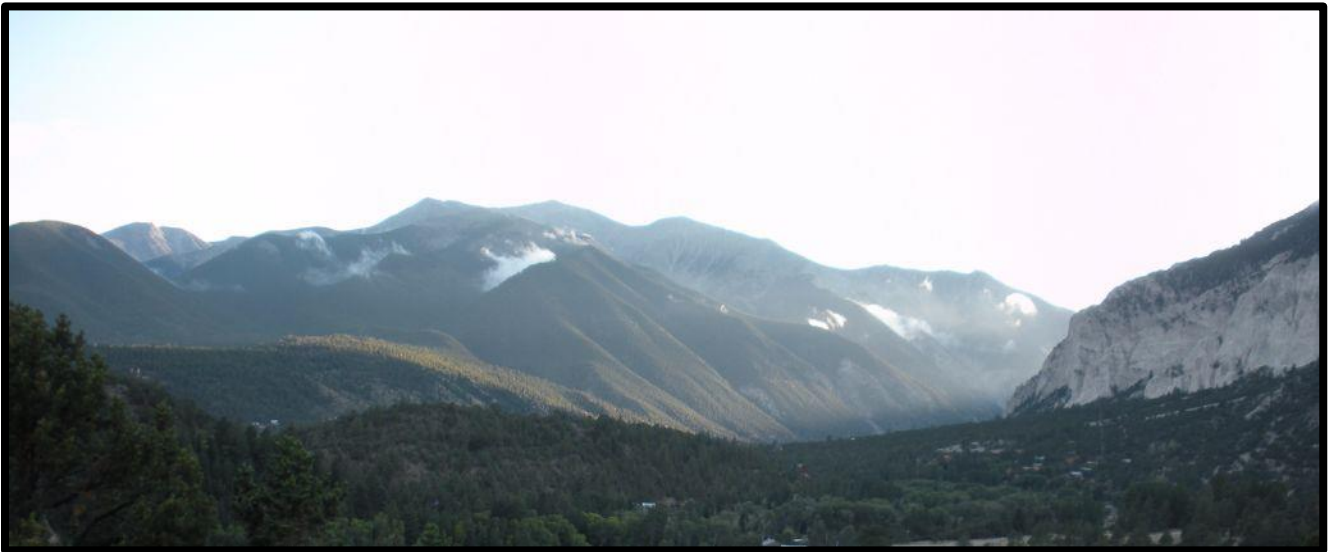


AQUAMARINE

Aquamarine is the blue or blue-green member of the beryl family of gems. Gem grade aqua comes from many places around the world: the USA, Brazil, Madagascar, Nigeria, Malawi, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Vietnam. The blue aqua from Mt. Antero, Colorado ranks among the finest. It is the 26th highest peak in North America at 14,226 ft. It is a spectacular mountain and yields a variety of minerals to a lucky few who are willing to risk serious illness or death from altitude sickness, hypothermia, deadly lightening, and rock slides; it will kill you in a heartbeat if you are careless! If you decide you want to collect, then at the very least, read Jacobson's book on Antero and hiring a local guide will save you a lot of time and money! Do NOT collect on someone's claim!!

Antero recently became well known through a TV show about the Antero prospectors. The show can make you think it's easy to just run up there and start picking up crystals. I can tell you firsthand that every aqua crystal that comes from Antero, has been found with plenty of hard work and lots of luck.

One of the most important things to remember if you do make it, is to take a break, turn around and look where you're at. The incredible scenery is what it is really all about -- the minerals are just a bonus from the Good Lord!

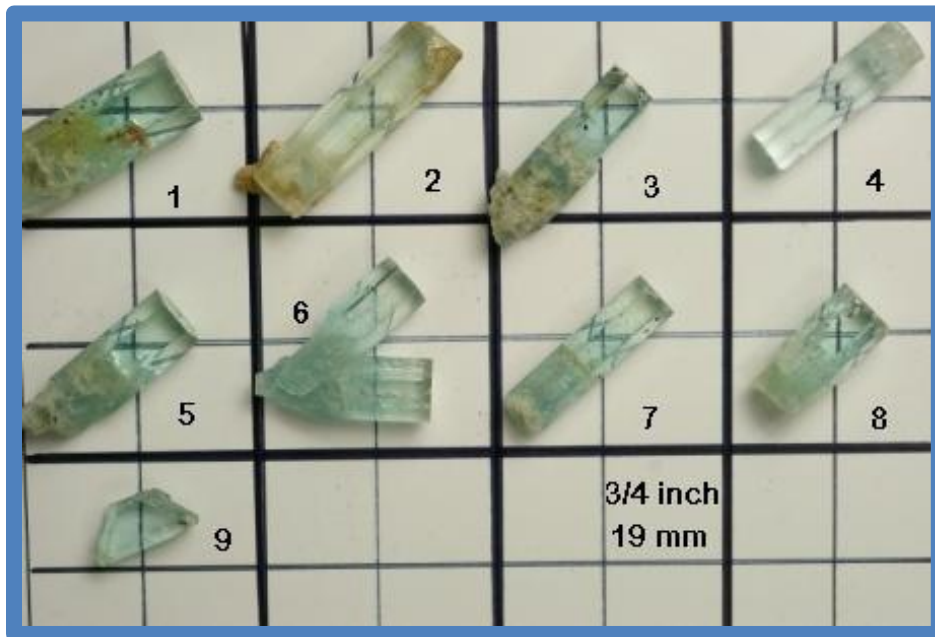


Mt Antero (just left of center) is the last 14,000 ft peak in the Sangre de Cristo range. Chalk Cliffs of Mt. Princeton Collegiate Range are on the right.

Gems, Facet Rough and Specimens

Orders for custom cuts are welcome. We have aqua rough from various locations and some very special facet grade crystals from Mt. Antero. Also specimens and a few smokeys are soon to be listed in the "Mineral Specimens" page.

For rockhounds, gem and mineral collectors interested in Mt Antero, I have an antique rock pick/hammer I found about 25 years ago at the base of the South Dome on Antero. It is listed in our Sale of equipment, and supplies. It would make a terrific gift for Aqua lovers and prospectors. Don't miss the gem and mineral books *now on sale*.



Aquamarine crystals - Facet rough **Grid squares are approx 3/4 inch or 19 mm**

Top row

- 1. Brazil 94.79 ct 47 x 14.7 mm. \$220 **SOLD**
- 2. Pakistan 84 ct 50 x 13 mm matrix bottom approx 35 mm cuttable \$120
- 3. Madagascar 58.55 ct 35 x 12.5 mm matrix bottom approx 15 mm cuttable \$150
- 4. Pakistan 40.7 ct 39 x 9.8 mm very clean xyl approx 29 mm cuttable \$90

Second Row

- 5. Brazil 54 ct 44 x 12 mm etched bottom approx 14 mm cuttable \$160
- 6. Madagascar 82.55ct 38 and 35 mm \$140 **SOLD**
- 7. Brazil 42.66 ct 41 x 10 mm very clean approx 21 mm cuttable \$130
- 8. Madagascar 44.65 ct 29 x 13 mm veil on one flat approx 13 mm cuttable \$90

Bottom

- 9. Nigeria 17.82 ct 24 x 11 x 7.5 mm Very clean approx 90% cuttable \$240

Brazilian Aqua "Zinger" cut.
Private Collection

Got a comment or question? Email Rick: stinsons@gemservice.com