



National Scenic Byways Program: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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 District of Columbia's Byway Program was developed and administered by the District Department of Transportation and includes a variety of roads primarily located within National Park Service lands in DC. One prominent byway is Canal Road, an extension of the C&O Canal Scenic Byway which follows the Potomac River into the center of the city. The George Washington Memorial Parkway, an All-American Road, is also partially located in DC.

Key Points

- The District of Columbia is home to 1 national scenic byway and 5 district and federal agency byways.
- Pennsylvania Avenue is a primary artery in L'Enfant's 1791 Plan for the City of Washington and has become a major thoroughfare, often referred to as America's Main Street.
- In part of L'Enfant's 1791 design, the Capitol building as well as the White House are on a sight line via Pennsylvania Avenue.

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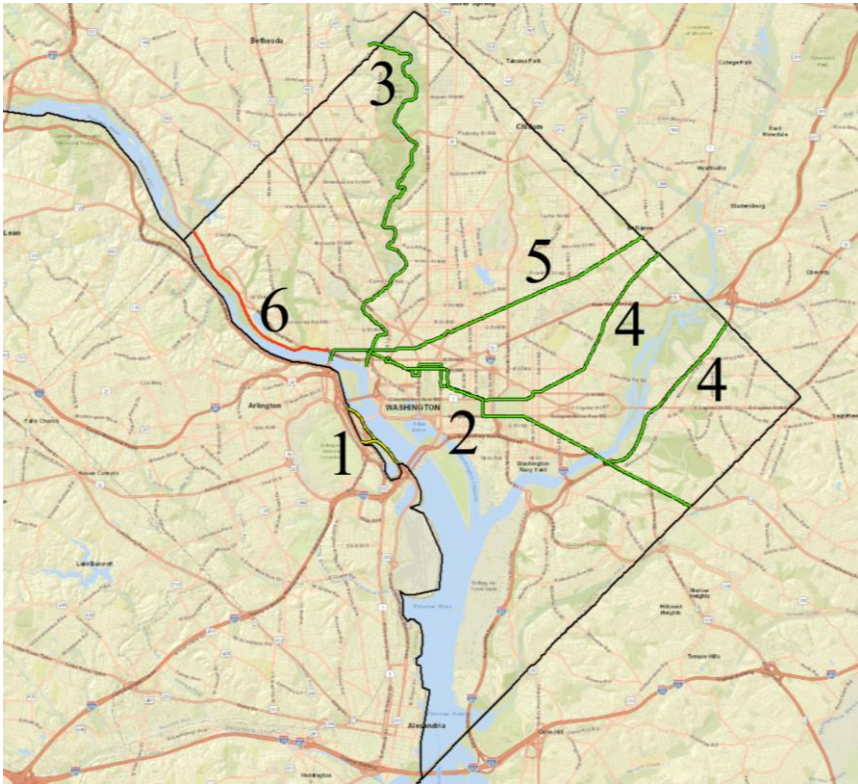
DC is home to
6 scenic byways.



DC Travel Industry Facts

- > Supported 78,266 jobs totaling \$4.5 billion in wages.
- > Generated \$1.6 billion in tax revenue, saving each household \$2,920.

Images: Tidal Basin, off the George Washington Memorial Parkway (top), Pennsylvania Avenue



DC byways provide access to the District's most spectacular public lands including:

- > 25 National Park Service Sites
- > 74 National Historic Landmarks
- > 4 National Trails
- > 652 National Register of Historic Place Listings



Images: Canal Road Byway credit: Wikimedia commons (top right), Rock Creek Park Byway credit: Travel & Leisure (bottom right)

Scenic Byways in DC

ALL-AMERICAN ROADS

1. GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY
6. CANAL ROAD SCENIC BYWAY

DISTRICT SCENIC BYWAYS

FEDERAL AGENCY BYWAYS

2. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE BYWAY
3. ROCK CREEK PARK BYWAY
4. STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
5. WASHINGTON-ROCHAMBEAU NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

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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