



**SCENIC
AMERICA**

National Scenic Byways Program: ILLINOIS

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.

Illinois boasts five national scenic byways, each of which demonstrates a unique and diverse perspective of the state. From presidential history to archeologically significant remains of an ancient civilization, Illinois' scenic byways help to preserve and promote some of the most culturally important areas in the state. Illinois is also home to two All-American Roads, the gold standard of our country's scenic byways. Local destinations along the byways are renowned for their national and international appeal.

Key Points

- Illinois is home to seven national scenic byways, including two All-American Roads.
- Anaise Berry, director of the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway, calls byways “a catalyst for local and regional economic growth.”
- Illinois has participated in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Program, to highlight local downtown historic resources and businesses near the Historic Route 66 National Scenic Byway.

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Illinois is home to
7 scenic byways.



Illinois Travel Industry Facts

- > Supports 342,000 jobs
- > Generated \$3.3 billion in state and local tax revenue, saving households over \$1,300

Images: Meeting of the Great Rivers Scenic Route (top), Great River Road credit: Wikimedia Commons (right column)



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

- > 69 State Parks
- > 6 State Forests
- > 11 State Recreation Areas
- > 1 National Forest
- > 2 National Historic Sites

Scenic Byways in Illinois

ALL-AMERICAN ROADS

1. GREAT RIVER ROAD
2. HISTORIC NATIONAL ROAD

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS

3. HISTORIC ROUTE 66
4. ILLINOIS RIVER ROAD
5. LINCOLN HIGHWAY
6. MEETING OF THE GREAT RIVERS SCENIC ROUTE
7. OHIO RIVER SCENIC BYWAY

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.



Images: Illinois River Road (top), Meeting of the Great Rivers Scenic Route (middle), Cahokia Mounds on Historic National Road credit: Wikimedia Commons (bottom)