

**TOUR  
US**



# National Forest Scenic Byways



**N**ational Forests and Grasslands offer a vast network of highways and roads that access the largest single adventure-travel and nature-based tourism estate in America. Recognizing this trend, USDA Forest Service initiated the development of a National Forest Scenic

## Scenic Byways, Naturally

Designated Byways provide amazing opportunities to explore the beauty, history and natural heritage of our National Forests.

Byway system in 1987. Our program has grown from these original ten byways to a system of 138 National Forest Byways, each administratively designated by the USDA Forest Service Chief.

The 1991 ISTEA highway bill created

the process for establishing a National Scenic Byways system. On May 11, 1995, the National Scenic Byways Program announced its official criteria for establishing a designation and a grants program.

Our program's goal of enhancing rural



**Panoramic view of the Grand Canyon along the Kaibab Plateau North Rim Parkway (AZ)**

community tourism has been one of the most popular aspects of byway designation among communities. The power of brand recognition and a marketing theme for sharing stories from a common destination's many gateway villages have become important catalysts for economic development and unified grassroots efforts.

### **Partnership with Federal Lands Highways**

Many National Forest Scenic Byways are also designated as “forest highways” and administered under state, county or town jurisdiction and maintenance responsibility. These highways are designated jointly with Federal Highway Administration, Forest Service and State Departments of Transportation. They are eligible for special project assistance and funding through both



DOT Federal Lands and Scenic Byways programs. Most Forest Service administered roads do not fit the criteria for FLH “forest highways” and are not eligible for these funds.

**The Jemez Mountain Trail in the Santa Fe National Forest (NM) is a designated “forest highway”**

**Program Goals**

Our goals for the National Forest Scenic Byways program are still very supportive and mirror those of the Department of Transportation 1995 criteria. They are:

- \* Showcase outstanding National Forest and Grassland scenery*
- \* Increase public understanding of National Forests as a major provider of outdoor recreation*
- \* Increase public awareness and understanding of all*



