

## **Gemological Organizations A-Z**

### **American Gem Society** \_\_\_\_\_

<https://www.americangemsociety.org/default.aspx>

“The American Gem Society is the country's preeminent jewelry trade organization dedicated to consumer protection. Which basically means, if you're looking to buy jewelry, you just clicked to the right website.

Since 1934, we've been making it easier and safer to buy jewelry of any kind. Even if you don't know the first thing about cut and clarity, we can help you, educate you, and point you in the direction of jewelers that are dedicated to protecting you.”

“AGS is a [trade association](#) of retail jewelers, independent [appraisers](#), suppliers, and selective industry members, which was founded in 1934 by Robert M. Shipley. Members are held to a high code of ethics with emphasis on consumer protection and education.

The Society is based in [Las Vegas, Nevada](#), along with the affiliated American Gem Society Laboratories (AGSL) (founded in 1996) and the American Gem Society Advanced Instruments Division (founded in 2004).”

Wikipedia “ The Society trains and certifies [jewelers](#), gemologists, and jewelry [appraisers](#). [Diamond](#) grading is the specialty of the American Gem Society Laboratories and the Society has developed its own [cut](#), [color](#), and [clarity](#) standards.”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Gem\\_Society](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Gem_Society)

### **American Gemstone Trade Association** \_\_\_\_\_

<https://agta.org/>

AGTA hosts major industry Trade Shows: Tuscon, NYC,

#### Our Mission

The American Gem Trade Association (AGTA) is an association of United States and Canadian trade professionals dedicated to promoting the long term stability and integrity of the natural colored gemstone and Cultured Pearl industries. The Association pursues its goals through the combined use of educational programs, publicity, industry events, government and industry relations, and printed materials for both the trade and consumer. The AGTA is well-known in the gemstone and jewelry industries for maintaining the highest ethical standards.

#### AGTA Background

“Since its inception in 1981, AGTA's Membership has grown to over 1,200 [Members](#) in the United States and Canada. AGTA Members agree to the disclosure of gemstone enhancements on all commercial documents and to abide by the Association's Code of Ethics and Principles of Fair Business Practices. Annual affirmation of the Code of Ethics, and enforcement by the

AGTA, holds an AGTA Member to a stricter disclosure policy than required by the Federal Trade Commission.”

### AGTA's Objectives

- To represent and further the interests of the natural colored gemstone, pearl and cultured pearl industries in the United States and Canada.
- To promote, maintain and perpetuate the highest ethical standards among the Members of AGTA and within the colored gemstone industry.
- To protect the natural colored gemstone, pearl and cultured pearl industries, related industries, and ultimately, the consumer from fraud, abuse, misrepresentation and deceptive advertising related to colored gemstones.
- To create a greater awareness of and knowledge about colored gemstones and act as a source of information for the jewelry trade to disseminate to the consumer.
- To educate these industries, related industries and the consumer about natural colored gemstones, pearls and cultured pearls.
- To assist the consumer in identifying dealers of integrity in the natural colored gemstone, pearl, and cultured pearl industries.
- To assist the natural colored gemstone, pearl and cultured pearl industries in identifying dealers of integrity in the wholesale colored gemstone marketplace.
- To establish closer communication and information-sharing between the AGTA and all segments of the jewelry trade and related industries.

The AGTA is recognized within the jewelry trade as the authoritative source on natural colored gemstones: “The voice of the natural colored gemstone, pearl and cultured pearl industries.”

### **European Gem Lab – USA (L.A)**

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<https://www.eglusa.com/>

“For over three decades, EGL USA has provided cutting-edge gemological [research](#), testing, and laboratory analysis. This ongoing scientific work reflects the lab’s core commitment to protecting both the industry and its consumers. To that end, EGL USA delivers exemplary evaluations with clear disclosure of diamond, gemstone, and jewelry features, including known treatments.

