New York

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. The New York State Scenic Byways Program was created by State legislature in 1992. The program encourages not only economic development but also resource conservation. New York can be considered an early pioneer of scenic road development, building 4 parkways between the years of 1913 and 1930. This motive was far ahead of its time, and now, since the creation of New York’s Scenic Byways Program, over 2,600 miles of byways have been designated across the state.

Key points:

- New York is home to 3 National Scenic Byways and 27 State Scenic Byways, as well as 46 State Scenic Roads and 19 State Scenic Parkways.
- New York State’s 2016 Calendar Year Report showed that the tourism economy in the state expanded with 2.7% growth in traveler spending—reaching an all time high of $65 billion.
- Headline results in the 2016 Calendar Report showed that travel and tourism are substantial growing components of the state’s economy.
- Additionally, the report showed that over 780,000 jobs were sustained by tourism activity in 2016 with total income of $34.6 billion.
- 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.

The Taconic Parkway is an Eastern Hudson scenic byway with fascinating autumn scenery connecting Interstate 90 to lower New York’s Parkways in Valhalla.
New York State National and State Designated Scenic Byways

**National Scenic Byways in New York:**
- Great Lakes Seaway Trail (1)
- Lakes to Locks Passage (2)
- Mohawk Towpath Byway (3)

**State Scenic Byways in New York:**
- Adirondack Trail (4)
- Black River Trail (5)
- Bronx River Parkway (6)
- Catskill Mountains (7)
- Cayuga Lake (8)
- Central Adirondack Trail (9)
- Dude Ranch Trail (10)
- Durham Valley (11)
- High Peaks Byway (12)
- Long Island Parkways (13)
- Maple Traditions Trail (14)
- Military Trail (15)
- Mountain Cloves (16)
- North Fork Trail (17)
- Olympic Trail (18)
- Palisades Interstate Parkway
- Revolutionary Byway (20)
- Roosevelt-Marcy Trail (21)
- Scenic Route 90 (23)
- Seneca Lake (24)
- Shawangunk Mountains (25)
- Southern Adirondack Trail (26)
- Taconic State Parkway (27)
- Upper Delaware (28)
- Western New York Southtowns (29)

**Additional Legislated New York State Scenic Byways:**
- NYS Scenic Roads
- NYS Parkways