

Colorado

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. Colorado established the Scenic and Historic Byways Program in 1989. In [2019](#), the Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Program celebrated its 30th anniversary; over the span of three decades the program has designated 26 routes showcasing the state's exceptional scenic, ecological, cultural and historic attributes. Nominations are made by the Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission, and in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) seeks to support and sustain byways for future generations. Colorado byways provide access to the state's most spectacular public lands, including four National Parks, 23 State Parks, 13 National Recreation Trails, eight National Forests, and eight National Monuments.

Key points:

- Colorado is home to 26 Scenic Byways, including 13 National Scenic Byways and 13 State Scenic Byways.
- The travel industry directly impacts the employment of 171,000 Coloradans and \$6.3 billion in wages.
- Grants sourced from the National Scenic Byways Program for Colorado from 1992 through 2012 totaled \$17,945,194.
- A [2016](#) economic analysis of the state's economy determined cumulative impact visitor spending while traveling the byways from 2009 to 2014 at nearly \$4.8 billion, or nearly \$800 million annually.



Located along San Juan Skyway, historic downtown Ouray is a popular destination among locals and tourists alike.



Scenic Byways in Colorado

National Scenic Byways in Colorado:

State Scenic Byways in Colorado:

- [Colorado River Headwaters Scenic Byway](#) (1)
- [Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway](#) (2)
- [Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway](#) (3)
- [Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway](#) (4)
- [Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway](#) (5)
- [Highway of Legends](#) (6)
- [Lariat Loop Scenic and Historic Byway](#) (7)
- [San Juan Skyway](#) (8)*
- [Santa Fe Trail](#) (9)
- [Silver Thread](#) (10)
- [Top of the Rockies](#) (11)
- [Trail of the Ancients](#) (12)
- [Trail Ridge Road-Rocky Mountain National Park](#) (13)*

- [Alpine Loop](#) (14)
- [Cache La Poudre-North Park](#) (15)
- [Collegiate Peaks Byway](#) (16)
- [Flat Tops Trail](#) (17)
- [Guanalla Pass Scenic and Historic Byway](#) (18)
- [Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic & Historic Byway](#) (19)
- [Mount Evans Scenic and Historic Byway](#) (20)
- [Pawnee Pioneer Trails](#) (21)
- [Peak to Peak Scenic Byway](#) (22)
- [South Platte River Trail](#) (23)
- [Tracks Across Borders](#) (24)
- [Unaweep Tabeguache Scenic & Historic Byway](#) (25)
- [West Elk Loop](#) (26)

Map Key:

The numbers following each byway name above match the respective byway's numbered location on the map.

*Asterisk denotes an All-American Road.