NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM: KENTUCKY

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.

Kentucky is home to 37 scenic byways, including 7 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 located nearby. The byways showcase brilliant foliage, breathtaking natural beauty, native wildlife, and national heritage. Their diversity in attraction and appeal and individual uniqueness attracts many to the state and contribute to the tourism and travel industry of Kentucky.

KEY POINTS

- There are 37 scenic byways in Kentucky, with 7 national and 30 state byways.
- In 2018, the tourism and travel industry in Kentucky supported 94,583 jobs, and generate $5.1 billion in state GDP, representing 4.4% of jobs and 2.2% of total GDP.
- The tourism sector generated about $787 million in state and local taxes and $669 million in federal taxes, saving each Kentucky household an average of $456 a year in taxes.

KENTUCKY TRAVEL INDUSTRY FACTS

> IN 2018 TOURISM & TRAVEL GENERATED $5.1 BILLION IN STATE GDP AND SUPPORTED 94,583 JOBS

> $787 MILLION IN STATE AND LOCAL TOURISM TAXES SAVED HOUSEHOLDS $456 A YEAR

Images: Red River Gorge National Scenic Byway (top), Country Music Highway credit: Kentucky tourism (column)
SCENIC BYWAYS IN KENTUCKY

ALL-AMERICAN ROADS

1. GREAT RIVER ROAD

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS

2. COUNTRY MUSIC HIGHWAY
3. LINCOLN HERITAGE
4. OLD FRANKFORT PIKE
5. RED RIVER GORGE
6. WILDERNESS ROAD HERITAGE
7. WOODLANDS TRACE

STATE SCENIC BYWAYS

8. BIG BONE LICK/MIDDLE CREEK PARKWAY
9. BLUES TO BLUEGRASS/BILL MONROE BLUEGRASS TRAIL
10. BLUES TO BLUEGRASS/EVERLY BROTHERS ROCK-N-ROLL TRAIL
11. BLUES TO BLUEGRASS/W.C. HANDY BLUES TRAIL
12. BOONE CREEK SCENIC BYWAY
13. CORDELL HILL HIGHWAY
14. CUMBERLAND CULTURAL HERITAGE HIGHWAY
15. DUNCAN HINES SCENIC TOUR
16. HIGHWAY 524 LOOP
17. HUGHES LANE
18. IRONWORKS PIKE
19. KY 89
20. KY 160 – BLACK MOUNTAIN
21. MARY INGLES HIGHWAY
22. NORTH CLEVELAND ROAD
23. OLD KENTUCKY TURNPIKE
24. OLD RICHMOND ROAD (US 25)/GRIMES MILL ROAD
25. PINE MOUNTAIN ROAD
26. PISGAH PIKE
27. RIDGETOP SCENIC BYWAY – KY 89
28. RIVER ROAD
29. RIVERBOAT ROW
30. RUSSELL CAVE ROAD
31. SHAKERTOWN ROAD
32. US 42
33. US 62 – MIDWAY-VERSAILLES ROAD
34. US 68
35. VAN METER, RICE AND ELKCHESTER ROADS
36. WINCHESTER ROAD CORRIDOR
37. THE ZOLLICOFFER-THOMAS SCENIC BYWAY/KY 235 MILL SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD

KENTUCKY BYWAYS PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE STATE’S MOST SPECTACULAR PUBLIC LANDS INCLUDING:

> 1 NATIONAL PARK
> 45 STATE PARKS
> 2 HISTORIC PARKS
> 2 NATIONAL MONUMENTS
> 1 RECREATION AREA
> 1 NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

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.