

The first city established in the New World, Québec is a World Heritage Site where visitors can wander through historic districts dating back to the birth of the colony, or explore further afield and marvel at the magnificent natural settings in the immediate vicinity of the city. Located at the junction of three major geological provinces, the Québec region is the product of a tumultuous billion-year history. Some of the most beautiful features of the region remain as a legacy of this history, which has also produced an environment that can be subject to the whims of nature.

The St. Lawrence River is one of the largest navigable rivers in the world. It flows through a rocky valley partially filled with the deposits of an ancient postglacial sea.

The cliffs and stairs of Québec connect two distinct geological provinces and straddle one of the most important faults in eastern North America: the Logan Fault.

Upper TOWN
Lower TOWN

Québec Geoscape Geological Survey of Canada, Miscellaneous Report 76, 2001
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This document was made possible through the financial support of 'ÉTALEZ VOTRE SCIENCE',
du ministère de la Culture et des Communications scientific and technical literacy program,
and the Geological Survey of Canada.

INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE EN SCIENCE POLITIQUE

Québec
Ministère de la Culture
et des Communications

 **Canada**

Resources: Ressources naturelles Canada

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 Catalogue No.: M61-6/74E ISBN: 0-660-18497-4
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A billion years of history . . .

Québec

Geo  scape

Once upon a time

An extraordinary
geological heritage

Tourist attractions that bear witness to a spectacular geological past:
the disappearance of oceans, the formation of mountains, the passage of glaciers.

Once upon a time...

1 billion years ago
origin of the first of the
24 human languages

500 million years ago
first tropical climates

400 million years ago
first HIV virus

100 million years ago
first HIV virus

The whims of nature

Because of their geological heritage, certain locations in the Québec region are more prone to the vagaries of Mother Nature.

The earth
quakes
under Québec

Many of the earthquakes that have been felt in Québec were centred in the region, but it is the more powerful events that have occurred in the Charlevoix and Saguenay areas that are responsible for the city's classification as a moderate earthquake risk zone.

rocks
are part of our history

Each of the major geological domains of the Québec region is a rich source of building stones and, ever since the French regime in the seventeenth century, builders have made extensive use of all of them.

www.cgq-qgc.ca/english/geoscape/qc

