

# Huge gold-laden rocks found in Australia

Miners in Western Australia have unearthed huge gold-encrusted rocks estimated to be worth millions of dollars in what geologists are calling a once-in-a-lifetime discovery

**Beta Hunt Mine: More than US\$11m worth of high grade gold extracted in just four days**



**Largest specimen**  
 Weight: 95kg  
 Gold: 2,440 ounces  
 Value: \$3 million



**Second-largest**  
 Weight: 63kg  
 Gold: 1,620 ounces  
 Value: \$2 million

■ **Beta Hunt:** Mined primarily for nickel since it opened in 1973

■ **Gold found about 500m underground in rocks otherwise made of quartz**

■ **Most gold in Western Australia is processed into gold bars before being sold to Perth Mint, but Beta Hunt owners plan to send largest specimens to auction as collectors' items**

## TOP TEN GOLD PRODUCERS (2017, tonnes)

<b>China</b>	<i>Reserves: 2,000</i>	<b>440</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<i>9,800</i>	<b>300</b>
<b>Russia</b>	5,500	255
<b>U.S.</b>	3,000	245
<b>Canada</b>	2,200	180
<b>Peru</b>	2,300	155
<b>S. Africa</b>	6,000	145
<b>Mexico</b>	1,400	110
<b>Uzbek.</b>	1,800	100
<b>Brazil</b>	2,400	85