

## Larimar

**Larimar** - In 1974 an American Peace Corp worker and a Dominican geologist discovered the gem on the Caribbean Island of Hispanola.

The nomenclature “Larimar” is combination of the geologist daughter’s name “Larisa” and “Mar”, the Spanish word for the blue sea.

Like the diamond and emerald only 3% of all stones mined are gem stone quality. On the hardness scale of gem, (MOH), the Larimar rates around 7 and the diamond rates 10, 10 being the hardest.

Until now this valuable new discovery remained available only to those who have visited the caribbean. Presently, increased interest and scarcity have made this gem very desirable and valuable!

## Septarian Nodule

**Septarian Nodule** - Utah Septarians are found near Zion National Park in Southern Utah. They started their formation approximately 150 million years ago when the gulf of Mexico reached what is now southern Utah. Volcanic eruptions killed the sea life and they became trapped in the sediment and formed mud balls, the ocean receded and the balls were left to dry and crack. The ocean returned depositing more shell life above them.

As this decomposed, calcite from shells was carried down into the cracks of the mud balls, calcite crystals formed. A thin wall of calcite was transformed into aragonite dividing the bentonite clay (shale) exteriors from the calcite centers. Because of this dividing wall (septum in Latin) the geodes are called Septarians.

**Yellow centers - Calcite**  
**Brown lines - Aragonite**  
**Gray rock - Limestone**  
**White or clear - Barite**