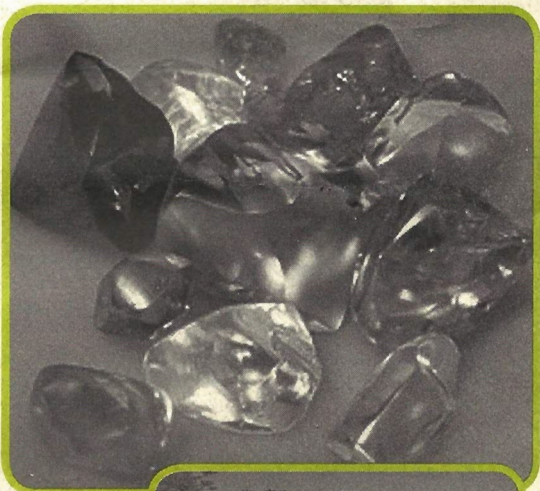


CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK



DIAMOND 
Hunting Tips

Welcome

Welcome to Crater of Diamonds State Park - the only productive deposit of precious mineral diamonds in the United States. The staff at the Crater works to provide you with an enjoyable experience, and we also want you to have the greatest chance possible of finding a diamond. So, here are a few tips that might help improve your luck.

What do diamonds look like?

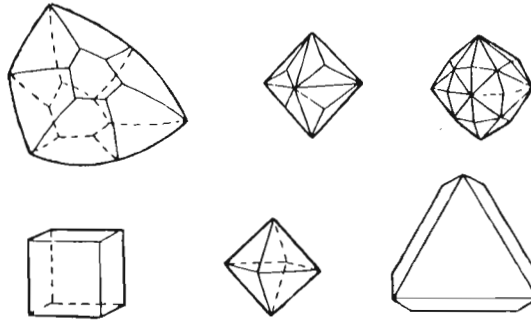
Diamonds at the Crater are typically well-rounded stones about the size of a match head. Look for a crystal that has a metallic shine to it - much like a ring or a belt buckle.

Diamonds have an oily, slick outer surface that dirt and mud will not stick to, so look for clean crystals.

Diamonds are extremely hard crystals that will not scratch or crush when pressure is applied to them (i.e. with a fingernail or pocketknife). Don't be scared to test your minerals in this way. A diamond will not be harmed.

The three most common diamond colors at the Crater are white, yellow, and brown.

Bring any stone that you think might be a diamond to the Diamond Discovery Center for verification. All diamonds are weighed and certified free of charge. And remember, any diamond, rock, or mineral that you find is yours to keep.



Common basic crystal forms of diamonds

Diamonds found at the Crater will generally exhibit slight modifications to these basic forms due to imperfect development of the crystal faces.

How do I look for a diamond?

Surface searching

Closely observe the surface of the field and look for crystals that have been exposed by rain or plowing. Turning the soil over with garden-type tools is another method of surface searching.

Screening

Shake the soil through a screen to find minerals that are too large to fit through a mesh. This method is most effective when the soil is dry.

Wet Screening

Use water available on the mine to wash dirt through a screen to see what minerals are left behind.

Where can I search?

You can search anywhere on the 37-acre plowed field. Signs are posted along the borders of the field. The whole field is diamond bearing soil, and no portion of it is any more productive than any other.

Remember, diamonds do not run in veins like gold but are spread throughout the greenish lamproite soil.

What are the rules?

You may keep any gem or mineral you find; however, there are a few rules of which you should be aware.

1. You may search only in the open field within the yellow boundary markers.
2. You may use any tool to search for diamonds as long as it is not battery-powered or motor-driven.
3. Any hole that you dig, you must fill in before leaving the same day. Any hole deeper than 4 feet must be shored up properly.
4. Each visitor may remove up to one 5-gallon bucket of sifted gravel per day.
5. Plants, animals, and historic resources are protected here as in all state parks. If you uncover man-made objects, please notify the park staff.
6. A complete list of other park rules is available at the visitor center and Diamond Discovery Center.

Other rocks & minerals found at the Crater

Jasper: These well-rounded rocks of various sizes and colors often have a dull, waxy appearance. They will polish nicely in a rock tumbler and are very common on the field.

Agate: A flattish rock, agate usually has banded layers. It can be cut with a rock saw to show the beautiful patterns inside. Fairly common on the field.

Quartz: The quartz found here is usually grain to pebble-sized. It has a glossy luster, sharp, angular faces, and the crystal surface almost always has series of parallel lines that can be seen with the unaided eye. Fairly common on the field.

Amethyst: Basically, purple quartz. Not common, but present on the field.

Calcite: This is one of the most common minerals on the mine. It is usually a small, flat, milky white mineral. Calcite is soft and scratches easily with steel.

Barite: Commonly a light sky blue, barite forms in many different colors. Much like calcite, barite will scratch and break apart very easily. It is common on the field.

Mica: Those tiny, shiny flecks that you see everywhere on the field are commonly called "fool's gold." It occurs at the Crater as the small brass yellow or coppery metallic looking crystals found in the lamproite.

Lamproite: This is the volcanic material that makes up the soil in the diamond field. This rock is often found in green and black, and may have white or yellow speckles. Lamproite will usually break apart very easily.



5
POINT



20
POINT



50
POINT



1
CARAT



5
CARAT

100 points = 1 carat 5 carats = 1 gram
1 carat = .2 grams 142 carats = 1 ounce

Diamond size is generally expressed in points or carats. This diagram shows the approximate size of equal-dimensional diamonds for the weights indicated.

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