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. North Carolina is home to 60 Scenic Byways, four of them have earned the designation of National Scenic Byways and one of those four—the Blue Ridge Parkway—has earned the distinction of being named an All-American Road, the gold-standard of Scenic Byways. It is no secret that North Carolina is home to some of the most beautiful National Parks in the country, and the Byways play an integral role in visitors' experience with the parks. From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the historically and culturally significant sites of Cherokee cultural heritage to cascading waterfalls, Scenic Byways offer an incredibly unique way to experience the state of North Carolina. Each Byway also offers visitors access to local communities, which promotes their economic development.

Key points:
- A study of the Blue Ridge Parkway concluded that visitor spending effected local economies to the tune of $1.3 billion, and supported nearly 16,000 jobs.
- The tourism sector as a whole generated $22.9 billion in 2016 and supported over 218,000 jobs.
- Visitors contributed nearly $5.1 million per day in state and local tax revenues ($1.8 billion per year) which saves the average household about $500 annually.

Travelers can enjoy fantastic scenic vistas and beautiful fall foliage when traveling the Cherohala Skyway.
National Scenic Byways in North Carolina:

Blue Ridge Parkway (1)*
Cherohala Skyway (2)
Forest Heritage Scenic Byway (3)
Outer Banks Scenic Byway (4)

State Scenic Byways in North Carolina:

Alligator River Route (5)
Appalachian Medley (6)
Averasboro Battlefield Scenic Byway (7)
Birkhead Wilderness Byway (8)
Black Mountain Rag (9)
Blue-gray Scenic Byway (10)
Brunswick Town Road (11)
Cape Fear Historic Highway (12)
Colonial Heritage Byway (13)
Crowders Mountain (14)
Devils Stomping Grounds (15)
Drovers Road (16)
Edenton-Windsor Loop (17)
Flint Hill Ramble (18)
Football Road (19)
French Broad Overview (20)
Grassy Island Crossing (21)
Green Swamp Byway (22)
Hanging Rock Scenic Byway (23)
Historic Flat Rock Scenic Byway (24)
Indian Heritage Trail (25)
Indian lakes Scenic Byway (26)
Interstate 26 Highway (27)
Laffayete’s Tour (28)
Little Parkway (29)
Meteor Lakes (30)
Milbridge Scenic Byway (31)
Mission Crossing (32)
Mountain Waters Scenic Byway (33)
Nantahala Byway (34)
New River Valley Byway (35)
North Durham Country Byway (36)
Pacolet Byway (37)
Pamlico Scenic Byway (38)
Pee Dee Valley Drive (39)
Perquiman’s Crossing (40)
Pigsah Loop Scenic Byway (41)
Pottery Road (42)
Roanoke Voyages Corridor (43)
Rolling Kansas Byway (44)
Sandhills Scenic Driveway (45)
Scots-Welsh Heritage Byway (46)
South Mountain Scenery (47)
Tarheel Trace (48)
Upper Yadkin Way (49)
US 421 Scenic Byway (50)
Uwharrie Scenic Road (51)
Waterfall Byway (52)
Whitewater Way (53)

Asterisk denotes an All-American Road.