

CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS



Ultimate Guide to Mexican Crazy Lace Agate

by Jeremy Hall. Part of the “Rock Seeker”
articles sent by Bruce VanderZanden
Part 1 of 2

Among the best-known varieties of banded chalcedony is the stone often known as Mexican Crazy Lace Agate. The hardness of the material makes it a joy to cut, while the intricate patterns have made it a favorite since the 1950s. This unique agate forms into many different patterns in many colors, but the stones generally have a common “theme.” But what is it? Where is it found? How did it form? Let’s take a look in our guide to Mexican Crazy Lace Agate.



What is Mexican Crazy Lace Agate?

Mexican Crazy Lace Agate, henceforth referred to as Mexican Agate, is a banded chalcedony variety. Like many agates, it’s found primarily in limestone. The nodules vary widely in color, but they generally have a few common patterns.

Specifically, you'll find that these stones are largely fortification agates. This loose category of agates generally means that the banding in the stones will have sharp angles. Scattered among these layers of colored silica are orbicular patterns, consisting of concentric circles of color. This gives the stone the "lace" name, as it loosely resembles the intricate patterns of lace fabric



Like all agates,

Mexican Agate is comprised largely of cryptocrystalline silica. This is the same mineral that makes up quartz, but chalcedony is most often a mixture of quartz and its polymorph moganite at the microscopic level. The various impurities which make their way in are the source of the stone's coloration.

These agates vary widely in color. While some material consists only of monochromatic white, grey, and black spots, others may bear green or blue bits. The most prized have red and pink worked into them, creating dramatic coloration. For most of us, the red variety is the first one that comes to mind.

Mexican Agates are found as both smoother nodules and in a botryoidal form. This latter form is comprised of small, intersecting spheres. These generally give you a good idea of where the orbicular portions of the stone are, making the rough easier to identify and work with.

To be continued

**Remember March 19 is our first
meeting of the year!**

Doors open at 5:30

STATE BY STATE ROCKS, GEMS, MINERALS

New York



State Gem: Garnet

Garnets are a set of closely related minerals that form a group, resulting in gemstones in almost every color. Red garnets have a long history, but modern gem buyers can pick from a rich palette of garnet colors: greens, oranges, pinkish oranges, deeply saturated purplish reds, and even some blues.

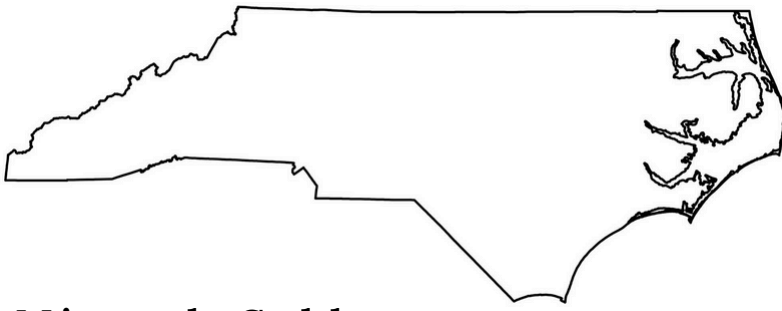


Red garnet is one of the most common and widespread of gems, found in metamorphic rocks (which are rocks altered by heat and pressure) on every continent. But not all garnets are as abundant as the red ones. A green garnet, tsavorite, also occurs in metamorphic rocks, but it's rarer because it needs unusual rock chemistries and special conditions to form.

Demantoid is a rare and famous green garnet, spessartine (also called spessartite) is an orange garnet, and rhodolite is a beautiful purple-red garnet. Garnets can even exhibit the color-change phenomenon similar to the rare gemstone alexandrite.

All garnets have essentially the same crystal structure, but they vary in chemical composition. There are more than twenty garnet categories, called species, but only five are commercially important as gems. Those five are pyrope, almandine (also called almandite), spessartine, grossular (grossularite), and radite. A sixth, uvarovite, is a green garnet that usually occurs as crystals too small to cut. It's sometimes set as clusters in jewelry. Many garnets are chemical mixtures of two or more garnet species.