**View of mountain ridges along Talladega Scenic Drive (AL)**

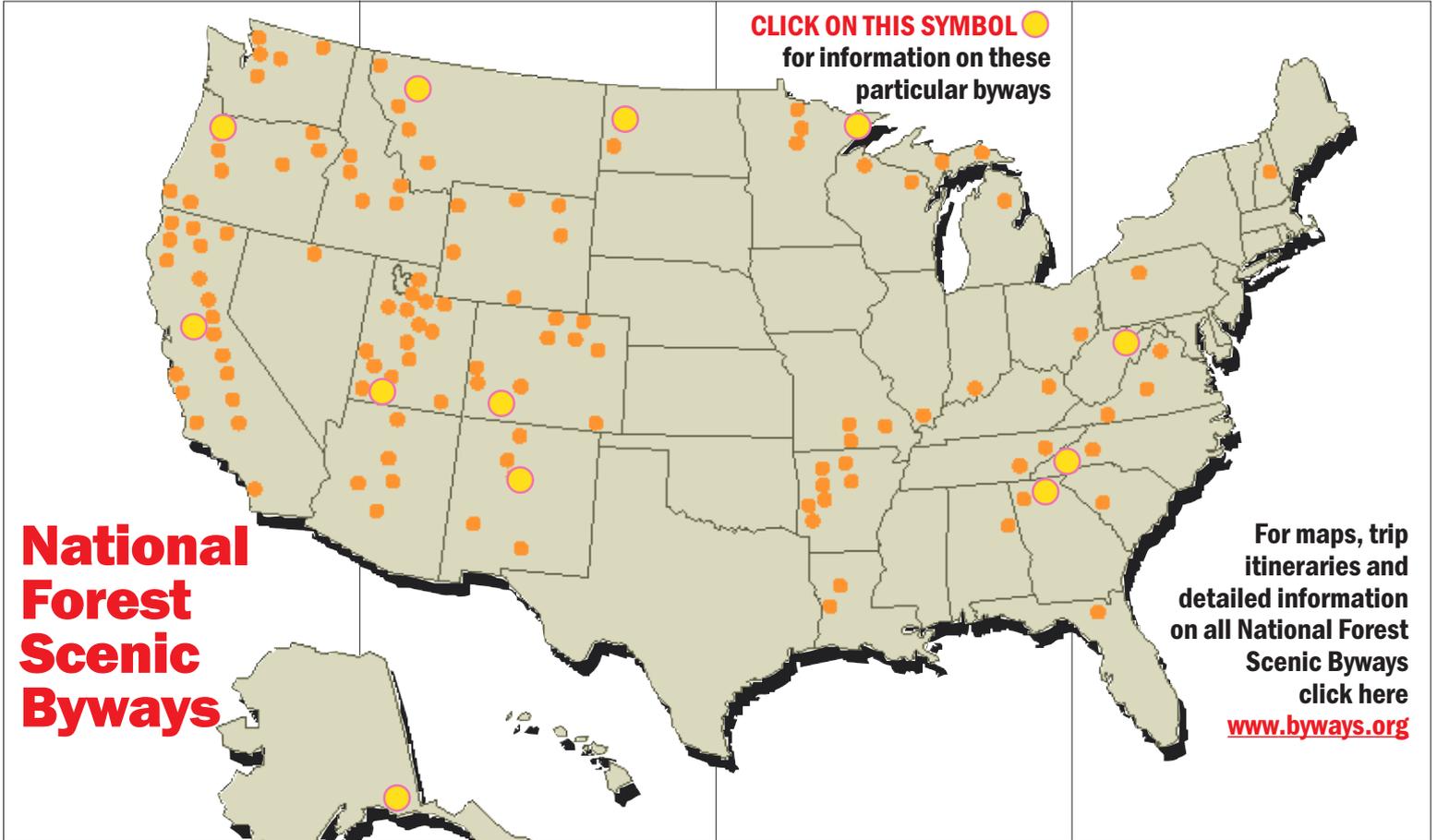
***National Forest System activities***

- \* Meet the growing demand of driving for pleasure as a significant recreation use*
- \* Increase use of National Forests by nontraditional users, including minorities and the elderly*
- \* Contribute to the nation's overall scenic byways effort*
- \* Support and enhance rural community tourism economic development*

**CLICK ON THIS SYMBOL**   
for information on these  
particular byways

# National Forest Scenic Byways

For maps, trip  
itineraries and  
detailed information  
on all National Forest  
Scenic Byways  
click here  
[www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)



# **Selected National Forest Scenic Byways**

**(listed alphabetically)**

**T**he Cherohala Skyway in Tennessee is peppered with places to stop and enjoy the view. Most of these scenic overlooks are marked with their own original stories and names. Although the scenic overlooks remain the same, a glimpse of the Cherohala Skyway can vary from day to day.

# Cherohala Skyway



**Length:** 42.95 miles / 68.7 km

**Time to Allow:** Allow 1 hour and 45 minutes to drive this Byway.

**Fees:** Fees may be charged at attractions along the way.



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**C**limbing over the Sierra's crest and through Beckworth Pass to the east, the Feather River Scenic Byway offers memorable sights such as waterfalls, gigantic rock outcroppings, forested slopes, and delicate meadows. The Byway traverses steep canyon walls and high mountain valleys, past grasslands, oak woodlands, mixed conifer, and high desert chaparral. Wintertime offers fantastic skiing and snowmobiling.



# Feather River Scenic Byway



**Length:** 130 miles / 208.0 km

**Time to Allow:** 3 ½ hours

**Fees:** There are no fees to drive the byway itself.

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**T**ravel through a wild and undeveloped portion of the Monongahela National Forest on the Highland Scenic Highway in West Virginia. When you stop at any of the four scenic overlooks along the Byway, you will see rolling, mountainous terrain covered by hardwood forests and capped by dark spruce at higher elevations. This view is one you won't want to miss, especially during the fall season when the mountains are ablaze with color.

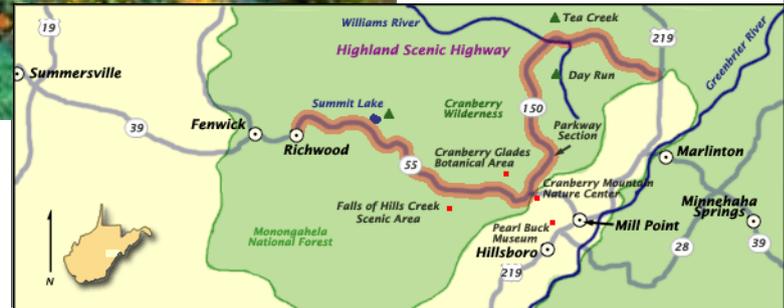
# Highland Scenic Highway



**Length:** 43 miles / 68.8 km

**Time to Allow:** Allow 2 to 4 hours to tour this Byway.

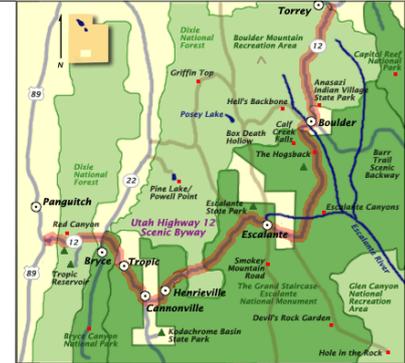
**Fees:** There are no fees for driving the Byway. Fees for campground use vary by site.



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**A** kaleidoscope of color and a national gem at each end - Highway 12 is a showcase of sandstone sculpted by nature where people have lived and explored for thousands of years. Drive this Byway connecting Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef National Parks, and you will soon see that you are on no mere transportation route — the views and stops along the way are just as enthralling as the two stunning Parks at each end.

