

Arkansas Quartz Crystals

Arkansas and Quartz Crystals are synonymous terms for many a mineral enthusiast. The quartz formed here in the Ouachita Mountains contains very little contaminant and is regarded as some of the world's finest. The crystals found in the Ouachita Mountains are thought to have been formed in a non-volcanic manner. The forces created during the building of the mountains are thought to have *squeezed* water from the underlying units of shale and sandstone. Because of the high pressures developed during the mountain-building process, the water was heated to very high temperatures. This hot water, derived from the trapped original seawater, was very different from fluids originating from igneous sources; in particular it contained fewer dissolved minerals. You can easily see this difference if you compare samples of the crystals. Quartz from Brazil and Chile are both of volcanic origins. Although crystals from either source can be well formed, the difference in clarity is truly noticeable due to the different conditions in growth.
By Jon Erlandson

Also see ["A Short Story About Quartz Crystals in Arkansas"](#) by the same author.

If you are looking for a good book on Arkansas Quartz try:

[Collecting Crystals, The Guide to Quartz in Arkansas](#)

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