

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM: SOUTH 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.

The **South Carolina** Department of Transportation (SCDOT) partnered with the South Carolina Scenic Highways Committee in 1994. The creation of the committee stemmed from Act 484, 1994, which was later amended by Act 285, 1996. The SC Scenic Highways Committee consists of 11 members ranging from the Director of Tourism to the Director of the Department of Parks. The committee plays the most influential role in the development of criteria for the designation of scenic byways across the state. To date, the committee has designated 21 scenic byways in South Carolina, stretching over 450 miles.

KEY POINTS

- South Carolina boasts 4 national scenic byways and 17 state scenic byways.
- Scenic byways are a key part of the South Carolina tourism industry, a \$23.8 billion industry that generates \$1.8 billion in state and local taxes.
- The Savannah River National Scenic Byway is over 100 miles long and stretches through 4 counties and 3 major lakes near the western tip of the state.

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SOUTH CAROLINA IS HOME
TO 21 SCENIC BYWAYS



SOUTH CAROLINA TRAVEL INDUSTRY FACTS

- > GENERATES \$1.8 BILLION IN STATE AND LOCAL TAX REVENUE
- > TOURISM INDUSTRY SUPPORTS 1 IN EVERY 10 JOBS

Images: Ashley River Road credit: [National Archives](#) (top), Cherokee Foothills credit: [National Archives](#) (right column)



SCENIC BYWAYS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS

1. ASHLEY RIVER ROAD
2. CHEROKEE FOOTHILLS
3. EDISTO ISLAND
4. SAVANNAH RIVER

STATE SCENIC BYWAYS

5. BOHICKET ROAD
6. COWPENS BATTLEFIELD
7. EDISTO BEACH
8. FALLING WATERS
9. FORT JOHNSON ROAD
10. HILTON HEAD SCENIC HIGHWAY
11. HILTON HEAD ISLAND HIGHWAY
12. LONG POINT ROAD
13. MATHIS FERRY ROAD
14. MAY RIVER
15. MCTEER BRIDGE & CAUSEWAYS
16. OLD SHELDON CHURCH
17. PLANTERSVILLE SCENIC BYWAY
18. RIVERLAND DRIVE
19. SC 170 SCENIC HIGHWAY
20. US 21 SCENIC HIGHWAY
21. WESTERN YORK SCENIC BYWAY



SOUTH CAROLINA BYWAYS PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE STATE'S MOST SPECTACULAR PUBLIC LANDS INCLUDING:

- > 7 NATIONAL PARKS
- > 47 STATE PARKS
- > 76 NATURAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS
- > 5 STATE FORESTS
- > 2 NATIONAL HERITAGE SITES
- > 4 STATE BEACHES



Images: Edisto Island Scenic Byway credit: [National Archives](#) (top), Savannah River Scenic Byway 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.