



8-8-08 for Burma
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Guidelines for Identifying Burmese ‘Blood’ Jade in Beijing

8-8-08 for Burma calls on individuals – global consumers, visitors to China, Olympic spectators, and Olympic athletes – to pledge not to support the sale of Burma’s blood jade while in China, the biggest jade trading nation. Identifying Burmese jade is not always easy, however, and 8-8-08 for Burma provides these preliminary guidelines to help conscientious consumers avoid supporting Burma’s abuse-ridden jade industry and the oppressive military regime that controls it.

Where are you shopping?

- Well-established and high-end jewelry and jade retailers are more likely to carry jade from Burma, the only source of gem-quality jade in the world
- Antique stores and open markets are more likely to carry jade from China, Russia, Canada

What does it look like?

- Is it translucent and glassy, as opposed to waxy, in appearance? If so, it could be Burmese jade.
- Burmese jade can be white, pink, lavender, and green.
- Because gem-quality jade from Burma is expensive, it is more likely to be fashioned into jewelry, but also smaller carvings.

How much does it cost?

- Gem-quality jade can rival rubies and diamonds in value. A jade bangle from Burma can cost \$700-1000, a jade bangle from Hotan or Hetian in China, \$20.
- Cost is not a fool-proof indicator, however, as Burmese jade also comes in utility and commercial grades.

A Glossary of Different Jade Terms:

Nephrite – one of two mineral species called jade found mostly in China and Canada

Jadeite – the second of two mineral species called jade principally found in Burma, but also Russia, the United States, and Guatemala

Gem-quality jade – a highly valuable class of jadeite *only* found in Burma

Imperial Green jade – gem-quality jade with an intense green color and luminescent quality

Yu – a generic Chinese term for jade and other colored gemstones

Ying yu – Chinese for Jadeite

Ruan yu – Chinese for Nephrite

Fei cui – Chinese for ‘Kingfisher’, Jadeite