But, science is only part of the EGL USA story. EGL USA also provides exceptional service: an extensive variety of [reports](#), a wide array of supporting [services](#), and an open dialogue with customers and industry experts, that inspires the creation of exciting, new resources.

EGL USA’s main office is located in the heart of [New York’s](#) diamond district, where it has provided this unique balance — of science and service — since 1977. The lab became independently owned and operated in 1986, and grew to include a west coast office in [Los Angeles](#). Together, the labs evaluate diamonds and gemstones exclusively in North America, and continually set the standard as industry leaders.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF EGL USA “FIRSTS”

- Grading diamonds less than one carat in weight.
- Using a photographic process to place identifying marks on diamonds.
- Providing 72-hour service on diamond reports.
- Issuing mini reports, containing complete full-size report data.
- Introducing the SI3 grade to the diamond standard.
- Utilizing x-ray digital imaging for [pearl](#) identification.
- Detecting and announcing the presence of high pressure high temperature (HPHT)-treated colored diamonds (Type IIa) in the marketplace.
- Creating a dedicated consumer hotline.
- Offering state-of-the-art cold [laser inscription](#).
- Revealing that Type IaB HPHT-treated diamonds were made colorless and available in the marketplace.
- Noting HPHT treatments on diamond reports.
- Delivering full disclosure on [lab-grown diamonds](#), via specialized reports and laser inscriptions on the stones.
- Detecting and announcing the presence of chemical vapor deposition (CVD) lab-grown diamonds in the marketplace.
- Developing a system to identify mounted lab-grown melee diamonds.
- Identifying and establishing grading policies for a new generation of surface treated diamonds, with colored coatings.”

## **Gemological Institute of America** \_\_\_\_\_

(Carlsbad, CA – a few minutes’ drive from TJS, which we make regularly.)

<https://www.gia.edu/>

### A TRADITION OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

Established in 1931, GIA is the world’s foremost authority on diamonds, colored stones, and pearls. A public benefit, nonprofit institute, GIA is the leading source of knowledge, standards, and education in gems and jewelry.

### EDUCATE

Students around the globe turn to GIA for the knowledge, skills, and credentials that launch successful gem and jewelry careers.

- [Jewelry Business Owner](#)
- [Gem and Jewelry Buyer](#)
- [Lab and Research Professional](#)
- [Diamond Manufacturer](#)
- [Appraiser](#)
- [Auction House Jewelry Specialist](#)
- [Staff Gemologist](#)
- [Instructor](#)

- Loose Stone Dealer

### Pursue Your Passion

Whether you're taking the next step in your professional journey or starting a new career, GIA courses and diploma programs prepare you for success. We offer the finest gem and jewelry education in the world with curriculum developed from our groundbreaking research and delivered by the industry's leading experts. GIA gives you the knowledge and practical skills to translate your love for gems and jewelry into a rewarding career.

#### Gemology

*Immerse yourself in the beauty and science of gems and fine jewelry.*

*The world of gemstones beckons.*

Gems are cherished around the world, and there are always opportunities for trained gemologists. Buying and selling diamonds in Manhattan's Diamond District. Negotiating deals with jewelry executives in Hong Kong. Charting sapphire mining trends in Tanzania. Being a trained gemologist is like having an international passport that takes you anywhere gems and jewelry shine.

#### Jewelry:

*Acquire the gem and jewelry knowledge to successfully serve customers in the exciting retail world.*

Establish yourself in the glamorous retail jewelry sector.

A career in retail sales can be rewarding, exciting, and lucrative. If you love selling jewelry and being part of that special moment in your customers' lives, GIA gives you the skills to help you succeed. It also prepares you to pursue your goals of executive management, fine jewelry consulting, buying gemstones...or even opening your own store.

#### Design

*Unleash your creativity and master the technology to bring your jewelry inspirations to life.*

Envision your own line of fine jewelry.

