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 Utah Scenic Byway Program has been active since the mid-1980s. The combined 2,200 miles of scenic byways connect 5 national parks, 43 state parks, 7 national monuments, 2 national recreation areas and more than 9 million acres of national forest land with Utah’s vibrant cities and welcoming towns. The state’s scenic byways program is administered by the Utah State Scenic Byway Committee which includes representatives from the state’s Office of Economic Development, Utah Department of Transportation, the Division of State Parks and Recreation, the Federal Highway Administration, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and a governor-appointed representative from the tourism industry.

KEY POINTS

- Utah is home to 9 national scenic byways and 29 state and federal scenic byways.
- A 2014 study found that Utah’s Scenic Byway 12 was responsible for generating $13 million in economic activity for the communities along its route.
- Over 10 million people visited Utah’s state parks and national recreation areas in 2017, according to the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah.
- Estimated traveler spending in Utah increased 7.2% from 2016-2017.
SCENIC BYWAYS IN UTAH

ALL-AMERICAN ROADS
1. SCENIC BYWAY 12

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS
2. DINOSAUR DIAMOND PREHISTORIC HIGHWAY
3. THE ENERGY LOOP: HUNTINGTON/ECCLES CANYONS SCENIC BYWAY
4. FLAMING GORGE UINTAS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY
5. LOGAN CANYON SCENIC BYWAY
6. NEBO LOOP SCENIC BYWAY
7. ZION SCENIC BYWAY
8. SCENIC BYWAY 143- UTAH’S PATCHWORK PARKWAY
9. TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS

FEDERAL AGENCY BYWAYS
10. BULL CREEK PASS NATIONAL BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY
11. KOLOB RESERVIOR NATIONAL PARK ROAD
12. PONY EXPRESS TRAIL NATIONAL BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY
13. SILVER ISLAND MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY
14. SMITHSONIAN BUTTE NATIONAL BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY
15. TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD BACKCOUNTRY

STATE SCENIC BYWAYS
16-38. VISIT THE UTAH PROGRAM WEBSITE FOR THE COMPLETE LIST OF UTAH STATE BYWAYS

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.