South Dakota

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. South Dakota is home to two National Scenic Byways: Native American Scenic Byway and Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway. Both byways offer truly breathtaking views of some of the most historically, culturally and archaeologically important places in the state of South Dakota. Points of interest along each route include Mount Rushmore, Sylvan Lake, the site of Wounded Knee and the resting place of Sioux Chief Sitting Bull—which are without a doubt some of the most revered sites in our nation, and some of the most visited. The Scenic Byways’ role in delivering visitors to these sites is truly second to none, and for many, the Byways have become integral to the experience as a whole.

Key points:

- South Dakota’s Scenic Byways enjoy immediate proximity to South Dakota’s National Parks, which saw 5.2 million visitors in 2016.
- The tourism economy in South Dakota accounts for nearly 1 in 10 jobs in the state and visitor spending reached $3.8 billion in 2016.
- Tourism in the state generated $279 million in state and local taxes, which saved each South Dakota household $821.

Scenic Byways in South Dakota
National Geographic ranked Badlands Loop State Scenic Byway in the Top 25 Essential Drives for a U.S. Road Trip.

Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway, named one of the most outstanding byways in America, attracts visitors from around the world.