

Fifteen things you want to know about turquoise

Presented by Alene Geed. Alene's Adornments.

- 1. Turquoise is the National Gemstone of Tibet*
- 2. The Turquoise Museum in Albuquerque displays the largest collection of turquoise in the world*
- 3. The Navajos were the earliest turquoise miners in the Southwest. They heated the boulders then splashed with cold water to fracture and expose the gems*
- 4. Wearing turquoise is alleged to stabilize mood swings and bring inner calm*
- 5. Aztecs, Incas and Mayas wore turquoise in ceremonies as a symbol of authority*
- 6. Turquoise gems are never found deeper than 100 feet below the surface*
- 7. Hindus believed that seeing the new moon in the reflection of turquoise would bring good fortune*
- 8. The ancient Zuni's in New Mexico highly valued turquoise. In some cases a string of beads was worth several horses.*
- 9. Clean your turquoise with a soft cloth. Dab with water if needed. And never put in an ultrasonic cleaner*
- 10. The Sinai area of Egypt was one of the first places where mining of turquoise took place. In 5500 B. C.*
- 11. The higher the copper content in turquoise, the bluer the stone. The higher the iron content, the greener the stone.*
- 12. In Chaco Canyon New Mexico, archaeologists recovered 50,000 pieces of turquoise. Over half were beads.*
- 13. Turquoise is a porous gem with a hardness of 5-6*
- 14. African turquoise is actually a turquoise colored jasper!*
- 15. Never wear your turquoise jewelry while swimming. The water (and especially chlorine) will destroy the gem over time*

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