# Highway 12 - Journey Through Time Scenic Byway



**Length:** 124 miles / 198.4 km

**Time to Allow:** At least one day due to steep grades, switchbacks, and scenic stops. Two to three days strongly recommended to even *start* to enjoy this Byway!

**Fees:** Fees at campgrounds and parks along the way.

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**D**iscover the highest concentration of snowcapped volcanoes in the lower 48 states on the McKenzie Pass-Santiam Pass Scenic Byway! Enjoy the breathtaking sight of Broken Top Mountain and the Three Sisters, along with their waterfalls, towering gloriously above the route. Ancient lava fields lying next to calm, clear lakes, will provide you with a gentle reminder of the area's violent beginning. This area really illustrates how the Cascade Range was built.

# McKenzie Pass - Santiam Pass Scenic Byway



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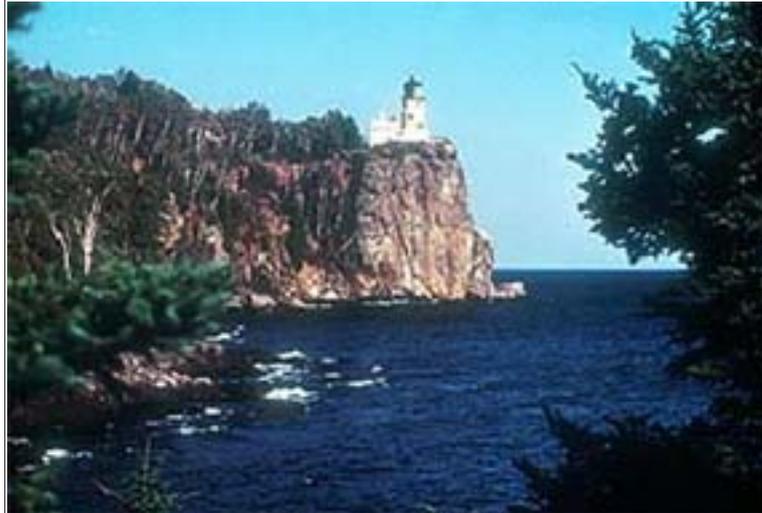
**Length:** 82 miles / 131.2 km

**Time to Allow:** Allow 3 to 5 hours, including time to stop at overlooks.

**Fees:** Parking passes can be purchased from the ranger station, allowing you to park and hike the trails along this Byway

**T**he North Shore of Minnesota has what no other place in the Midwest can offer - an inland sea, a mountain backdrop, an unspoiled wilderness, and a unique feeling all its own. Enjoy the natural treasures of eight state parks and the Superior National Forest The beautiful trails of the parks and the 200 mile Superior Hiking Trail offer unlimited opportunities to experience this magnificent landscape.

# North Shore Scenic Drive



**Length:** 154 miles / 246.4 km

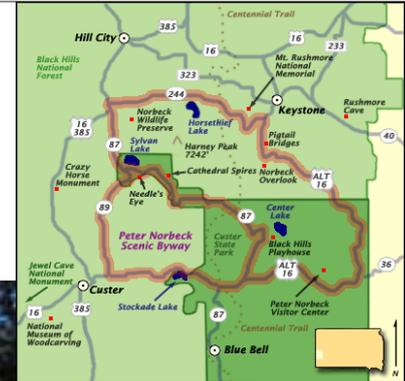
**Time to Allow:** Take a day to enjoy this shoreline drive.

**Fees:** There are no fees along the Byway itself. Charges may apply at various points of interest.

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**S**ee the rugged beauty of the Black Hills by traveling this Byway. You will circle through the Black Hills National Park and Custer State Park, taking in the gorgeous forested mountainside. Don't forget to visit Mount Rushmore, one of the most intriguing attractions in the country. The pristine beauty of the pine-clad mountains of the Black Hills National Forest with their dramatic granite pinnacles will be sure to inspire you.

## Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway



**Length:** 68 miles / 108.8 km

**Time to Allow:** Allow for 2 to 4 hours up to 1 day to tour this Byway.

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**C**ool in the summer, mild in the winter, lose yourself in its luscious timberland. Linger atop Brasstown Bald (Georgia's tallest mountain) to absorb all 360-degrees of rolling highlands. Escape the crowds and retire to the cooling mists of the Byway's numerous waterfalls. Sparkling waterfalls and secluded valley views are just a short stroll from the main road. The average weekend hiker could spend years exploring these trails and never retrace a step.

