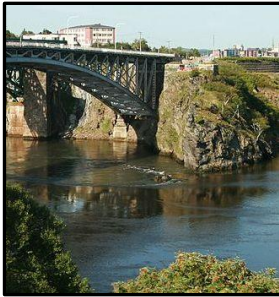


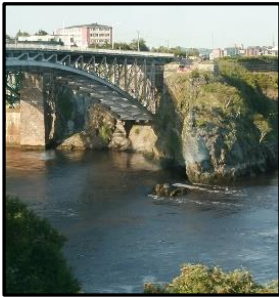
Reversing Falls Rapids & Skywalk

Incoming Tide
Photo Credit



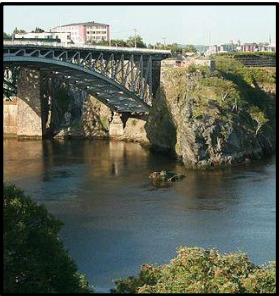
The Saint John River's **Reversing Falls Rapids** is a series of rapids formed as a result of rock ledges just below the surface of the river. These jutting ledges cause the natural smooth flow of the water to become disturbed up to the surface creating visible rapids. Immediately downstream, the river bottom drops away to form a pool 60 meters (180 feet) deep in a sort of underwater waterfall. All of this happens near where the flow of the river speeds up as it runs through a narrow gorge formed through erosion 11,000 years ago, although the geological history of this natural wonder is much, much older.

Outgoing Tide
Photo Credit



Each day, millions of liters of water flow through the rapids, over the underwater waterfall, and between the narrow walls of that ancient gorge that scientists tell us was formed when post-Ice Age erosion cut a channel through rock that originated in Africa 500 million years ago, and from ancient sea life that was transformed into marble 1.2 billion years ago.

Slack Tide
Photo Credit



As river water empties out of the Saint John River into the Bay of Fundy, it is affected by high and low tides that differ by as much as 10 meters (30 feet) since the Bay of Fundy has the highest tides in the world. The volume of the incoming water as the rising tide enters the mouth of the Saint John River temporarily overpowers the volume of water emptying out of the Saint John River itself, and the flow of the river can be seen to reverse. Such a volume of water enters the Saint John River system on the in-coming tide that inland lakes and rivers such as Grand Lake and the Kennebecasis River experience tidal changes on the tidal cycles.

The only time small vessels can transit the *Reversing Falls Rapids* is in a 20-minute window known as "slack tide" between high tide and low tide. Other than when the flow of the river is neutral, vessels would not have the power to overcome the force of the water within the walls of the gorge.

Photo: www.skywalk.com



The **Skywalk** is a recently added enhancement to the beauty of the falls experience. It is a glass observation platform, rooftop deck and theatre at the *Reversing Falls Rapids Visitor Center*. It allows you to see the falls in all stages of reversing as well as see an educational video which completely explains this phenomenon. There is a cost for this service, but the pass is good for two days. It is recommended that you view the video and see at least two phases of the falls as they transition.



[More About The Reversing Falls](#)

[Visit The Skywalk Website](#)