Behind every beautiful piece of jewelry is an inspired designer. With a diploma from the GIA, you too can excel in design. You'll learn to unleash your creativity and develop the skills to turn your inspirations into products. Once you've learned to create wearable masterpieces, you can pursue work as a designer, store manager, business owner, and more.

## RESEARCH

*The world leader in gemological research, GIA's breakthrough discoveries deepen our understanding of gemstones and the world.*

GIA research aims at responding to rapidly changing gem treatment and synthesis technologies, as well deepening the world's understanding of how gems are formed, extracted, manufactured, and sold. Key areas of research include, but are not limited to:

### Diamond Cut And Clarity

Because a diamond's proportions have such a profound effect on its brilliance and overall appearance, GIA conducted a 15-year study to model the way light behaves within a round brilliant diamond. The result was a revolutionary cut grading system for round brilliants, incorporated into GIA Diamond Grading Reports in 2005. The Institute continues to explore the complexities of diamond cut, particularly for fancy cuts. Research into more consistent, accurate clarity grading is also under way.

### Naturally Colored Diamonds – Classification And Color Origin

Because of their rarity, naturally colored diamonds have high price-per-carat values. Fancy diamonds have enjoyed unprecedented popularity in recent years, and articulating their color and cause of color has never been more important. Research into these diamonds' color origin continues to enhance GIA's colored diamond identification services.

#### Natural Blue Diamonds

Three categories of diamonds have been associated with a natural blue color: (1) type IIb, which are colored by boron impurities; (2) those type Ia or IIa that owe their color to radiation exposure; and (3) those type Ia in which the color is associated with hydrogen. Of these, only type IIb diamonds (like that in the center) are typically described as blue (without a hue modifier) in the GIA GTL colored diamond color-grading system. Those naturally colored by exposure to radiation are usually described as green-blue (left), whereas those colored by color centers associated with hydrogen are described as gray-violet to gray-blue (right).

### Diamond Treatment And Its Identification

In addition to color-changing treatments such as irradiation and high pressure/high temperature (HPHT) annealing, GIA researchers are committed to detecting clarity enhancements such as laser drilling and fracture filling.

#### HPHT Diamond

6.61 ct diamond, before and after HPHT annealing to remove its color. Left: Before annealing, fancy yellow brown, right: After annealing, "L" (faint yellow).

### Synthetic Diamonds And Their Identification

Since reporting on General Electric's first cuttable synthetic diamonds in 1971, GIA has been on the leading edge of synthetic diamond research. This includes the detection of goods produced by high pressure/high temperature (HPHT) synthesis and, more recently, chemical vapor deposition (CVD).

Graphitized feathers in a diamond may indicate HPHT treatment.

### Country Of Origin Of Ruby And Sapphire

The geographic source of a ruby or sapphire often has a dramatic effect on its market value. Institute researchers take many steps to accurately identify the geologic and geographic sources of colored gemstones in GIA's country-of-origin reports.

### Treated Corundum And Its Identification

Heat-treated sapphire, beryllium-diffused sapphire and glass-filled ruby are just a few examples of treated corundum. These enhancements often go undisclosed, and GIA

researchers work hard to investigate these artificial enhancements and uncover the means of detecting them.

#### Lead Glass Filled Ruby

The orange and blue flash effect seen in a lead glass-filled ruby. Magnification 30x.

#### Occurrence Of Beryllium In Natural Corundum And Its Implications

The recent discovery of naturally occurring beryllium in corundum means this material must be studied to avoid confusion with corundum that has been beryllium-diffused to alter its color.

#### Development Of Absorption And Luminescence Spectroscopy

In many cases, classical gemological methods such as the microscope, refractometer and handheld spectroscope are no longer sufficient in identifying a treated or synthetic gem material. Techniques such as absorption and luminescence spectroscopy offer more sophisticated means of gem identification. Besides improving GIA's commercially available gem instruments, development of these technologies will enhance the Institute's research and identification efforts.

