



# National Scenic Byways Program: CALIFORNIA

## 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 California Scenic Highway Program, established by state legislature in 1963 under the Streets and Highways Code Section 260, seeks to protect and enhance California's natural beauty and scenic resources. The law enables the California state legislature to determine which state routes are eligible for designation as a scenic highway, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) works alongside local governments to adopt the scenic designation. California's diverse geography encourages tourism in a wide variety of communities, strengthening local economies and showcasing the state's natural and historic appeal.

## Key Points

- California is home to 63 scenic byways, including eight national scenic byways and 55 state and other scenic byways.
- National parks, enjoyed via byways like the Death Valley Scenic Byway and Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road (Yosemite), generated \$4.3 billion in economic output in 2019 for gateway communities.
- The Silver Strand Highway and San Diego-Coronado Bridge runs along the Southern-most tip of the country; tourism in San Diego alone employs over 194,000 people with visitor spending reaching \$11.6 billion annually.

63

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63 scenic byways.



## California Industry Travel Facts

- > Direct visitor spending totaled \$145 billion
- > Directly supported 1.2 million jobs.

Images: Big Sur Highway 1 (top), Tioga Road/Big Oak Flat Road (right column)



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

- > 9 National Parks
- > 109 State Parks
- > 6 National Recreational Trails
- > 19 National Forests
- > 5 National Monuments

## Scenic Byways in California

### ALL-AMERICAN ROADS

1. BIG SUR COAST HIGHWAY - ROUTE 1
2. SAN LUIS OBISPO NORTH COAST SCENIC BYWAY
3. VOLCANIC LEGACY SCENIC BYWAY

### NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS

4. ARROYO SECO HISTORIC PARKWAY - ROUTE 110
5. DEATH VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY - ROUTE 190
6. EBBETTS PASS HIGHWAY
7. TIOGA ROAD/BIG OAK FLAT ROAD
8. CALIFORNIA HISTORIC ROUTE 66 NEEDLES TO BARSTOW SCENIC BYWAY

### FEDERAL AGENCY BYWAYS

9. BARREL SPRINGS BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY
10. BIGFOOT SCENIC BYWAY
11. BRADSHAW TRAIL
12. BUCKHORN BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY
13. CHIMNEY PEAK BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY
14. EMIGRANT TRAIL
15. SALINE VALLEY ROAD BACKCOUNTRY BYWAY

### STATE SCENIC BYWAYS

16-63. VISIT [THE CALTRANS WEBSITE](http://www.caltrans.gov) FOR THE COMPLETE LIST AND MAP OF CALIFORNIA STATE BYWAYS



Images: Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway (top), Chimney Peak via Chimney Peak Backcountry Byway credit: [Kalpana](https://www.kalpana.com) (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.



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