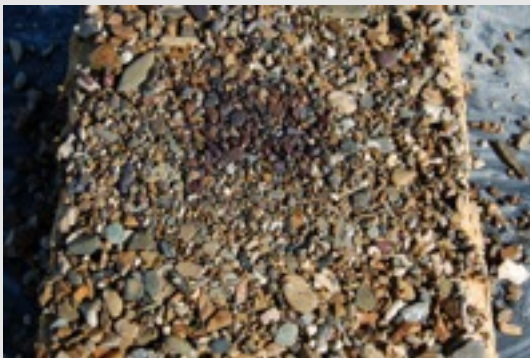


# ROCKHOONDING

## NORTH AMERICA

Compiled by Shelley Gibbins

Photos by Stefan and Shelley Gibbins



Sapphires — Montana



California



Quartz — Montana

\*Please note that the Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club is not advertising / sponsoring these venues, but sharing places for all rock lovers.

\*Also, remember that rules can change; please check that these venues are still viable and permissible options before you go.

\*There is some risk in rockhounding, and preventative measures should be taken to avoid injury. The Calgary Rock and Lapidary Club takes no responsibility for any injuries should they occur.

\*I have also included some locations of interest, which are not for collecting





Shells – Utah

# General Rules for Rockhounding

(keep in mind that these may vary from place to place)

- Rockhounding is allowed on government owned land (Crown Land in Canada and Bureau of Land Management in USA)
- You can collect on private property only with the permission of the landowner
- Collecting is not allowed in provincial or national parks
- The banks along the rivers up to the high water mark may be rock hounded
- Gold panning may or may not need a permit – in Alberta you can hand pan, but need a permit for sluice boxes
- Alberta fossils are provincial property and can generally not be sold – you can surface collect but not dig. You are considered to be the temporary custodian and they need to stay within the province



Fossilized Oysters — BC

# Canada

## Geology of Provinces

Government of Canada. Natural resources Canada. (2012). Retrieved February 6/14 from <http://atlas.gc.ca/site/english/maps/geology.html#rocks>.

# British Columbia



Dolomite — BC

## Rhodonite, Jade, Serpentine, Opal, Fluorite, Gold, Sodalite

## Gold Panning Regulations

Brian Marshall. Placer mining in BC: Information and resources. (2013). Retrieved February 6/14 from [http://www.agt.net/public/bmarshall/bcplacer/basic\\_rules.htm](http://www.agt.net/public/bmarshall/bcplacer/basic_rules.htm).

- Barkerville — Gold Mining  
<http://www.barkerville.ca>
- Kamloops — Agates etc.  
Cache Creek  
Monte Lake  
Deadman Creek etc.  
Thompson Valley Rock Club. Retrieved February 6/14 from <http://tvrca.ca/tvrchounding.html>.

## Geotour

Bob Turner, Bob Anderson, Richard Franklin, Mike Cathro, Bruce Madu, Crystal Huscroft, Ed Frey, and Ken Favrholt. Geotour guide for Kamloops, British Columbia. Retrieved February 6/14 from [http://www.keg.bc.ca/docs/kamloops\\_geotour.pdf](http://www.keg.bc.ca/docs/kamloops_geotour.pdf).

- Grand Forks — Rock Candy Mine: Fee Mining of Fluorite  
<http://www.rockcandymine.com/trips.html>

- Vernon — Okanagan Opal: Fee Mining of Opals  
June to September

"A daily fee of \$50 CDN is charged - family rates may apply. This will allow each individual paid guest to remove up to 2.5 kilograms. (~5 lbs.) of "material" (opal, agate, rock, etc.) from the property." Okanagan Opal. Dig your own opals. (2010). Retrieved February 6/14 from <http://www.opalscanada.com/about/dig.html#sthash.9wIaiRkp.dpbs>.

- Check out the field trips from the British Columbia Lapidary Society  
Agates etc.

Fraser River Bars  
West Harrison  
Herring Island  
Hope  
Yale  
Hamilton

British Columbia Lapidary Society. Wagonmasters' fieldtrips 2014. Retrieved February 6/14 from <http://www.lapidary.bc.ca/trips.html>.

