



National Scenic Byways Program

National Scenic Byways were created by Congress under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to preserve and protect the nation's scenic but often less-traveled roads with the aim of promoting tourism and economic development. The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation and is administered by the Federal Highway Administration. The program is a grassroots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance distinctive roads throughout the United States. The U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes these roads as All-American Roads or National Scenic Byways based on one or more archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities.

America's Byways® is the umbrella term used for marketing the collection of more than 150 distinct and diverse roads designated by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. America's Byways include the National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads.

The definition of "scenic" reaches beyond breathtaking vistas. All of America's Byways® are "scenic", representing the depth and breadth of scenery in America-- natural and man-made panoramas; electrifying neon landscapes; ancient and modern history coming alive; native arts and culture; and scenes of friends, families and strangers sharing their stories. America's Byways® are gateways to adventures where no two experiences are the same.

The National Scenic Byways Program has been inactive since 2012 but remains popular with states and local communities and is an important part of the national tourism infrastructure.