

# Savannah River Scenic Byway

The Savannah River Scenic Byway affords scenic views, glimpses of life in the rural South and opportunities to experience southern hospitality. Whether receiving a casual lesson on barbecue traditions, fishing tips or stories about the state's role in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, you'll feel welcome.



Length: 110 miles / 176.0 km  
Time to Allow: 3 hours to enjoy the byway.

## Local Information

South Carolina Dept. of Parks,  
Recreation & Tourism  
803-734-1700

## Visitor Services

### Fees



There are no fees along the byway proper.

### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Facilities to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians exist along many segments of the route. However, shoulder widths and bridge widths are inadequate to safely accommodate bicyclists along many sections. Parsons Mountain, located south of Abbeville, has an extensive network of hiking and biking trails, a 26-mile horse trail, and a 24-mile motorcycle trail. The Ninety Six National Historic Site, an area of unique historical significance, has a few hiking trails, and the several State Parks also have hiking trails. The Long Cane Ranger District of the Forest Service also maintains the 20-mile Turkey-Creek/Stevens-Creek hiking and biking trail, and also the 1.7-mile Lick Fork Trail in the Sumter National Forest.

### Camping



There are places to camp along this byway.

### Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.

### Gasoline



Gasoline is available.



### **Information**

The Lake Thurmond Visitors Center and the McCormick Visitors Center offer a wealth of information for traveling the Byway. Thanks to special directional signs, guides, and maps, it is easy to find your way to special places along the byway.



### **Lodging**

There is overnight lodging along this byway.



### **Retail**

There are places to shop along this byway.

## **Special Considerations**

Lane widths and highway designs do not present problems for motor vehicles with standard clearances.

## **Restrictions**

There are no regular or seasonal road closings due to snowfall or flooding.