Locations of interest:

- Field — Burgess Shale

# Alberta

**Fossils, Garnets, Amber, Selenite, Calcite, Quartz**



Calcite — Lethbridge

- Horse Thief Canyon, Drumheller — Fossils
- Along River Banks
- Crowsnest Pass — Garnets



- Check out the spring field trips from Silver Cove in Lacombe  
 Silver Cove. Rock hunting: Public hunts. Retrieved February 6/14 from <http://www.silvercove.bizland.com/silvercovefromrock2gem/id27.html>.



Angel Wing Quartz — Stettler

#### Locations of interest:

- Calgary – Glenbow Museum
- Calgary – Center for the Performing Arts (Fossils/Limestone)
- Cochrane — Big Hill Springs (Tufa)
- Medicine Hat — Red Rock Coulee
- Jasper – Columbia Icefields (Glaciers)
- Drumheller – Royal Tyrell Museum
- Fort Macleod, AB – Head Smashed-in Buffalo Jump
- Frank, AB – Frank Slide Interpretive Centre
- Southern AB – Devil's Coulee Hadrosaur Nests
- Blairmore, AB – Blairmore Coal Mine
- Medicine Hat, AB – Medalta Potteries

# Ontario

## **Amethyst, Nickle, Sodalite**

- Thunder Bay — Amethyst Mine Panorama: Fee Mining for Amethyst  
<http://amethystmine.com>.
- Thunder Bay — Boulder Creek Amethyst Mines: Fee Mining for Amethyst  
<http://www.mineamethyst.com/>.
- Bancroft — Bear Lake Diggings: Permit for Apatite/Calcite  
mindat.org. 2014. Michael Adamowicz. Searching for crystals in calcite trenches at Bear Lake Digging, Ontario. 2013. Retrieved February 12/14 from <http://www.mindat.org/article.php/400/Searching+for+crystals+in+Calcite+Trenches+at+Bear+Lake+Diggings,+Ontario>

### Locations of interest:

- Bancroft – Princess Sodalite Mine  
“plant tailings”  
<http://www.princesssodalitemine.ca>
- Sudbury -- AY Jackson Lookout, Big Nickle Mine, Copper Cliff  
Science North. Geotours: Northern Ontario. Retrieved February 6/14 from <http://www.sciencenorth.ca/dynamic-earth/geotours/>.

# USA

## Montana

- Crystal Park – Free Digging of Quartz/Amethyst Crystals (8 hour drive)

“use of hand tools only, and a five-day-per-person season limit on digging.”

Southwest Montana. Crystal park. Retrieved February 11/14 from <http://southwestmt.com/listings/11967.htm>.



Crystal Park



Epidote — Calvert Mine

- Helena, Montana – Spokane Bar – Mining Fee for Sapphires/Garnets

<http://www.sapphiremine.com/>

Spokane Bar Sapphire Mine and Gold Fever Rock Shop

5360 Castles Road

Helena, MT 59602

- Check out the book Rockhounding in Montana by Montana Hodges and Robert Feldman



Barite — Montana



Argo Mine

# California

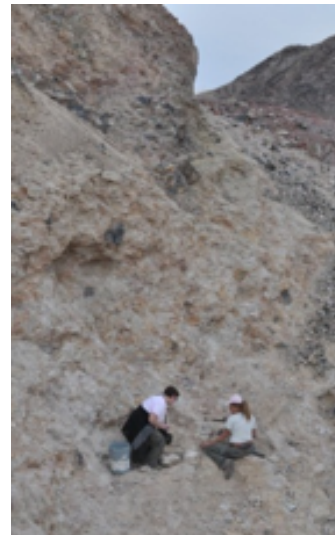
- Wiley's Well District, California – Digging of Geodes

DesertUSA. Delmer G. Ross. The cinnamon geode beds. 2014. Retrieved February 11/14 from <http://www.desertusa.com/mag05/nov/cinn.html>



- Blythe, California – Opal Hill Mine – Fee Mining of Fire Agate

DesertUDA. Dusty Rhoades. Opal hill mine: Mule mountains — California. 2014. Retrieved February 11/14 from <http://www.desertusa.com/magjan98/stories/opal.html>.





