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 U.S. The scenic byways in New Jersey give way to many of the state’s distinctive historic, aquatic, and unique characteristics, demonstrated through activities, such as crabbing and shipbuilding, but also highlighted by landmarks, including the New Jersey State Capitol Building, the Hudson River, and the Old Barracks Museum. The state’s scenic byways, located throughout the state, influence tourism, strengthens local economies, and showcases the state’s aesthetic value.

Key points:

- A 2019 study showed that 531,024 people in New Jersey have employment sustained by tourism in 2018.
- The Pine Barrens Scenic Byway, spanning 130 miles and New Jersey’s lengthiest byway, houses forty-three threatened or endangered animals and ninety-two threatened or endangered plants.
- In 2018 alone, visitors spent $5.917 billion on local transportation and $7.6 billion on transportation in total.
- 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, including New Jersey’s Bayshore Heritage Byway, Palisades Scenic Byway, Pine Barrens Scenic Byway, Upper Freehold Historic Farmland Byway, and Warren Heritage Byway.

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**National Scenic Byways in New Jersey:**
- Delaware River Scenic Byway (1)
- Millstone Valley Scenic Byway (2)

**State Scenic Byways in New Jersey:**
- Bayshore Heritage Scenic Byway (3)
- Palisades Scenic Byway (4)
- Pine Barrens Scenic Byway (5)
- Upper Freehold Scenic Byway (6)
- Warren Heritage Scenic Byway (7)
- Western Highlands Scenic Byway (8)
Travelers can experience American history, canal towpaths, and historic river towns along the Delaware River Scenic Byway.

The Millstone Valley Scenic Byway offers a variety of recreational opportunities along the Delaware and Raritan Canal towpath.