



Scenic America

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM: ALASKA

ABOUT 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. There are more than 1,200 byways in all 50 states.

Alaska began its Scenic Byways Program in 1993 to help showcase the state's most memorable and spectacular landscapes. Alaska is home to 5 national scenic byways, 2 of which—the Alaska Marine Highway and the Seward Highway—are designated as All-American Roads, the gold standard of national scenic byways. Alaska is one of the country's top destinations for natural beauty, and scenic byways play an important role in emphasizing the state's scenic, historic, and cultural appeal, playing an integral role in supporting Alaska's tourism industry.

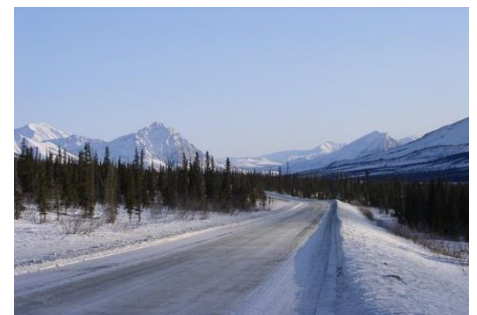
KEY POINTS

- Alaska is home to 5 national scenic byways and 10 state scenic byways.
- The Alaska Marine Highway alone netted Alaska approximately [\\$16 million](#) in 2017.
- National parks, accessible via byways, generated [\\$2.2 billion](#) in total economic output in gateway communities in 2019, supporting 19,600 jobs and \$730 million in labor income.

Images: Haines Highway (top), Dalton Highway (right column – photo credit Alaska.org)

15

ALASKA IS HOME TO 15 SCENIC BYWAYS



ALASKA TRAVEL INDUSTRY FACTS

- > TRAVEL BRINGS \$1.5 BILLION IN LABOR INCOME FOR ALASKANS
- > \$88.5 MILLION TAX REVENUE FROM OUT-OF-STATE VISITORS



SCENIC BYWAYS IN ALASKA

ALL-AMERICAN ROADS



1. ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY
2. SEWARD HIGHWAY

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS



3. GLENN HIGHWAY
4. HAINES HIGHWAY—VALLEY OF THE EAGLES
5. THE GEORGE PARKS HIGHWAY

STATE SCENIC BYWAYS



6. ALASKA RAILROAD
7. COPPER RIVER HIGHWAY
8. DALTON HIGHWAY
9. KACHEMAK BAY ROUTE
10. PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND ROAD SYSTEM
11. RICHARDSON HIGHWAY
12. STEESE HIGHWAY
13. STERLING HIGHWAY
14. TAYLOR & TOP OF THE WORLD HIGHWAYS
15. WALDEN POINT ROAD



ALASKA BYWAYS PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE STATE'S MOST SPECTACULAR PUBLIC LANDS, INCLUDING:

- > 8 NATIONAL PARKS
- > 4 STATE PARKS
- > 22 NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
- > 2 NATIONAL FORESTS
- > 2 NATIONAL MONUMENTS



Images: George Parks Highway (top right), Glenn Highway (bottom right)

All scenic byways exhibit one or more of six core intrinsic qualities — scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, or natural. For a road to be named a **national scenic byway**, it must first be designated a **state, tribal, or federal agency scenic byway**. Once achieving that, a road may apply for **national scenic byway** designation, but its intrinsic quality must be of regional significance. **All-American Roads** are the very best of the national scenic byways, demonstrating at least two intrinsic qualities of national significance.