



L A R I M A R

First draft

09.04.06

- Origin** Larimar is a type of pectolite (a mineral that forms following volcanic activity in basalt rocks). It forms within tubes, cavities or chimneys of the volcano by the circulation of mineral rich water through the rocks. It only started to appear internationally after 1974, the year naturally polished pieces were found on a beach in the Dominican Republic (having been carried down by a river from the one outcrop inland). The name comes from the daughter (Larissa) of one of the two 1974 beachcombers and the Spanish word for the sea (mar).
- Composition** Silicate $\text{NaCa}_2(\text{Si}_3\text{O}_8)(\text{OH})$
- Structure** Triclinic with perfect cleavage. Mohs scale 4.5 - 5
- Colour** Pale to mid blue, sometimes interlaced with white.
- Source** Larimar is only mined in the southwest of the Dominican Republic near Bahoruco overlooking the blue Caribbean Sea. Paul has visited the mine and cutting area, arriving on the back of a motor-bike along dirt roads, the driver armed with a revolver...! The mines are deep holes and tunnels following the tubes of larimar into the depths of the Earth's crust. Hand tools and sweat gradually bring lumps of rough larimar to the surface. Arranging larimar cutting for setting into jewellery has proved one of the more challenging projects Crystals has undertaken!