

CUCAMACUCA STAIRWAY

GEODOMUS AT CUCAMACUCA STAIRWAY - G2

Valongo Série de Fotos
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Quartzites

The rocks found in the hills of Valongo date back to the Palaeozoic Era and have undergone countless transformations over millions of years. The quartzites, conglomerates and slates that currently appear in the landscape were the result of the deposition of sediments of various grain sizes in a marine environment.

Quartzites are the most prominent rocks in the mountains due to their high competency compared to the others (e.g. shales). The massive quartzites at the top of the Santa Justa mountain range are essentially composed of quartz (around 90%), sericite, muscovite, opaques and heavy minerals and are often cut by quartz veins.



Quartzite - A sample of quartzite from the Ordovician period, with the development of small quartz veins where boxworks are visible - small cubic cavities that resulted from the growth of pyrite crystals (iron sulphide, which crystallizes precisely in the cubic system). When on the surface and in contact with atmospheric agents, namely air and water, pyrite oxidizes easily, giving rise to iron oxide (limonite - aka rust) and releasing Sulphur.