North Carolina

State Mineral: Gold



Gold is a chemical element with the chemical symbol Au and atomic number 79. In its pure form, it is a bright, slightly orange-yellow, dense, soft, malleable, and ductile metal. Chemically, gold is a transition metal, a group 11 element, and one of the noble metals.

State Rock: Granite

Granite is a coarse-grained (phaneritic) intrusive igneous rock composed mostly of quartz, alkali feldspar, and plagioclase. It forms from magma with a high content of silica and alkali metal oxides that slowly cools and solidifies underground. It is common in the continental crust of the Earth, where it is found in igneous intrusions. These range in size from dikes only a few centimeters across to batholiths exposed over hundreds of square kilometers.



State Precious Stone: Emerald



Emerald is a gemstone and a variety of the mineral beryl colored green by trace amounts of chromium or sometimes vanadium. Beryl has a hardness of 7.5–8 on the Mohs scale. Most emeralds have many inclusions, so their toughness (resistance to breakage) is classified as generally poor. Emerald is a cyclosilicate.

Most emeralds are oiled as part of the post-lapidary process, in order to fill in surface-reaching cracks so that clarity and stability are improved. Cedar oil, having a similar refractive index, is often used in this widely adopted practice. Other liquids, including synthetic oils and polymers with refractive indexes close to that of emeralds, such as Opticon, are also used. The least expensive emeralds are often treated with epoxy resins, which are effective for filling stones with many fractures

References:

statesymbolsusa.org gisgeography.com gia.edu Wikipedia google.com

Upcoming Events

Rock shows you may want to visit

March 7th, 8th & 9th, 2025 Oregon Agate & Mineral Society 74th Annual Show Rock A' Doodle Do OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry)

March 7th, 8th & 9th Tualatin Valley Gem Club, 66th Rock and Gem Annual Show. Forest Grove National Guard Armory

March 21-23—EUGENE, OREGON: Wholesale and retail show; Gem Faire Inc; Lane Events Center, .

March 22nd & 23rd, 2025

Southeast Idaho Gem & Mineral Society (SEIGMS) Annual Rock and Gem Show Pocatello, ID 83201

March 29th & 30th 2025

Mount Baker Rock and Gem Club 63rd Annual Show Pioneer Pavilion Community Center. Ferndale, Washington 98248

Save the Dates... CORC Field Trips

April 12
Beers Mtn and China Hollow
One day only

May 17 & 18:
Milepost 27 & 32

June 14 & 15:
Bear Creek

July 19 Picnic at
American Legion Park

August 16
Richardsons Rock Ranch

September 13 and 14::
Joe Cota's Rock Shop/Dig
in Sweet Home

October 11 & 12: 3 Amigos Claim

All field trips are subject to change due to weather & fires



Remember: March 19 is our first club meeting!

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Membership

****2025 Renewals are due by
April 30th.**

**Renew ONLINE at the
CORC website.**

**(corockcollectors.com
->Membership-> Join Now)**

Renew by MAIL or IN PERSON.
Print the membership form from the CORC
website and mail it to:
Central Oregon Rock Collectors (CORC)
4817 SW Volcano Ave
Redmond, OR 97756
or bring it to the next meeting or field trip.

Annual membership dues are:

\$20 for individuals,
\$25 for household
and \$5 for juniors.

(Note: Junior memberships are for minors
who are accompanied by a club member
from a different household.
e.g. Grandparents, aunts, uncles)

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Contact Us:

Email: corc.rocks@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 4817 SW Volcano Ave
Redmond, OR 97756

Meeting Address: 3800 SE
Airport Way Bldg, 3 "The Annex",
Redmond, OR 97756

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sanding/Polishing
Slabs/Thunderegg**

.50/square inch

**Contact: Dan Siroshon
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ROCK GARDEN



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staff for the museum/gift shop
Interested?? contact:
petersengardenmuseum@gmail.com

Museum/Garden Hours:

from now to March 21st
Friday, Saturday, Sunday
10-2

March 22- May 22
Wednesday - Sunday **10 - 4**
May 23 until winter starts
7 days a week 10-4

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