

## Mississippi

## **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. Mississippi is home to 13 Scenic Byways, including two Scenic Byways that have received the National Scenic Byways designation. These roads are of the utmost importance to local economies as they attract visitors who look for unique ways to experience the naturally beautiful and historically significant attractions along these Byways. The state-level Mississippi Scenic Byways Program is a grassroots program aimed at focusing attention on the state's history and intrinsic resources. Identifying and designating highways, roads, and street corridors preserves, enhances, and protects Mississippi's natural and economic resources for visitors and residents.

Key points:

- Mississippi boasts 13 Scenic Byways, including two National and 11 State Byways
- The NPS describes Natchez Trace Parkway as <u>a drive through 10,000 years of history</u>; roughly following the "Old Natchez Trace", it has been used by American Indians, European colonizers, slave traders, soldiers, and future presidents stretching back millennia
- In 2017, the Mississippi <u>Tourism and Travel</u> industry generated \$6.34 billion in spending, supported 124,580 jobs making it the fourth largest private sector industry in terms of employment, and generated \$646 million in state and local tax revenue saving the average Mississippi household \$588 annually
- The Great River Road has been described as <u>America's greatest drive</u>, traversing the Mississippi River through ten states from northern Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.



Scenic Byways in Mississippi

## - <u>National Scenic Byways in Mississippi</u>:

<u>Great River Road</u> (1) <u>Natchez Trace Parkway</u> (2)\*

- <u>State Scenic Byways in Mississippi</u>:

Beach Boulevard Scenic Byway (3) Brice's Cross Roads Battlefield-Chief Tishomingo Scenic Byway (4) Delta Bluffs Scenic Byway (5) Gateway to History (6) Grand Gulf-Raymond Scenic Byway (7) Gulf Coast Scenic Byway (8) Highway 67 Scenic Byway (9) Highway 605 Scenic Byway (10) Noxubee Hills Scenic Byway (11) Scenic Byway to Space (12) William Faulkner Scenic Byway (13)

\*Asterisk denotes an All-American Road.



*Gulf Coast Scenic Byway offers stunning coastal views as it crosses through some of southern Mississippi's quaint towns.* 



Brice's Cross Roads Battlefield-Chief Tishomingo Scenic Byway provides visitors with access to a popular national historic site.