The National Scenic Byways Program

The National Scenic Byways Program, established by Congress in 1991, recognizes historic, scenic and culturally important roads, all of which promote economic development and tourism in communities around the U.S. The New Jersey Scenic Byways Program provides a framework for local communities to create a management strategy and to develop plans that balance development, conservation, tourism and economic vitality. The designated scenic byways in the program give way to many of the state’s distinctive historic, aquatic, and unique characteristics, demonstrated through activities such as crabbing and shipbuilding, but also highlighted by landmarks, including the New Jersey State Capitol Building, the Hudson River, and the Old Barracks Museum. The state’s scenic byways showcase New Jersey’s aesthetic value, thereby promoting tourism and strengthening local economies.

Key points:

- New Jersey is home to 2 National Scenic Byways and 6 State Scenic Byways.
- A 2019 study showed that 531,024 people in New Jersey have employment sustained by tourism in 2018.
- The Pine Barrens Scenic Byway, New Jersey’s longest byway spanning 130 miles, houses forty-three threatened or endangered animals and ninety-two threatened or endangered plants.
- In 2018 alone, visitors spent over $5.9 billion on local transportation and $7.6 billion on transportation in total.
- 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, including New Jersey’s Bayshore Heritage Byway, Palisades Scenic Byway, Pine Barrens Scenic Byway, Upper Freehold Historic Farmland Byway, and Warren Heritage Byway.

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**National Scenic Byways in New Jersey:**

- Delaware River Scenic Byway (1)
- Millstone Valley Scenic Byway (2)

**State Scenic Byways in New Jersey:**

- Bayshore Heritage Scenic Byway (3)
- Palisades Scenic Byway (4)
- Pine Barrens Scenic Byway (5)
- Upper Freehold Historic Farmland Byway (6)
- Warren Heritage Scenic Byway (7)
- Western Highlands Scenic Byway (8)
Travelers can experience American history, canal towpaths, and historic river towns along the Delaware River Scenic Byway.

The Millstone Valley Scenic Byway offers a variety of recreational opportunities along the Delaware and Raritan Canal towpath.