The National Scenic Byways Program

The National Scenic Byways Program, established by Congress in 1991, recognizes historic, scenic and culturally important roads, all of which promote economic development and tourism in communities around the country. During the 2000 legislative session, the Delaware Senate passed Senate Bill 320, tasking the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) to develop the Delaware Scenic and Historic Highways Program. The bill required an Advisory Board consisting of representatives from local and county government officials, state agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, and other interested parties eager to promote, enhance and preserve Delaware roadways. Delaware boasts six Scenic Byways, including the federally designated Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway. The Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway provides visitors access to historic sites, sprawling estates and museums that offer an unparalleled experience of the state. These attractions help support the local economies within the state, bringing nine million visitors a year.

Key points:

- In 2016, visitors to the state of Delaware contributed $3.3 billion to the state’s GDP.
- As one of the largest industries in the state, the travel sector employs 43,280 people—7.5% of the total employment in the state.
- New Castle County, home to four of Delaware’s Byways, is responsible for 44.8% of tourism expenditures in the state.
- The travel industry generates $522 million in state and local taxes, saving each Delaware household $1,468.

National Scenic Byways in Delaware:

Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway (1)

State Scenic Byways in Delaware:

Delaware’s Bayshore Byway (2)

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway (3)

Historic Lewes Byway, Gateway to the Bayshore (4)

Nanticoke Heritage Byway (5)

Red Clay Scenic Byway (6)
The Red Clay Scenic Byway offers breathtaking views of Delaware’s serene woodlands and waterways.

The Historic Lewes Byway is rich with history and natural beauty for travelers to explore.