

SPIRIT OF PEARL

About Amber

The word amber can have many associations. It is not a mineral but is used as and called a semiprecious stone. The oldest and most continuous use of it, in fact, is for adornment.

Amber is the fossilized, hardened resin of the pine tree, formed mainly in the Eocene epoch of the Tertiary period, about 50 million years ago.

The largest deposits of amber in the world derive from the shores of the Baltic Sea in northern Europe. Amber also washes up on the shores of eastern England and Scotland.

First the amber is washed out, then picked by hand. Only 15 percent is suitable for jewelry.

There are large reserves on the seabed of the Baltic sea. After heavy storms, it is found on the beaches and in shallow waters of bordering

countries. This sea amber is especially solid and used to be regularly fished for by fishermen.

Baltic amber has an exceptionally rich history of ancient trade, supported by guilds of amber craftsmen and stunning works of art.

It even figures in Greek mythology. Amber has been used since prehistoric times for jewelry and religious objects, amulets and mascots. The Baltic amber, the “gold of the North”, is among the earliest-used gem materials.



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