

# NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM: TEXAS

## 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.

**Texas** adopted its scenic byways program in May 2021 through the enactment of Senate Bill 941. The 19 routes previously protected under the Texas Transportation Code are all eligible to be designated as state scenic byways. Designation at the state level, with creation of a corridor management plan which identifies the intrinsic qualities of the roadway, is the first step to becoming a national scenic byway. Both state and national byways are eligible to receive federal byway funds. These federal grant funds allow local communities and organizations to promote tourism and beautification efforts such as welcome centers or promotion materials, and other projects to enhance visitor experiences.

## KEY POINTS

- Texas has 19 routes eligible for designation as state scenic byways.
- In 2019, domestic travelers spent over \$83 billion in Texas. This in turn resulted in the creation of almost 720,000 jobs for Texans and generated over \$29 billion in direct earning and \$12.8 billion in direct tax receipts.
- Due to travel spending and tax revenue generated by visitors, Texan households save \$760 in state and local taxes annually.

19

TEXAS IS HOME TO  
19 SCENIC BYWAYS  
(PENDING)

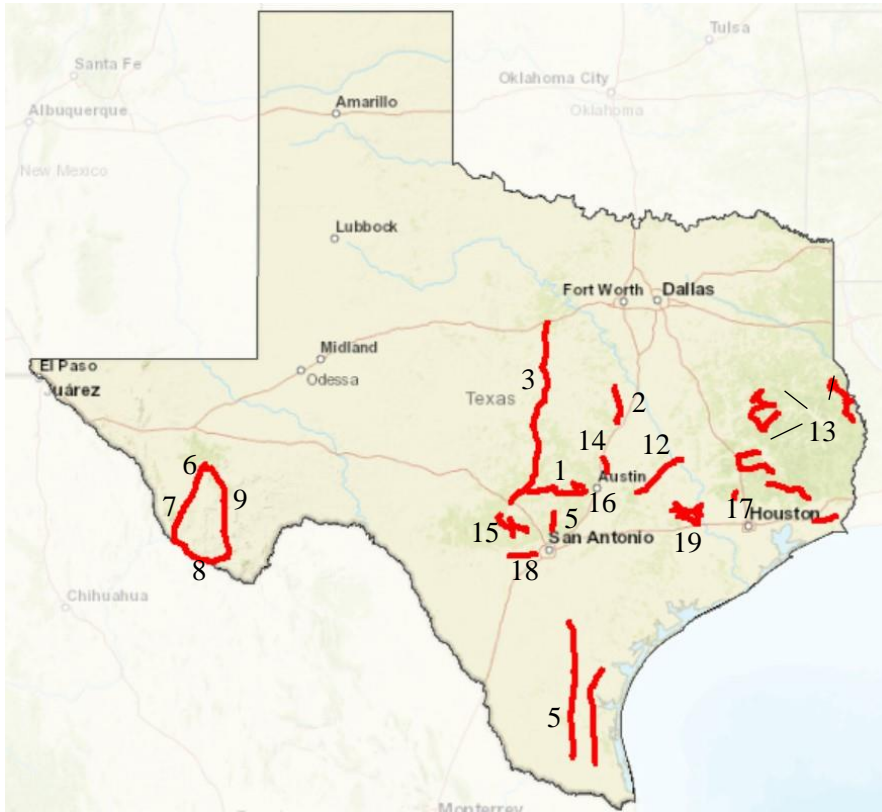


## TEXAS TRAVEL INDUSTRY FACTS

- > GENERATED OVER \$83 BILLION IN 2019
- > SAVED HOUSEHOLDS \$760 IN STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

Images: Road to Houston Airport credit: [Scrubhiker](#) (top), Davy Crockett National Forest (right column)





## SCENIC BYWAYS IN TEXAS

### STATE SCENIC BYWAYS

1. U.S. HIGHWAY 290 BETWEEN AUSTIN AND FREDERICKSBURG
2. SH 317 BETWEEN BELTON AND VALLEY MILLS
3. SH 16 BETWEEN KERRVILLE AND 1-20
4. U.S. HIGHWAY 77 BETWEEN SH 186 AND SH 44
5. U.S. HIGHWAY 281, NORTH AND SOUTH SECTIONS
6. SH 17 BETWEEN SH 118 AND U.S. HIGHWAY 90
7. SH 67 BETWEEN U.S. HIGHWAY 90 AND FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD
8. FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD 170 BETWEEN SH 67 AND SH 118
9. SH 118 BETWEEN FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD 170 AND SH 17
10. SH 105 BETWEEN SOUR LAKE TO CLEVELAND
11. SH 73 BETWEEN WINNIE AND PORT ARTHUR
12. SH 21 BETWEEN COLLEGE STATION AND U.S. HIGHWAY 290
13. A HIGHWAY LOCATED IN THE SABINE NATIONAL FOREST; THE DAVY CROCKETT NATIONAL FOREST OR THE SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST
14. SEGMENTS 1 THROUGH 4 OF SH 130
15. SH IN BANDERA COUNTY
16. FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD 3238 BEGINNING AT SH 71 IN HAYS AND BLANCO COUNTIES
17. FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD 2978 BETWEEN FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD 1488 AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY LINE
18. U.S. HIGHWAY 90 BETWEEN SAN ANTONIO AND HONDO
19. HIGHWAYS IN AUSTIN COUNTY: SH 159; FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD 331; FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD 529; FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD 1094; AND FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD 2502



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

- > 14 NATIONAL PARKS
- > 80 STATE PARKS
- > 47 NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS
- > 7 ACCESSIBLE MOUNTAIN RANGES
- > OVER 350 MILES OF COAST



Images: Hill Country, Bandera County credit: [Randy von Liski](#) (top), Central Texas farm road credit: [Wikimedia Commons](#) (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.

*Scenic*America

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