# Russell - Brasstown Scenic Byway



**Length:** 40.64 miles / 65.0 km

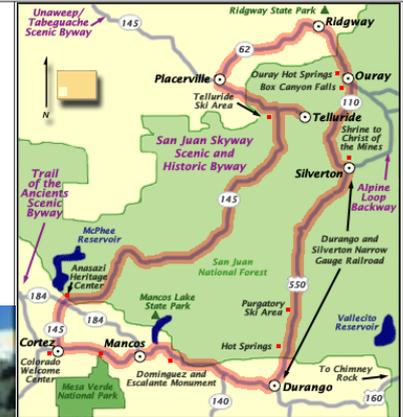
**Time to Allow:** Allow at least 3 hours.

**Fees:** No fees are required to drive the Byway.

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**D**iscover history and high times in the streets, gold mines, and railway stations of towns like Durango, Silverton, and Telluride. Enjoy rafting and water sports on the Animas River, or fish and boat on McPhee Lake, the second largest lake in Colorado. The Skyway is your open invitation to five million acres of the San Juan and Uncompahgre National Forests. Enjoy it all on this 236-mile sampler of the best the southwest has to offer.

## San Juan Skyway



**Length:** 233 miles / 372.8 km

**Time to Allow:** You'll want to give yourself 1 or 2 days to see everything this Byway has to offer.

**Fees:** There are no fees for driving the Byway. However, there are park entrance fees, area use fees, and fees for attractions along the Byway.

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**W**hether you drive for pleasure or you fish, hunt, backpack, camp, or ski, the Seward Highway can take you there. And it's all against the backdrop of spruce forests, wildflowers, and extraordinary wildlife. The Highway has been recognized for its natural beauty as a designated All-American Road. This is your invitation to touch Alaska in all of its splendor — along the Seward Scenic Highway.

# Seward Highway



**Length:** 127 miles / 203.2 km

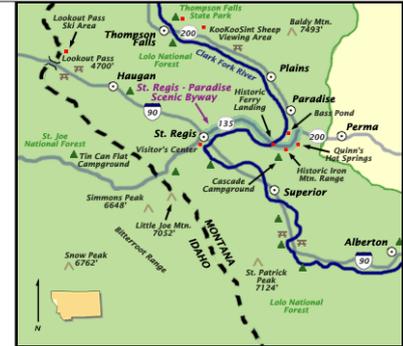
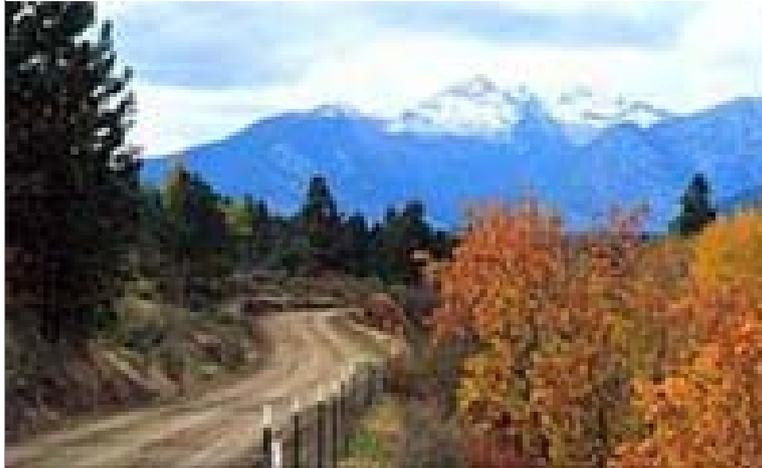
**Time to Allow:** At posted speeds with minimal stops, allow 2.5 hours (one way). As a leisure driver with one or two stops at visitor sites, allow 5-8 hours (one way).

**Fees:** Some attractions may charge fees.

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**O**riginally a trail which followed the Clark Fork River between St. Regis and Paradise, the St. Regis - Paradise National Forest Scenic Byway lies within the Lolo National Forest. This scenic route takes motorists through spacious, rolling flats to steep canyon walls where it winds through the Coeur d'Alene Mountains. With the spectacular scenery, plentiful wildlife, and many recreational opportunities the byway is a destination unto itself.

# St. Regis - Paradise Scenic Byway



**Length:** 30 miles / 48.0 km

**Time to Allow:** Allow at least 1 hour to tour this byway.

**Fees:** The Forest Service campground is \$6 per night, no other fees apply.

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**V**enture onto the Turquoise Trail, a “back road” to glorious scenery and great discovery. See central New Mexico laid out before you from your bird’s-eye view atop Sandia Crest, the magnificent summit of the Sandia Mountains on the Cibola National Forest. Drive back into history or revel in modern-day artistry in the old mining towns of Golden, Madrid, and Cerrillos — once “ghost” towns, but now coming alive with arts, crafts, theater.

# Turquoise Trail



**Length:** 61.2 miles / 97.9 km

**Time to Allow:** Allow at least 3 hours to tour this Byway.

**Fees:** There are fees associated with special features (such as ski areas, etc.)

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