



National Scenic Byways Program: ARKANSAS

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.

Arkansas established a state scenic byways program with the designation of the Scenic 7 Byway in 1993. From Civil War battlefields, regional wildlife habitats, and charming towns, Arkansas' scenic byways display the state's visual and cultural beauty. Arkansas is home to 11 scenic byways, three of which are federally designated, including the Great River Road, an All-American Road. The Great River Road was established as a parkway alongside the Mississippi River and stretches 362 miles through Arkansas. Travelers can experience the impressive natural landscape while better understanding the Mississippi River's role in shaping the nation.

Key Points

- Arkansas boasts 11 scenic byways, including three national scenic byways and eight state scenic byways.
- Travel and tourism are the second largest industry in Arkansas and a [2019 report](#) shows that travel generated \$1.42 billion in payroll, supporting 68,955 jobs.
- The same report identifies roadways and the physical beauty of the state as some of the key drivers for the success of the industry.

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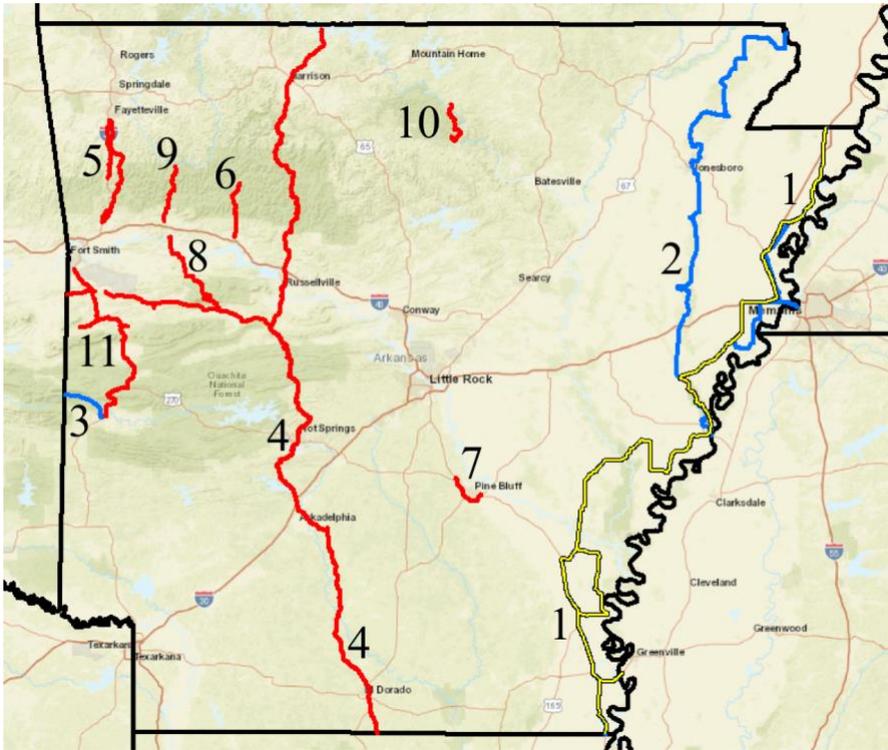
Arkansas is home to
11 scenic byways.



Arkansas Travel Industry Facts

- > Directly supports 69,000 jobs.
- > Nearly \$600 million in state and local tax revenue.

Images: Mount Magazine Scenic Byway (top), Arkansas Scenic 7 Byway (bottom)



Arkansas byways provide access to the state's most spectacular lands, including:

- > 1 National Park
- > 36 State Parks
- > 3 National Historic Sites
- > 3 National Forests
- > 1 National Recreational Trail

Scenic Byways in Arkansas

ALL-AMERICAN ROADS

1. GREAT RIVER ROAD

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS

2. CROWLEY'S RIDGE PARKWAY
3. TALIMENA SCENIC DRIVE

STATE SCENIC BYWAYS

4. ARKANSAS SCENIC 7 BYWAY
5. BOSTON MOUNTAINS SCENIC LOOP
6. OZARK HIGHLANDS SCENIC BYWAY
7. INTERSTATE 530
8. MOUNT MAGAZINE SCENIC BYWAY
9. PIG TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY
10. SYLAMORE SCENIC BYWAY
11. WEST-NORTHWEST SCENIC BYWAY



Images: Talimena Scenic Drive (top right), Great River Road (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.



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