Massachusetts

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. Massachusetts is home to fourteen Scenic Byways, one of which—the Connecticut River Byway—is designated as a National Scenic Byway. The Byway winds along the longest river in New England, offering incredibly picturesque views of the natural landscapes. All of Massachusetts’s byways play an integral role in the economic development of many smaller communities in the state by funneling visitors to colonial-era seaports and village centers with a wealth of culturally significant architectural and historical landmarks. Thus, the Bay State’s scenic byways offer visitors from around the country and the world a unique and exciting experience while simultaneously benefitting local economies.

Key points:

- Massachusetts is home to 14 scenic byways, including 1 National Scenic Byway and 13 State Scenic Byways.
- In 2017, 24.2 million visitors spent $20.7 billion in the state, supporting 139,000 jobs and paying $4.8 billion in wages.
- Visitor expenditures generated $1.4 billion in state and local tax revenue, saving residents nearly $600 a year.
- An overwhelming majority of visitors (72.3%) travel by personal car, making Scenic Byways an accessible and integral part of many visits.

Nickerson State Park, located along Old King’s Highway, is a popular destination among locals and tourists alike.
National Scenic Byways in Massachusetts:

Connecticut River Byway (1)

State Scenic Byways in Massachusetts:

Battle Road Scenic Byway (2)
Blackstone Canal Heritage Byway (3)
Chappaquiddick Road (4)
Essex Coastal Scenic Byway (5)
Jacob’s Ladder Trail Scenic Byway (6)
Minutemen Highway (7)
Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway (8)
Mount Greylock Scenic Byway (9)
Old Kings Highway (Route 6A) (10)
Route 112 Scenic Byway (11)
Route 116 Scenic Byway (12)
Route 122 Scenic Byway (13)
Taconic Trail (14)