



Rough Sunstone.
(Photo: ATG/LAB)

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Andesine (and **Sunstone**) is similar to Labradorite. Named after the Andes, where it was first identified, Andesine mineral occurs in red, orange and green. It is the same family group as Labradorite (plagioclase).

Controversially, it has recently become clear that



Green Andesine Feldspar. (Photo: ATG/LAB)

some red and green andesine are probably treated. Sunstone is often streaked with red but the only true natural red Andesine of gem quality is found in Oregon, USA, and is very rare.

FLUORSPAR/FLUORITE

Though fluorspar is not generally looked upon as a gemstone because of its relative softness (it rates only 4 on the Mohs scale), with care, it may be used decoratively.

A very English mineral, it is found in Cornwall and Derbyshire. Its main claim to fame is the unique variety 'Blue John', which is found only in Derbyshire. Although supplies are now limited it was very popular in Victorian times, providing beautiful carved ornaments. Although called 'blue' it has more of a purple colour banding together with browns and yellows. The crystal structure of fluorite shows as chevron layers within a massive material. The Blue John Caverns are a popular tourist venue even today. Classic pieces of Blue John command



Blue John. (Photo: ACC)