



GIA[®]
Diamond
Origin

ANGOLA



Billion Years

More than a billion years ago, 100 miles (161 km) or more beneath the earth's surface, in a cauldron of extreme temperatures and high pressure, carbon atoms bonded tightly together. At temperatures higher than 2100 °F (1150 °C) and pressures 45,000 times greater than at sea level, crystals formed, resulting in the hardest natural mineral on Earth: diamond.

Diamonds remained hidden deep within the earth for hundreds of millions of years, until volcanic activity violently transported them upwards towards the earth's surface in magma. Vertical rock formations, called "kimberlite pipes," are remnants of these ancient volcanoes. Erosion subsequently frees rough diamonds from their host rock to be transported by rivers and deposited sometimes at great distances, from their original source. Miners in places like India and Brazil would uncover them in alluvial deposits. Today, most diamonds are found in kimberlite pipes, which are the primary source of mined diamonds.

The discovery of a kimberlite pipe in South Africa in 1869 marks the beginning of the modern diamond industry. With it came the development of mining operations that produce tens of millions of carats of rough diamonds each year - that includes a major discovery in Botswana in 1967, as well as other areas of Africa, Australia, Siberia and the Northwest Territories of Canada.

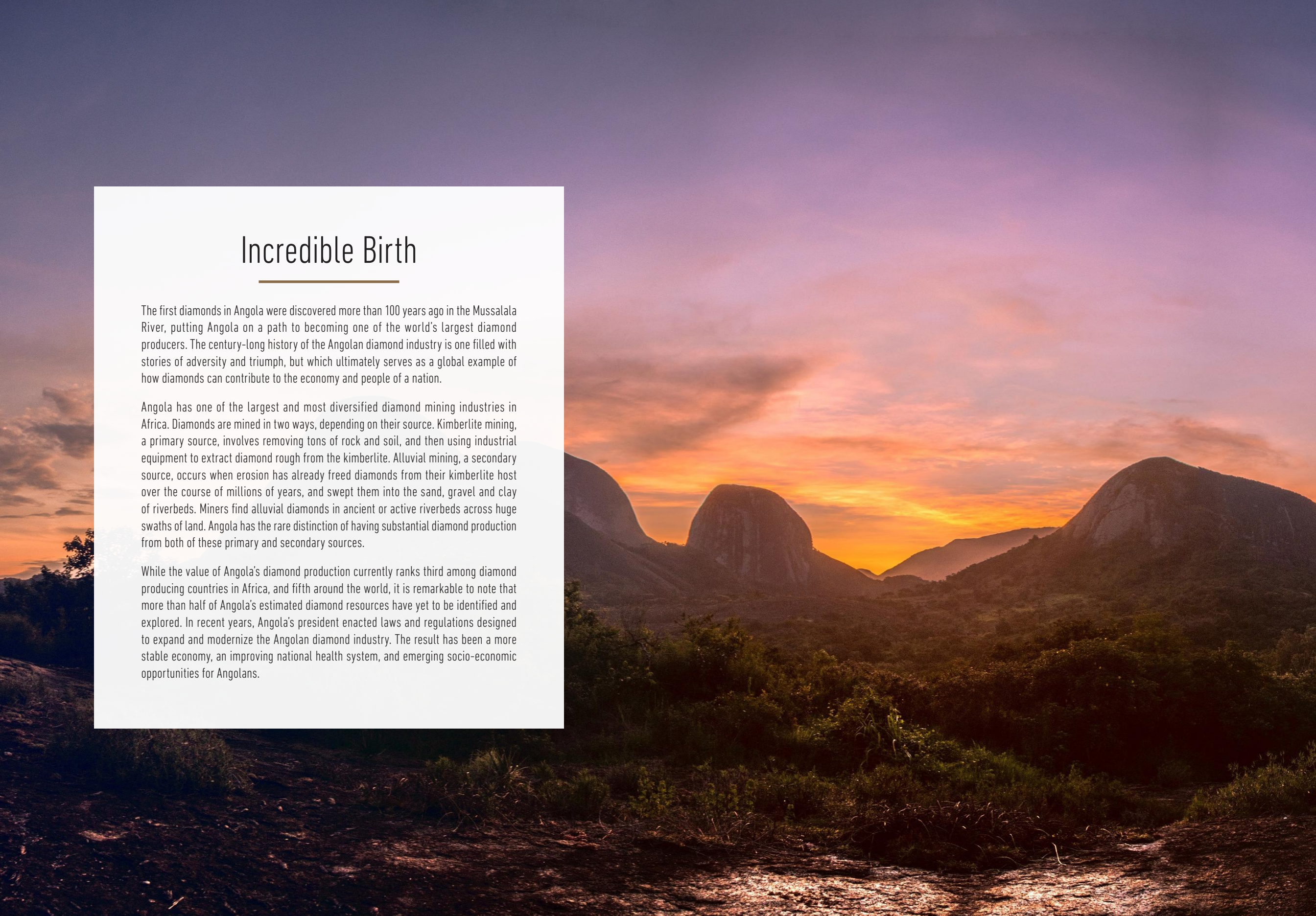


Incredible Birth

The first diamonds in Angola were discovered more than 100 years ago in the Mussalala River, putting Angola on a path to becoming one of the world's largest diamond producers. The century-long history of the Angolan diamond industry is one filled with stories of adversity and triumph, but which ultimately serves as a global example of how diamonds can contribute to the economy and people of a nation.

Angola has one of the largest and most diversified diamond mining industries in Africa. Diamonds are mined in two ways, depending on their source. Kimberlite mining, a primary source, involves removing tons of rock and soil, and then using industrial equipment to extract diamond rough from the kimberlite. Alluvial mining, a secondary source, occurs when erosion has already freed diamonds from their kimberlite host over the course of millions of years, and swept them into the sand, gravel and clay of riverbeds. Miners find alluvial diamonds in ancient or active riverbeds across huge swaths of land. Angola has the rare distinction of having substantial diamond production from both of these primary and secondary sources.

While the value of Angola's diamond production currently ranks third among diamond producing countries in Africa, and fifth around the world, it is remarkable to note that more than half of Angola's estimated diamond resources have yet to be identified and explored. In recent years, Angola's president enacted laws and regulations designed to expand and modernize the Angolan diamond industry. The result has been a more stable economy, an improving national health system, and emerging socio-economic opportunities for Angolans.



An aerial photograph of a river delta at sunset. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and yellow clouds, transitioning into a darker blue at the top. The river branches out into a complex network of channels, creating a pattern of light and dark areas on the land. The water in the channels reflects the warm colors of the sky. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

Transformation Journey

