



Roger Dery Gem Design

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An African Buying Trip - Zebras and Zircons

Black and white striped horses... zebras! We encountered a herd while on safari in Kenya one morning. Our guide told us zebras are by far the world's most common and widespread wild equid species. OK, equid is the horse family. And, zebras are unmistakable with stripes as individual as a human fingerprint.

Zebra stripes are a camouflage called disruptive coloration that breaks up the outline of the body confusing predators. Their stripes are visible during daytime, however, at dawn or in the evening when their predators are most active, zebras will look indistinct and the stripes distort true distance.



Kenya and Tanzania are known for many gem materials with zircon high on the list. Most of us are familiar with zircon that is blue, sparkling and bright. Zircon also occurs in incredible shades of orange, yellow, pink and red. Click [here](#) or the picture below to see a video of the "[Happy Mother Camp](#)" Zircon mine in Tanzania. (For some browsers you may need to double click.)



[Zircon](#) has incredible brilliance and dispersion which is how light is affected when it strikes the surface of a gem. Zircon has fire almost equal to diamonds. Do you think the average client would see the Zircon below and think it was a yellow diamond? Our experience with retail customers tells us they would think so and be pleasantly surprised at the price, a fraction of the yellow diamond price. For a client that wants the look of a yellow diamond without the price tag, [Zircon](#) is a choice.



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