

March Newsletter

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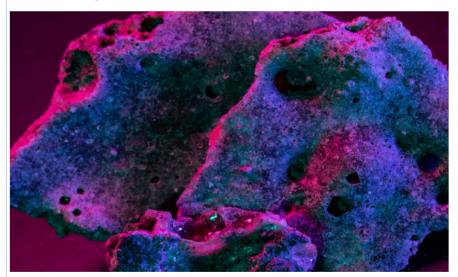
Trinitite Specimens In Display Box



Trinitite was created from the first Nuclear bomb detonated in the desert. Own A Piece of History - Trinitite from the Trinity bomb site. The intense heat melted the desert sand into a lightly green tinted glass. Named for the Tinitity Bomb testing in New Mexico on July 16, 1945, samples of Trinitite are becoming rare. Our trinitite samples were legally collected from the site in the late 1940s. Also known as Alamogordo Glass, Atomite, or Desert Glass.

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A Chunk of Trinitite Reminds Us of the Sheer, Devastating Power of the Atomic Bomb



It was primarily quartz and feldspar, tinted sea green with minerals in the desert sand, with droplets of condensed plutonium sealed into it. Once the site was opened, after the war, collectors picked it up in chunks; local rock shops sold it and still do. Concerned for its residual radioactivity, the Army bulldozed the site in 1952 and made collecting Trinitite illegal. What's sold today was collected before the ban. Unless you eat it, scientists report, it isn't dangerous anymore.

Trinitite By Weight

The blast equivalent of 18,000 tons of TNT created a fireball that scorched the desert and melted the sand in the area. When the melted sand solidified again it became a light green glass-like material that was named "Trinitite". While highly radioactive when





Gern box size is approximately 2.0" x 2.0" x 0.75"

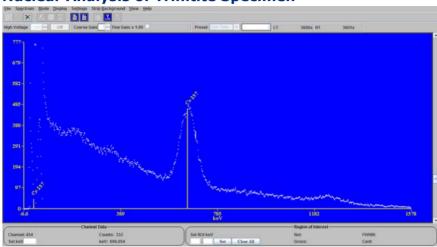




formed in 1945, at present it radioactivity level is close to zero. Closed for many years, the Trinity site is currently opened to the public by the National Park Service twice a year. Tours are given by the Department of Defense on request.

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Nuclear Analysis of Trinitite Specimen



When the bomb was detonated, it left a crater of radioactive glass in the desert that was 10 feet deep and 1100 feet wide. About 240 people on the project directly watching the blast reported the early morning dawn being lit up brighter than full daylight for one to two seconds and felt a wave of heat roll over them that was "as hot as an oven", even at a distance of 10 miles away. The shock wave took 40 seconds to propagate to the observers and was felt up to 100 miles away. The enormous mushroom cloud was 7.5 miles high. It was at this point that Bainbridge remarked to Oppenheimer, "Now we are all sons of bitches." Oppenheimer later spoke his famous line, "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds", a quote from the Bhagavad Gita.

More About Trintite...

From The Smithsonian...

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