

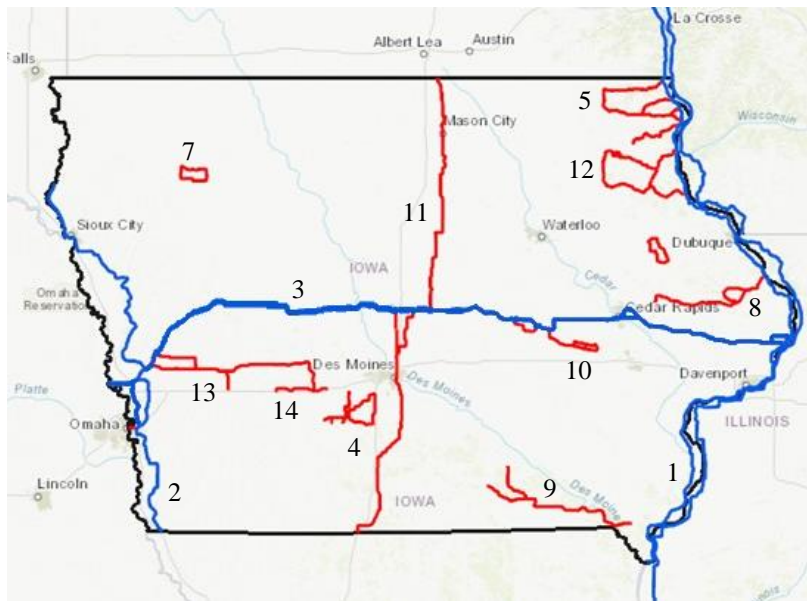
Iowa

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. In Iowa, there are three national byways as well as 11 state byways. The national byways are home to some of the most important cultural, historic, and scenic corridors in the entire state. The Great River Road Byway was conceived by Secretary of Interior [Harold Ickes](#) in 1938, and the Iowa portion became an All-American Road in 2021. The Loess Hills Scenic Byway runs through several communities and circulates millions in revenue as well generating thousands of jobs. The [Loess Hill Highway Alliance](#) was started in 1999 as a part of a conservatory effort by the community to declare it a National Landmark.

Key Points:

- Iowa has 14 scenic byways, including three National Scenic Byways and 11 State Scenic Byways.
- Domestic traveler spending in Iowa in 2017 was [\\$8.5 billion](#) and generated over \$507 million in sales tax receipts. Scenic byways also helped support 69,500 tourism-related jobs in Iowa.
- [Lewis and Clark](#) first explored the Loess Hills area in 1804, and the historic value of the region is preserved in the byway route today.
- The [Loess Hills Bypass](#) runs past major archaeological sites, with some artifacts nearly a thousand years old.



Scenic Byways in Iowa

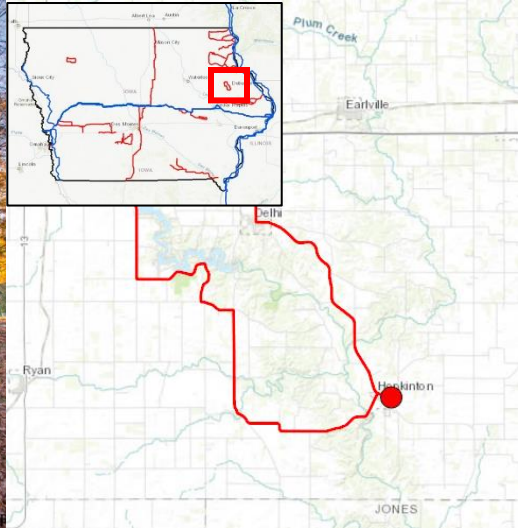
National Scenic Byways in Iowa:

- [Great River Road](#) (1)*
- [Loess Hills Scenic Byway](#) (2)
- [Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway](#) (3)

State Scenic Byways in Iowa:

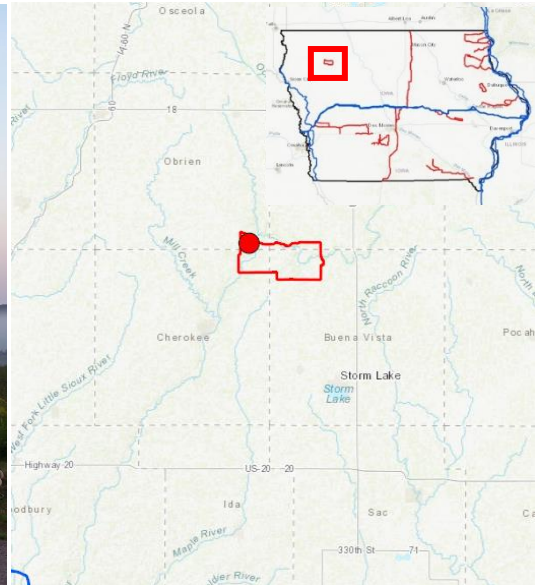
- [Covered Bridges Scenic Byway](#) (4)
- [Delaware Crossing Scenic Byway](#) (5)
- [Driftless Area Scenic Byway](#) (6)
- [Glacial Trail Scenic Byway](#) (7)
- [Grant Wood Scenic Byway](#) (8)
- [Historic Hills Scenic Byway](#) (9)
- [Iowa Valley Scenic Byway](#) (10)
- [Jefferson Highway Heritage Byway](#) (11)
- [River Bluffs Scenic Byway](#) (12)
- [Western Skies Scenic Byway](#) (13)
- [White Pole Road](#) (14)

*Asterisk denotes an All-American Road.



Delaware County Historical Museum is one of the many historic sites located along Delaware Crossing Scenic Byway.

Credit: obriencounty.org/Pinterest



The Prairie Heritage Center, located along Glacial Trail Scenic Byway, offers a variety of outdoor activities.