



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: **COLOMBIA**

Colombian emeralds are found in the remote Andes Mountains, situated at the Northern tip of South America. Brilliant Earth emeralds originate from the Muzo mine region located in the western foothills of the eastern branch of the Colombian Andes.

Environment • Colombia's emeralds have been harvested for hundreds of years with little to no degradation of the environment. The surrounding area remains lush and unaffected by the traditional low impact mining practices of the region. Colombian emeralds are generally extracted using picks and shovels, which minimizes environmental impacts. No harsh chemicals are used to mine Colombian emeralds, and debris is confined to pure sediment and rock.

Labor • Our partner in Colombian emeralds is a gemologist who serves as an advocate for small scale emerald miners in Colombia. Each employee gets room and board, as well as a share of 10 percent of the profits from production. The mine is isolated from the violence and corruption of the drug trade and organized crime that plagues other parts of Colombia.

Community • Our partner also supports community development efforts in Colombia and the United States. Working with local miners and the Bogotá emerald exporting association, our partner is spearheading an initiative to create housing and employment for the many families in the region. Since 2005, he has worked with organizations including Communities and Small Scale Mining, the World Bank, and the National Federation of Colombian Emeralds to develop certification standards for fair trade emeralds.



BRILLIANT EARTH