

The logo for Scenic America, featuring the word "Scenic" in a white script font and "America" in a white serif font, both underlined.

# NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM: NORTH CAROLINA

## 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.

**North Carolina** is home to 2 All-American Roads: the Blue Ridge Parkway and Newfound Gap Road. All-American Roads are the gold-standard of scenic byways and attract visitors in large numbers. In fact, Blue Ridge Parkway had 14.1 million recreational visitors in 2020, making it the most visited park. North Carolina has some of the most beautiful parks in the country, and the byways play an integral role in visitors' experiences with the parks. Each byway offers visitors access to local communities, which promotes economic development. From the Blue Ridge Mountains to the historically and culturally significant sites of Cherokee cultural heritage to cascading waterfalls, byways are a unique way to experience North Carolina.

## KEY POINTS

- North Carolina is home to 2 All-American Roads, 3 national scenic byways and 58 state and other byways.
- A study on the Blue Ridge Parkway concluded that visitor spending effected local economies to the tune of \$1.3 billion and supported nearly 16,000 jobs.

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NORTH CAROLINA  
IS HOME TO  
63 SCENIC BYWAYS



## NORTH CAROLINA TRAVEL INDUSTRY FACTS

- > SUPPORTS 236,581 JOBS
- > EMPLOYS 1 OUT OF EVERY 45 RESIDENTS
- > GENERATES OVER 2 BILLION IN STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

Images: Blue Ridge Parkway credit: [National Archives](#) (top), Nantahala Scenic Byway credit: [NCDOT](#) (column)



## SCENIC BYWAYS IN NORTH CAROLINA

### ALL-AMERICAN ROADS



1. BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY
2. NEWFOUND GAP ROAD

### NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS



3. CHEROCHALA SKYWAY
4. FOREST HERITAGE BYWAY
5. OUTER BANKS SCENIC BYWAY

### STATE SCENIC BYWAYS



16-63. VISIT [THE NCDOT WEBSITE](#) FOR THE COMPLETE LIST OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE BYWAYS



NORTH CAROLINA BYWAYS PROVIDE ACCESS TO SPECTACULAR PUBLIC LANDS INCLUDING:

- > 1 NATIONAL PARK
- > 34 STATE PARKS
- > 2 NATIONAL SEASHORES
- > 2 NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES
- > 39 NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS



Images: Outer Banks Scenic Byway credit: [National Archives](#) (top), Cherochala Skyway credit: [National Archives](#) (bottom)

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.