Spectroscopy can detect gem treatments: the spectrum of this 24.16 ct. diamond showed distinctive features that weren't present prior to irradiation in a laboratory to change its color.

#### Coating Of Gemstones

The practice of coating gemstones dates back thousands of years. With technological progress, though, coatings have become more durable and harder to identify. One such product GIA continues to probe is cobalt-coated tanzanite.

Coated Tanzanite

#### The GIA Gem Database

This project involves testing and recording data on the more than 2,800 gems GIA purchased from the estate of renowned Swiss gemologist Dr. Edward J. Gübelin. This data will be made publicly available for research and educational use.

#### Identification Of Pearl Treatment And The Study Of Natural Pearls

To achieve an attractive and consistent color, cultured pearls are frequently treated by bleaching, dyeing or irradiation. GIA researchers track these developments and also examine rare natural pearls.

### PROTECT

Through research, education, and unbiased gem grading and analysis, GIA strives to protect the gem and jewelry buying public by setting global quality standards.

#### Analysis & Grading

GIA is the world's most trusted name in diamond grading and gem identification. With objectivity and expertise as its hallmarks, GIA ensures the integrity and accuracy of every

report it issues. GIA tests every material submitted to determine whether it is natural or not, and discloses any treatments discovered during our examination.

Library (one of nation's best & open to public)

<https://www.gia.edu/library>

Bookstore

[https://store.gia.edu/?\\_ga=2.22705785.359717023.1535489510-475826083.1535489510](https://store.gia.edu/?_ga=2.22705785.359717023.1535489510-475826083.1535489510)

## Wikipedia

“GIA, is a nonprofit institute dedicated to research and education in the field of gemology and the jewelry arts.<sup>[1]</sup> Founded in 1931, GIA's mission is to protect all buyers and sellers of gemstones by setting and maintaining the standards used to evaluate gemstone quality. The institute does so through research, gem identification and diamond grading services and a variety of educational programs. Through its world-renowned library and subject experts, GIA acts as a resource of gem and jewelry information for the trade, the public and worldwide media outlets.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1953 the GIA developed its International Diamond Grading System and the Four Cs (cut, clarity, color, and carat weight) as a standard to compare and evaluate the quality of diamonds.<sup>[2]</sup>

Today, the institute is headquartered in [Carlsbad, California](#) and operates out of 13 countries, with 11 campuses, 9 laboratories and 4 research centers worldwide.”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gemological\\_Institute\\_of\\_America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gemological_Institute_of_America)

## Jewelers of America

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<https://www.jewelers.org>

*Your resource on how to shop for jewelry with confidence*

More than a century ago, in 1906, Jewelers of America was founded by jewelers for jewelers, with a desire to advance the professionalism and ethics of the jewelry industry. Today, we continue that mission and Jewelers of America members stand as the most trustworthy, informed and professional jewelry businesses within United States.

Trust Jewelers of America's large network of jewelry businesses to find jewelry to mark life's most celebrated moments. Each year, Jewelers of America members sign an annual Code of Professional Practices, so you can be confident you are shopping at the finest jewelry stores with the most trusted business practices. Read the Code >

Jewelers of America members are your trusted, local jewelers. Many have been serving their communities and celebrating their clients' milestones with fine jewelry for more than 100 years. You'll find members of Jewelers of America at more than 8,000 jewelry stores across the country. Find a JA Jeweler near you >

Jewelers of America represents companies from all areas of the jewelry supply chain. Our members include independent jewelry stores, jewelry retail chains, jewelry manufacturers and suppliers, jewelry designers and brands, and service providers to the jewelry industry. See the companies represented in Jewelers of America Board of Directors >

When you buy a dazzling piece of fine jewelry, you are making an important purchase. For all your significant jewelry purchases, trust a Jewelers of America Member jeweler, because they are:

- Your Ultimate Source for Fine Jewelry
- Professional & Trustworthy
- Jewelry Experts