California

The National Scenic Byways Program

The National Scenic Byways Program, established by Congress in 1991, recognizes historic, scenic and culturally important roads. The California Scenic Highway Program, established by state legislature in 1963 under the Streets and Highways Code Section 260, seeks to protect and enhance California’s natural beauty and scenic resources. The law enables the California State Legislature to determine which state routes are eligible for designation as a scenic highway, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) works alongside local governments to adopt the scenic designation. California’s diverse geography encourages tourism in a wide variety of communities, helping strengthen local economies and showcasing the state’s natural and historic appeal.

Key points:

- California boasts 7 National Scenic Byways and 55 State Scenic Byways.
- According to the National Park Service, Death Valley National Park, home to Death Valley Scenic Byway, generated $108.1 million for the local economy in 2016.
- The Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road runs through Yosemite National Park, and according to the NPS, visitor spending supported 6,666 jobs and contributed $589,343,700 toward local communities.
- The Silver Strand Highway and San Diego-Coronado Bridge runs along the Southern-most tip of the county; tourism in San Diego alone employs over 194,000 people with visitor spending reaching $11.5 billion annually.

Photo credit: Yosemite NP

Tenaya Lake is one of the many iconic destinations along Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road.
Map Key:
The numbers following each byway name below match with the respective byway’s numbered location on the map.
Asterisk denotes an All-American Road.

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**National Scenic Byways in California:**
- Arroyo Seco Historic Parkway - Route 110 (1)
- Big Sur Coast Highway - Route 1 (2)*
- Death Valley Scenic Byway - Route 190 (3)
- Ebbetts Pass Highway (4)
- San Luis Obispo North Coast Scenic Byway - Route 1 (5)*
- Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road (6)
- Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway (7)*

**State Scenic Byways in California:**
- Ancient Bristlecone Scenic Byway (8)
- Angeles Crest Scenic Byway (9)
- Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Road (10)
- Barrel Springs Back Country Byway (11)
- Bigfoot Scenic Byway (12)
- Bradshaw Trail (13)
- Buckhorn Back Country Byway (14)
- Cabrillo Freeway (15)
- Cabrillo Highway/Route 1 (16)
- Carson Pass Highway (Route 88) (17)
- Chimney Peak Back Country Byway (18)
- Emigrant Trail (19)
- Father Junipero Serra Freeway (20)
- Feather River Scenic Byway (21)
- Jacinto Reyes Scenic Byway (22)
- Kings Canyon Scenic Byway (23)
- Lassen Scenic Byway (24)
- Lee Vining Canyon Scenic Byway (25)
- MacArthur Freeway (26)
- Modoc Volcanic Scenic Byway (27)
- Pacheco Pass Road (28)
- Palms to Pines Scenic Byway (29)
- Parker Dam Road (30)
- Rim of the World Scenic Byway (31)
- River Road (32)
- Redwood Highway (33)
- Riverside Freeway (34)
- Route 24 (35)
- Route 25 (36)
- Route 68 (37)
- Route 89 (38)
- Route 116 (39)
- Route 125 (40)
- Route 140 (41)
- Route 156 (42)
- Route 395 (43)
- Route 680 (44)
- Saline Valley Road Back Country Byway (45)
- San Marcos Pass Road (46)
- Saratoga-Los Gatos Road (47)
- Shasta Dam Boulevard (48)
- Sierra Heritage Scenic Byway (49)
- Sierra Vista Scenic Byway (50)
- Silver Strand Highway and San Diego-Coronado Bridge (51)
- Skyline Boulevard (52)
- Smith River Scenic Byway (53)
- State of Jefferson Scenic Byway (54)
- Sunrise Scenic Byway (55)
- Topanga Canyon State Scenic Highway (56)
- Trinity Scenic Byway (57)
- Trinity Heritage Scenic Byway (58)
- Twentynine Palms Highway (59)
- Valley of the Moon Highway (60)
- West Side Freeway (61)
- Yuba-Donner Scenic Byway (62)