Rhode Island

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. Rhode Island is home to eight state Scenic Byways and began their own program of designating Byways in 1991. Each of the eight offer incredible ways to experience the natural beauty of Rhode Island. From forests in South Kingston to colonial farmland in Lincoln to historic homes and harbor views in Bristol, the Ocean State’s Scenic Byways offer a truly diverse experience to those who live in and come to visit the state. Millions of people visit the state each year, and their travel contributes mightily to many towns and locales across the state.

Key points:

- **24.8 million** people visited Rhode Island in 2017 and supported $6.5 billion in economic activity throughout the state.
- The travel industry supports over 13% of jobs in Rhode Island, coming out to **83,913** positions.
- Travel and tourism generated **$775 million** in state and local taxes in 2017, its absence would mean each household in Rhode Island would see a tax increase of $1,890.
- That $775 million is enough to pay for the public education of **49,914** students for a year.

The breathtaking beauty of Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, located along Paradise Avenue, attracts locals and tourists alike.
State Scenic Byways in Rhode Island:

- Shannock Road (1)
- Route 102 Scenic Byway (2)
- Route 1, Charleston Scenic Byway (3)
- Route 1, Kingston Scenic Byway (4)
- Ministerial Road (5)
- Veterans Memorial Parkway (6)
- Route 114 Scenic Byway (7)
- Paradise Avenue and Associated Roads (8)
- Great Road-Breakneck Hill (9)