



NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM: TENNESSEE

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 **Tennessee** Scenic Byways Program is administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. All state byways are administered by committees of local leaders and volunteers that plan promotional events and activities for their communities. The byways provide alternatives to other travel routes, with unique historic, scenic, and natural qualities, and offer visitors an enjoyable journey where they can experience the natural beauty of Tennessee.

KEY POINTS

- Tennessee is home to 9 national scenic byways and 4 state or federal agency scenic byways.
- Tennessee saw 119 million domestic visitors in 2018 and attracted a record \$22 billion in domestic and international traveler spending; the tourism industry generated over \$50 million in state and local tax revenue saving the average Tennessee household \$712 annually and supporting 189,757 jobs.
- The Great River Road has been described as America's great drive, traversing the Mississippi River through 10 states from northern Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.

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TENNESSEE
IS HOME TO
13 SCENIC BYWAYS



TENNESSEE TRAVEL INDUSTRY FACTS

- > SUPPORTS 189,757 JOBS
- > GENERATES \$50 MILLION IN STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

Images: East Tennessee Crossing credit: [National Archives](#) (top), Woodlands Trace credit: [National Archives](#) (right column)



SCENIC BYWAYS IN TENNESSEE

ALL-AMERICAN ROADS



1. NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY
2. NEWFOUND GAP ROAD
3. GREAT RIVER ROAD

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS



4. CHEROHALA SKYWAY
5. CUMBERLAND HISTORIC BYWAY
6. EAST TENNESSEE CROSSING
7. WOODLANDS TRACE
8. NORRIS FREEWAY
9. SEQUATCHIE VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY

STATE SCENIC BYWAYS



10. GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS BYWAY
11. TENNESSEE RIVER TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY
12. WALTON ROAD SCENIC BYWAY

FEDERAL AGENCY BYWAYS



13. OCOEE USFS SCENIC BYWAY



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

- > 13 NATIONAL PARKS
- > 56 STATE PARKS
- > 31 NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS
- > 15 STATE FORESTS
- > 2.4 MILLION ACRES OF PUBLIC LANDS



Images: Natchez Trace Parkway credit: [National Archives](#) (top), Cherokee 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.