Kentucky

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. Kentucky is home to 37 Scenic Byways, including six Scenic Byways that have received the National Scenic Byways designation. These roads are of the utmost importance to local economies as they attract visitors who look for unique ways to experience the naturally beautiful and historically significant attractions along these Byways. The Byways showcase brilliant foliage, breathtaking natural beauty, native wildlife and national heritage that includes country music and President Lincoln. Their diversity in attractions and appeal and individual uniqueness attract many to the state and contribute to the tourism and travel industry of Kentucky.

Key points:

• There are 37 Scenic Byways in Kentucky, with six National and 31 State Byways
• In 2018, the tourism and travel industry in Kentucky supported 94,583 jobs and generated $5.1 billion in state GDP, representing 4.4% of jobs and 2.2% of total GDP
• The tourism sector generated about $787 million in state and local taxes and $669 million in federal taxes, saving the average Kentucky household $456 a year in taxes
• Kentucky’s own Lincoln Heritage Scenic Highway was recently featured on Reader Digest’s list of the 40 most scenic drives in the country, highlighting its connections to the birthplace of President Lincoln, The Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani, and Kentucky’s rich bourbon tradition

The Red River Gorge National Scenic Byway offers un-paralleled stone arches, caves, cliffs, and ravines. Designated as a National Natural Landmark, the Red River Gorge is available to provide experiences like no other.
National Scenic Byways in Kentucky:

Country Music Highway (1)
Great River Road (2)
Lincoln Heritage Scenic Byway (3)

State Scenic Byways in Kentucky:

Big Bone Lick/Middle Creek Parkway (7)
Blues to Bluegrass Scenic Byway/Bill Monroe Bluegrass Trail (8)
Blues to Bluegrass Scenic Byway/Everly Brothers Rock-N-Roll Trail (9)
Blues to Bluegrass Scenic Byway/W.C. Handy Blues Trail (10)
Boone Creek Scenic Byway (11)
Cordell Hull Highway (12)
Cumberland Cultural Heritage Highway (13)
Duncan Hines Scenic Tour (14)
Highway 524 Loop (15)
Hughes Lane (16)
Ironworks Pike (17)
KY 89 (18)
KY 160-Black Mountain (19)
Mary Ingles Highway (20)
North Cleveland Road (21)
Old Frankfort Pike (22)

Red River Gorge Scenic Byway (4)
Wilderness Road Heritage Highway (5)
Woodlands Trace (6)

Old Kentucky Turnpike (23)
Old Richmond Road (US 25)/Grimes Mill Road (24)
Pine Mountain Road (25)
Pisgah Pike (26)
Ridgetop Scenic Byway-KY 89 (27)
River Road (28)
Riverboat Row (29)
Russell Cave Road (30)
Shakertown Road (31)
US 42 (32)
US 62-Midway-Versailles Road (33)
US 68 (34)
Van Meter, Rice, and Elkchester Roads (35)
Winchester Road Corridor (36)
The Zollicoffer-Thomas Scenic Byway/KY 235 Mill Springs Battlefield (37)