Rhode Island

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 country. Rhode Island is home to one National Scenic Byway and eight State Scenic Byways, and began their own program of designating Byways in 1991. Each of the nine offers incredible ways to experience the natural beauty of Rhode Island. From forests in South Kingston to colonial farmland in Lincoln to historic homes and harbor views in Bristol, the Ocean State’s Scenic Byways offer a truly diverse experience to those who live in Rhode Island and come to visit the state. Millions of people visit the state each year, and their travel contributes significantly to many towns and locales across the state.

Key points:
- Rhode Island is home to one National Scenic Byway and eight State Scenic Byways.
- In 2019, 26.2 million people visited Rhode Island and contributed to $7 billion in economic activity throughout the state.
- The travel industry supports over 13% of jobs in Rhode Island, or about 87,852 positions.
- Travel and tourism generated $843 million in state and local taxes in 2017, saving each household in Rhode Island from a $2,050 tax increase.
- In 2017, travel industry tax revenues were enough to pay for the public education of 49,914 students for a year.

The breathtaking beauty of Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge, located along Paradise Avenue, attracts locals and tourists alike.
State Scenic Byways in Rhode Island:
- Shannock Road (2)
- Route 102 Scenic Byway (3)
- Route 1, Charleston Scenic Byway (4)
- Route 1, South Kingstown Scenic Byway (5)
- Ministerial Road (6)
- Veterans Memorial Parkway (7)
- Paradise Avenue and Associated Roads (8)
- Great Road / Breakneck Hill Road (9)

National Scenic Byways in Rhode Island:
- Revolutionary Heritage Byway (1)