Massachusetts

The National Scenic Byways Program

The National Scenic Byways Program, established by Congress in 1991, recognizes historic, scenic and culturally important roads and promotes tourism and economic development in nearby communities. Massachusetts is home to ten Scenic Byways, one of which—the Connecticut River Byway—has earned the designation of becoming a National Scenic Byway. The Byway winds along the longest river in New England, offering some incredibly picturesque views of the natural landscapes. All the Byways in the state also play an integral role in the economic development of many smaller communities in the state. By funneling visitors to colonial-era seaports and village centers with a wealth of culturally significant architectural and historical landmarks. People come from around the country and around the world looking to experience the Bay State and Scenic Byways offer them a unique and exciting encounter while simultaneously serving as building blocks for many communities.

Key points:

- In 2017, 24.2 million visitors spent $20.7 billion in the state, supporting 139,000 jobs and paying $4.8 billion in wages.
- Visitor expenditures generated $1.4 billion in state and local tax revenue, saving residents nearly $600 a year.
- An overwhelming majority of visitors, 72.3%, travel by personal car, making Scenic Byways an accessible and potentially integral part of many visits.

Nickerson State Park, located along Old King’s Highway, is a popular destination among locals and tourists alike.
Scenic Byways in Massachusetts

National Scenic Byways in Massachusetts:
- Connecticut River Byway (1)
- Minutemen Highway (7)

State Scenic Byways in Massachusetts:
- Battle Road Scenic Byway (2)
- Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway (8)
- Blackstone Canal Heritage Byway (3)
- Mount Greylock Scenic Byway (9)
- Chappaquiddick Road (4)
- Old Kings Highway (Route 6A) (10)
- Essex Coastal Scenic Byway (5)
- Route 112 Scenic Byway (11)
- Jacob’s Ladder Trail Scenic Byway (6)
- Route 116 Scenic Byway (12)
- Route 122 Scenic Byway (13)
- Taconic Trail (14)