# Arkansas

- Crater of Diamonds State Park – Fee Mining for Diamonds

<http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com/digging-for-diamonds/default.aspx>

- Arkansas – Fee Mining for Quartz

“Many “dig-your-own” **crystal mines** are available in the Ouachitas with most of the mines located in the area around the resort city of **Hot Springs** and **Jessieville**, along with the small Ouachita Mountain hamlets of **Mena** and **Mount Ida**.”

Department of Parks and Tourism. Quartz Crystals. 2014. Retrieved February 11/14 from <http://www.arkansas.com/things-to-do/crystal-hunting/>

# New York

- Albany — Garnet Mine Tours: Fee Collection of Garnets

<http://www.garnetminetours.com/location.html>

- Albany — Benson Star Lake Mines: Permit for Collecting Pyrite etc.

“minerals can be collected from the waste piles along the lake shore. The site can be accessible to the public if they ask permission from Mr. George Peerson”

New York State Geological Survey. Benson mine, Star lake, St. Lawrence County, NY. Retrieved February 12/14 from [www.nysm.nysed.gov/nysgs/experience/sites/bensonmine/index.html](http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/nysgs/experience/sites/bensonmine/index.html)

- Herkimer — Herkimer Diamond Mines- Fee Mining for Herkimer Diamonds

<http://www.herkimerdiamond.com>

- Herkimer — Crystal Grove — Fee Mining Fee Herkimer Diamonds

<http://www.crystalgrove.com>

- Herkimer — Ace of Diamonds Mine — Fee Mining for Herkimer Diamonds  
April to October

<http://www.herkimerdiamonds.com/index.htm>

# Oregon

- **Succor Creek, Adrian**

“Limited souvenir collecting by rock hounds is permitted in the park. A rough 15 mile dirt road leads from Oregon 201 to the park”

Oregon State Parks. Succour Creek State Natural Area. 2014. Retrieved February 13/14 from [http://www.oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp\\_parkPage&parkId=9](http://www.oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp_parkPage&parkId=9)

- **Sunstones**

“However, in south central Oregon, northeast of Plush, the BLM has set aside 4 square miles for rock collectors to hunt for sunstones.”

Chris Ralph. The beautiful Oregon sunstone. Retrieved February 13/14 from [http://nevada-outback-gems.com/Rockhound/Oregon\\_sunstone.htm](http://nevada-outback-gems.com/Rockhound/Oregon_sunstone.htm)

- **Sweet Home — Holleywood Ranch — Fee Mining of Petrified Wood**

<http://holleywoodranch.com/dig-it/>

- **Madras — Richardson’s Rock Ranch – Thundereggs**

<http://richardsonrockranch.com/>

# Other States

- **Arizona, California, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico**

DesertUSA. Rockhounding — treasure hunting, gold prospecting. 2014.

Retrieved February 13/14 from [http://www.desertusa.com/Thingstodo/du\\_ttd\\_treasure.html](http://www.desertusa.com/Thingstodo/du_ttd_treasure.html)

- **Utah**

Utah Travel Industry Website. Major rock hounding areas. 2013. Retrieved February 13/14 from [http://www.utah.com/hike/rock\\_hounding\\_areas.htm](http://www.utah.com/hike/rock_hounding_areas.htm)

- **Kemerer, Wyoming — Fee Digging for Fossil Fish**

[http://www.fossilsafari.com/fossil\\_safari\\_map.html](http://www.fossilsafari.com/fossil_safari_map.html)

- **Madison County, North Carolina — Little Pine Garnet Mine (Sandy Bottom Trail Rides)**

Madison County Tourism Development Authority. Gem mining in Madison County, North Carolina. 2013.

Retrieved February 13/14 from <http://www.visitmadisoncounty.com/activities/outdoor-adventures/gem-mining-for-garnets/>