



**DOERR DALLAS
VALUATIONS**



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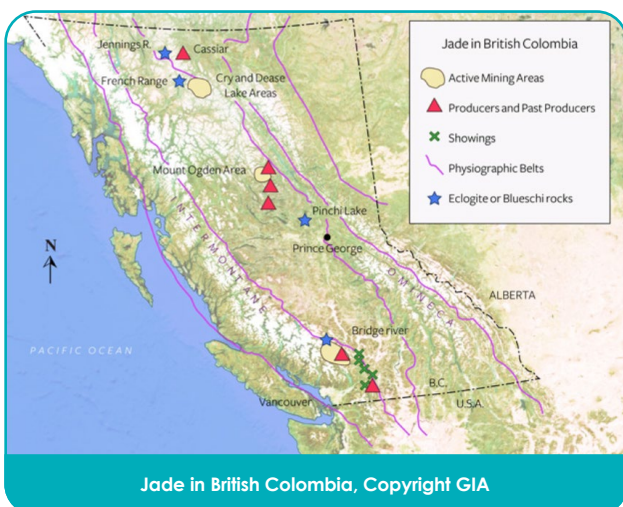
NEPHRITE

Nephrite can be found in three major locations: northwestern China, Siberia and British Columbia, though China has been said to provide to best quality nephrite, such as the “mutton fat”.



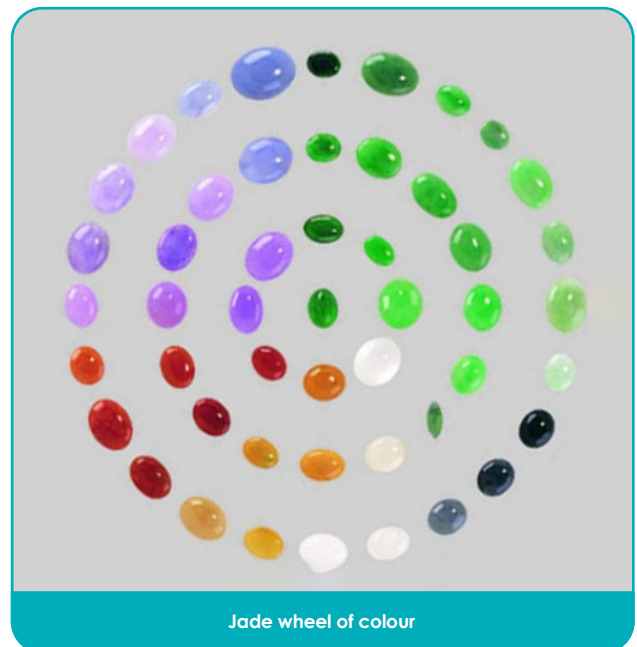
Carved mutton fat retailing for £1,500

The mines in British Columbia formed in the Mesozoic, 251.9 to 66.0 million years ago, when Pangea started to separate and dinosaurs walked the planet.



Jade in British Columbia, Copyright GIA

Nephrite, along with jadeite, is often referred to as jade. It comes in an array of colours and can be translucent to opaque.



Jade wheel of colour

Although nephrite comes in various colours, it is usually less pronounced than in jadeite. What else differentiates jadeite from nephrite? Their chemical composition to start with. This would be difficult to identify when out shopping for a jade necklace, but jadeite's composition is: $\text{NaAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$ and nephrite's is $\text{Ca}_2(\text{Mg,Fe})_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$.

The deposits location is also different. Jadeite is only found in Myanmar as opposed to nephrite, which ranges across the borders.

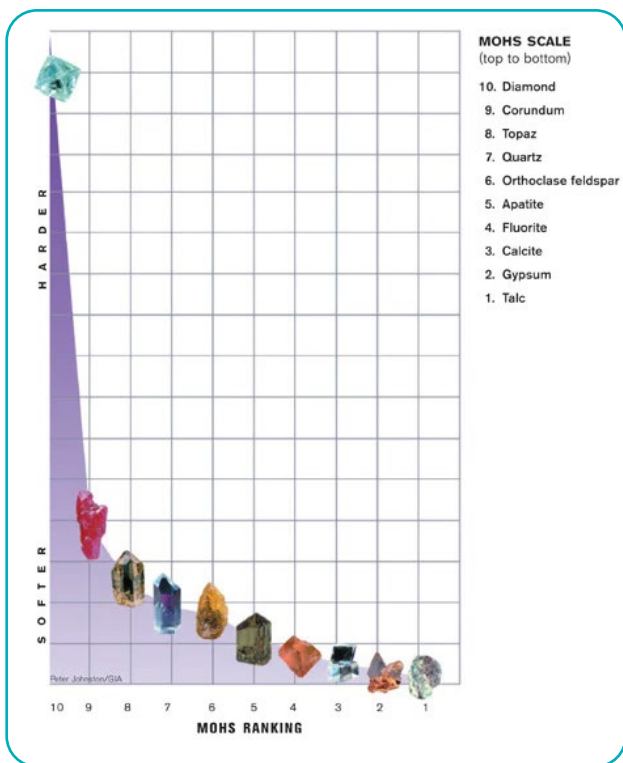
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Nephrite is harder than jadeite, making it a good candidate for sculptures.



A nephrite sculpture

Nephrite rates 6 to 6.5 on the Mohs scale. The Mohs scale of mineral hardness was created by Friedrich Mohs in 1822 and determines the scratch resistance of minerals when scratched by another mineral.



The Mohs scale is used to manufacture everyday objects: your mobile phone's screen glass is made of a material that scratches at level 6, some at level 7.

Compared to jadeite, if nephrite chips, it will have a more waxy texture to it and could leave a powdery residue.

Though it may scratch, it is nonetheless a hard gemstone, made up of minuscule interlocking minerals which form a larger one, this is called a metamorphic gem. It was in fact hard enough for when man first made tools.



Neanderthal tools

Due to its relative hardness and arrays of colours in which it comes, it is very sought after. However, jadeite is more valuable than nephrite, but the latter remains a great contender for jewellery pieces and for being carved and polished.

This autumn (2023) Sotheby's HK is offering for sale the below fire opal, icy jadeite and diamond brooch with an estimate of HKD40,000-50,000 (approximately £4,000-5,000).



Sotheby's brooch

Nephrite comes in all shapes and forms. The above is set with two cabochon nephrite. A common and traditional piece of jewellery is the hololith bangle, made out of one piece of stone.



“Bi”, a flat disc with hole in the middle and representing heaven, is also made of one piece of stone.



They can be fashioned into any shape or form, it's no wonder why they are one of Hollywood's favourite go to pieces for a chic and understated statement.

Actress Emilia Clarke wore these exquisite earrings to the Emmys, and though they are most likely to be jadeite jade rather than nephrite, there are some affordable pieces retailing with similar spark.



Such as these teardrop earrings selling for £300.



Or this beaded necklace, retailing for £2,500.



Nephrite necklace

If money is not an issue, then perhaps, its counterpart in jadeite jade could be an option, as with the opposing jadeite jade necklace, which sold with Sotheby's in 2020, for USD 10.4 million.



Sotheby's Jadeite necklace

Perhaps this is the price to pay for a little bit of heaven, as Confucius described jade, and who wouldn't want that?