

Brazilian alexandrite

Alexandrite is mined sporadically in the Malacacheta. Cat's-eye chrysoberyl is readily available at Teófilo Otoni, albeit in very small sizes, mostly under 0.5 ct. Alexandrite is available in smaller sizes. One excellent eye clean with strong color change alexandrite of about 5 cts was shown at the offices of Stone World in Teófilo Otoni.

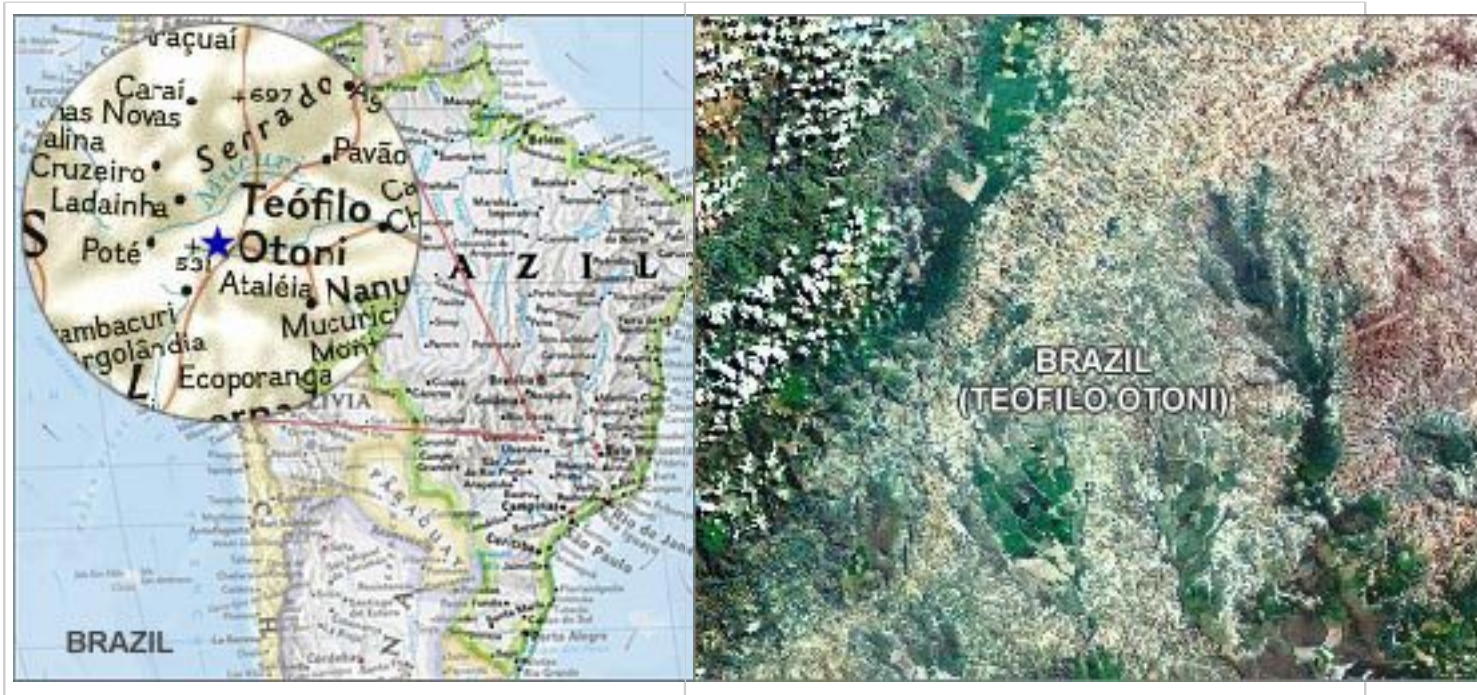
Locality details

Country	Brazil
Region	Southeast Region
Province	Minas Gerais
Locality	Teófilo Otoni
Latitude	-17.8500
Longitude	-41.5000
Altitude	1256
Time zone	UTC-3(-2DT)

Locality maps

Map

Satellite



See Alexandrite Tsarstone collectors guide, Brazilian alexandrite, Teófilo Otoni, <http://www.alexandrite.net/viewpage.html?id=ALXS-001-00010> (Information about Brazilian alexandrite findings and mining in Novo Cruzeiro, Brazil.) (as of).

Teofilo Otoni located between the stony hills and rocky mountains that are so characteristic of the landscape of the state of Minas Gerais, is Brazil's most important commercial center for colored gemstones, where about 55 percent of the country's output is brought to be sold. It is the beating heart of Brazil's colored gem trade, the town where production from hundreds of small mines dotting the region comes to be bought and sold. Driving through the region, it's common to see tunnels cut into the hillsides -- or, more correctly, the telltale white of the waste rock dumped outside the mine. These are all garimpeiro operations, some literally located in people's backyards.

Most famous chrysoberyl deposits, spread throughout the 1,800 hectares of the Faísca and Crisolita Basins. The cat's-eye chrysoberyl is about 30 percent of the rough found , although only 10 percent of that is good color. Few years ago, Brazil's environmental agency (IBAMA) shut down the Duarte & Bastos's mine for polluting the local stream and deforesting the region, which can cause serious erosion problems. Now, with only a dozen or so miners left, they're allowed to mine on a limited basis while they implement a 20-year plan to replenish the vegetation and build dams to remove soil sediment from the water.

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