



PRINCESS CRUISES

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THE MILLENNIUM SAPPHIRE

A TRIBUTE TO THE CREATIVE GENIUS OF HUMANITY

The 61,500-carat Millennium Sapphire holds the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest carved sapphire. The sapphire, which was discovered a decade ago on the island off the African southeastern coast, originally tipped the scales at 89,850 carats, making worldwide gem news when it was certified. The sapphire's consortium of owners decided not to break up the remarkable stone, but rather to commission master gem carvers to create and pay tribute to humanity's greatest examples of ingenuity and accomplishment, through a series of 134 elaborate surface carvings. Award-winning Italian artist Alessio Boschi was commissioned to design the artwork and oversee the carving process. Among the intricate carvings of Millennium Sapphire are images of human achievement ranging from ancient wonders like the pyramids of Giza to modern day accomplishments such as Neil Armstrong landing on the moon. The carving was finished in 2000 and the resulting piece, aptly known as the Millennium Sapphire has made only a handful of public appearances. A hybrid of gemstone and incredible work of art, worth tens of millions of dollars, the Millennium Sapphire is considered by both art and gem experts as a unique and invaluable "one of a kind" historical and international treasure.

The Millennium Sapphire is owned by a private consortium.