The transformation of diamond rough into polished stones requires a blend of old-world craftsmanship and high-tech tools. Today, Surat, India is the primary diamond cutting and polishing center. Other cutting centers historically have included New York, Antwerp and Tel Aviv.

The hardness of the material requires highly trained artisans who use specialized saws, laser equipment and polishing tools to complete the task in stages. Traditionally, cutters fashioned the rough into a finished stone by hand. Today, computer imaging and lasers aid the cutter in revealing the stone's beauty. First, the diamond cutter must assess the rough to determine how to cut the most beautiful diamond – or diamonds, as one piece of rough can yield multiple finished diamonds. To achieve the greatest yield, each cutter must decide whether a round, rectangular, pear, marquise or square gem can best be fashioned from the rough. The gem's sparkle is unleashed through a series of processes including shaping, faceting and polishing.

GIA and other diamond grading laboratories evaluate the quality of polished diamonds using the 4Cs of Diamond Quality (Color, Clarity, Cut and Carat Weight), the international standard created by GIA, and issue grading reports documenting their assessment. The GIA Diamond Origin Report for your diamond includes this independent and objective analysis in addition to confirming the country of its origin.

Doing Good

At 1,246,700 square kilometers, Angola is a large country that is still recovering from its damaging civil war which ended in 2002. Diamonds represent only about 5% of its economy, but with less than half of the country's estimated diamond sources identified and explored, the diamond industry is a growing source for much-needed jobs, infrastructure and export revenue for the nation.

The Angolan government has implemented a plan to transform the country's diamond resources into reliable income for Angolans. Policy developments designed to create a self-sustaining, profitable industry beyond mining and trading are generating new career opportunities that include diamond cutting, jewelry design and jewelry manufacturing. Revenues from diamond production and value-added industries help to build roads and bridges, improve healthcare and education, and provide expansion and modernization to communication and technology networks.



Doing Good

Angola has been a participant in the Kimberley Process since its establishment in 2003. The Kimberley Process is an international certification system, adopted globally by diamond producing and consuming countries, expressly aimed at preventing trade in conflict diamonds, while protecting and promoting legitimate trade in rough diamonds.

Angola has achieved admirable progress in improving the social and economic well-being of its people. It has developed a larger consumer class and nurtured a better-educated, more able-bodied workforce to provide diverse economic growth in the future. Diamond mining in Angola contributes to that growth and prosperity, and to the well-being of its people.





Every diamond has a story. Now make this story part of your own.

About GIA

The Gemological Institute of America® is internationally recognized as the leader in gem education, research and laboratory services. Committed to protecting all purchasers of gemstones and jewelry, the Institute developed the International Diamond Grading System™ and the 4Cs of diamond quality, and continues to set the standard for grading and identification practices used all over the world.



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