California

The National Scenic Byways Program

The National Scenic Byways Program, established by Congress in 1991, recognizes historic, scenic and culturally important roads. In California, there are 7 National Scenic Byways in addition to 36 State Scenic Byways. The California Scenic Highway Program, established by state legislature in 1963 under the Streets and Highways Code Section 260, seeks to protect and enhance California’s natural beauty and scenic resources. The law enables the California State Legislature to determine which state routes are eligible for designation as a scenic highway, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) works alongside local governments to adopt the scenic designation. California’s diverse geography encourages tourism in a wide variety of communities, helping strengthen local economies and showcasing the state’s natural and historic appeal.

Key points:

- According to the National Park Service, Death Valley National Park, home to Death Valley Scenic Byway, generated $108.1 million for the local economy in 2016.
- The Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road runs through Yosemite National Park, and according to the NPS, visitor spending supported 6,666 jobs and contributed $589,343,700 toward local communities.
- The Silver Strand Highway and San Diego-Coronado Bridge runs along the Southern-most tip of the county; the tourism in San Diego alone employs over 194,000 people with visitor spending reaching $11.5 billion annually.
- A recent National Scenic Byway Foundation survey showed that 44 state scenic byways in 24 states are prepared to seek designation as a National Scenic Byway.

Tenaya Lake is one of the many iconic destinations along Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road.
Map Key:
The numbers following each byway name below match with the respective byway’s numbered location on the map.
Asterisk denotes an All-American Road.

Scenic Byways in California

---

**National Scenic Byways in California:**

- Arroyo Seco Historic Parkway – Route 110 (1)
- Death Valley Scenic Byway (2)
- Ebbetts Pass Scenic Byway (3)
- Route 1 – Big Sur Coast Highway (4)*
- Route 1 – San Luis Obispo North Coast Byway (5)*
- Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road (6)
- Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway (7)*

---

**State Scenic Byways in California:**

- Ancient Bristlecone Scenic Byway (8)
- Angeles Crest Scenic Byway (9)
- Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Road (10)
- Cabrillo Freeway (11)
- Cabrillo Highway/Route 1 (12)
- Carson Pass Highway (13)
- Father Junipero Serra Highway (14)
- Jacinto Reyes Scenic Byway (15)
- MacArthur Freeway (16)
- Pacheco Pass Road (17)
- Palms to Pines Scenic Byway (18)
- Redwood Highway (19)
- Rim of the World Scenic Byway (20)
- River Road (21)
- Riverside Freeway (22)
- Route 24 (23)
- Route 68 (24)
- Route 80 (25)
- Route 116 (26)
- Route 125 (27)
- Route 140 (28)
- Route 156 (29)
- Route 180 (30)
- Route 395 (31)
- Route 680 (32)
- San Marcos Pass Road (33)
- Saratoga-Los Gatos Road (34)
- Shasta Dam Boulevard (35)
- Silver Strand Highway & San Diego-Coronado Bridge (36)
- Skyline Boulevard (37)
- Topanga Canyon State Scenic Highway (38)
- Twentynine Palms Highway (39)
- Valley of the Moon Highway (40)
- West Side Freeway (41)
- Yuba-Donner Scenic Byway (42)