

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM: VIRGINIA

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 **Virginia** General Assembly passed the State Scenic Highway and Virginia Byways Act in 1966 in response to the Virginia Outdoors Plan (officially the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan). Since the program's creation, over 3,500 miles of road have been designated. Virginia's byways include both state and national designations. The extensive byways system is managed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

KEY POINTS

- Virginia has a total of 227 scenic byways, including 5 national scenic byways and 222 state scenic byways.
- 67% of residents said they enjoyed driving as a way to connect with nature, according to the 2018 Virginia Outdoor Plan.
- The Blue Ridge Parkway, much of which is in Virginia, drew 14.7 million visitors spending \$1.1 billion in local gateway regions, supporting 15,900 local jobs, according to a 2018 NPS study.

227

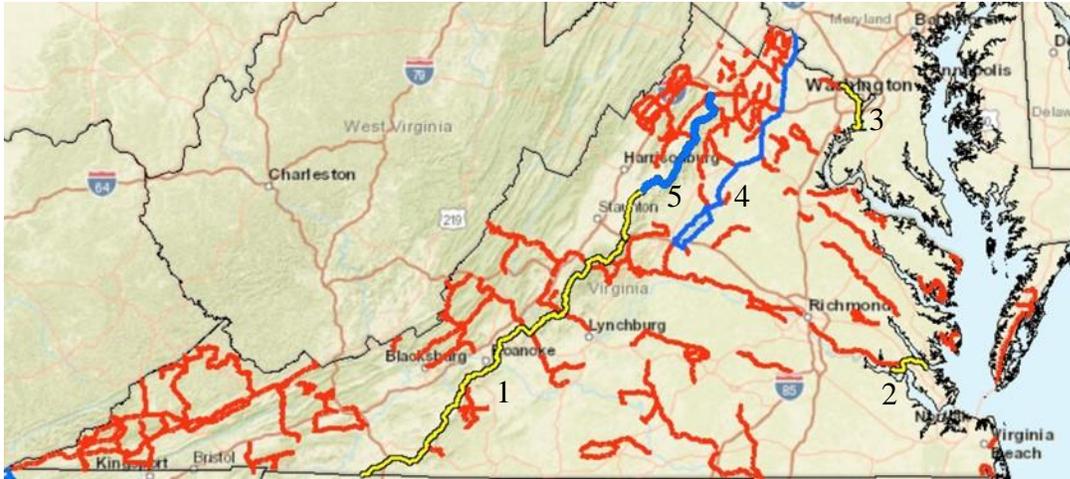
VIRGINIA IS HOME TO
227 SCENIC BYWAYS



VIRGINIA TRAVEL INDUSTRY FACTS

- > SUPPORTS 237,000 JOBS,
TOTALLING \$6.4 BILLION IN
PAYROLL INCOME
- > GENERATED \$1.8 BILLION IN
STATE AND LOCAL REVENUE

Images: Skyline Drive (top), Blue Ridge
Parkway (right column)



SCENIC BYWAYS IN VIRGINIA

ALL-AMERICAN ROADS



1. BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY
2. COLONIAL PARKWAY
3. GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY

STATE SCENIC BYWAYS



FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION ON VIRGINIA'S 222 STATE BYWAYS, VISIT THE [VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PAGE](#)

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS



4. JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND BYWAY
5. SKYLINE DRIVE



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

- > 1 NATIONAL PARK
- > 24 STATE PARKS
- > 3 NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS
- > 2 NATIONAL FORESTS
- > 2 NATIONAL MONUMENTS



Images: Shenandoah National Park from Skyline Drive (top right) Journey Through Hallowed Ground Byway credit: [National Archives](#) (bottom right)

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.