## **Seasons**

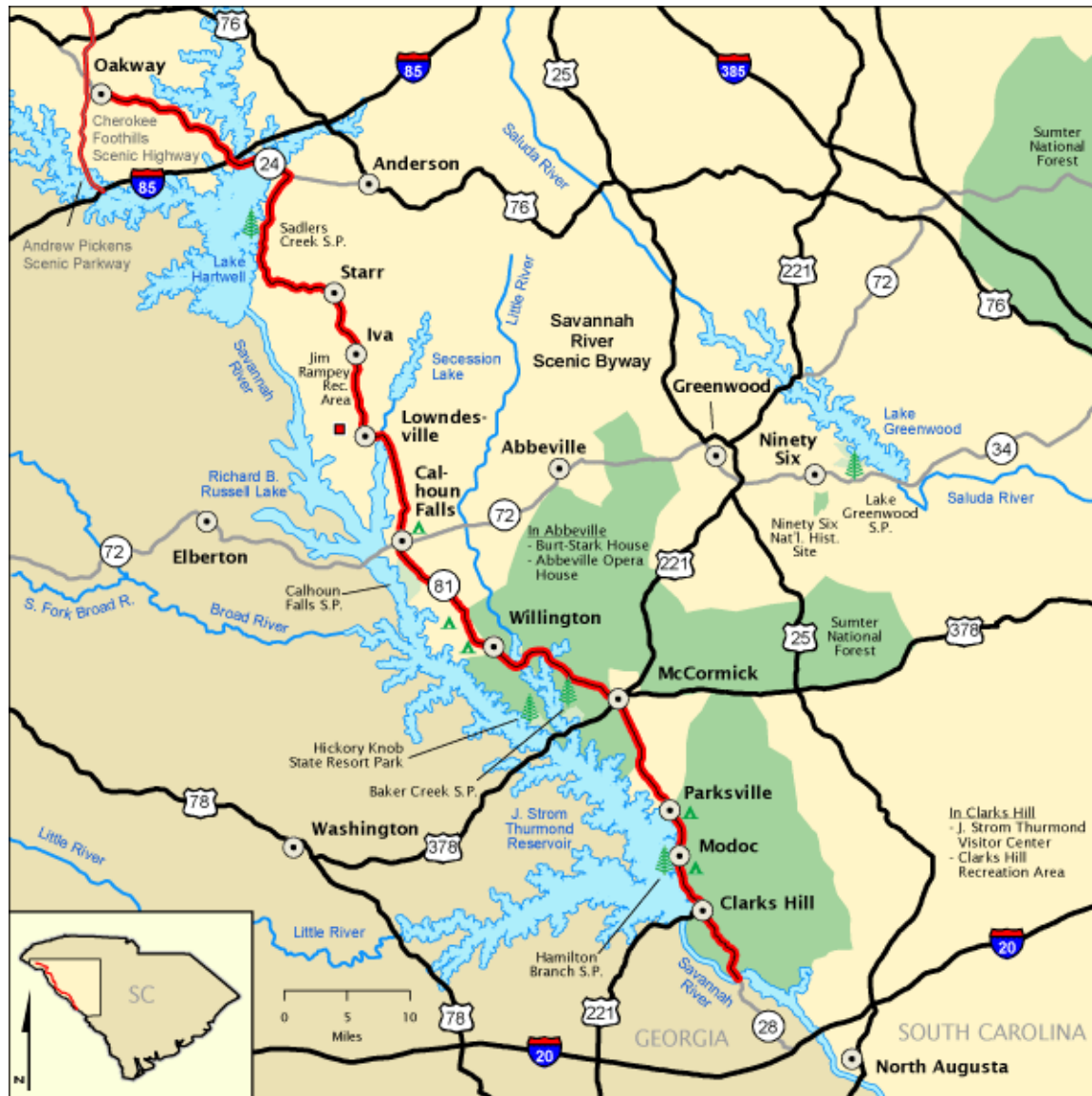
### **Best Time to Drive**

Spring brings blushing peach orchards on soft, new-green hills; with summer comes fragrant fruit, glorious flower gardens and deep shade; fall paints bright, bold strokes over thousands of acres of wooded area.

### **High Season**

Spring and Summer

# Map and Directions



## Legend:

Point of Interest	Campground	Featured Byway	Water	State Border
Park	Picnic/Rest Area	America's Byways	Wildlife Refuge	Urban Area
Mountain	Interstate	Other Byway	Wilderness Area	Tribal Nation
City	U.S. Highway	Other Road	Other Federal Lands	Military Base
Capital	State Highway	Trail	Other State Lands	

## Driving Directions

- Take SC-28 north from the South Carolina/Georgia border, where the byway begins.

- Continue on SC 28 for 33 miles through Clarks Hill, Modoc, Parksville, Plum Branch, and McCormick.
- At McCormick, take SC-81 and continue for 42 miles to SC-412/Rainey Road in Starr.
- Drive west to SC-187 and travel north for 10 miles until you reach SC-24.
- Take SC-24 west/northwest for 20 miles as you pass through Townville and Tokeena.
- The byway ends in Oakway at the intersection of SC-24 and the Cherokee Foothills Scenic Byway (SC-11).

### **Getting to the Byway**

#### **From Greenville, SC to Savannah River Scenic Byway**

- Take I-185 south to I-85.
- Get on I-85 and go southwest to SC-24 just past Anderson, where the byway begins.

#### **From Augusta, GA to Savannah River Scenic Byway**

- Take GA-28 northwest across the Savannah River where the byway begins.

## Road Trip: Touring the Savannah River Scenic Byway

**Departure:** Clarks Hill Recreation Area, South Carolina

**Destination:** Abbeville, South Carolina

**Time to allow:** 1 day

Take a trip along the pathway of the Savannah River, stopping in the beautiful hills and towns of South Carolina.

### Day 1

- **Start: Clarks Hill Recreation Area**

Pack a lunch, bring your swimsuit, or just grab a frisbee for some fun at Clarks Hill Recreation Area.



- **Stop 1: J. Strom Thurmond Visitor Center**



**From previous stop:** 5 minutes / 2 mi (3.2 km)

**Directions:** From the visitor center follow US 221 for approximately 2 miles and the park is located on the left.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 45 minutes

Learn about the history of the reservoir and listen to the distinctive sounds of local birds at the J. Strom Thurmond Visitor Center. Interactive displays will teach you what the lake is all about.

- **Stop 2: Hamilton Branch State Park**



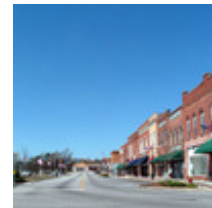
**From previous stop:** 11 minutes / 8.07 mi (12.9 km)

**Directions:** Go northeast on US-221 for 1.7 miles before turning left onto SC-28. After 6.3 miles, end at Hamilton Branch State Park.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 2 hours

At Hamilton Branch State Park, you can hike along wooded trail to view a variety of animals or take your fishing pole or boat to the Strom Thurmond Lake to enjoy a day on the water.

- **Stop 3: McCormick**



**From previous stop:** 19 minutes / 12.53 mi (20.0 km)

**Directions:** Drive northwest on SC-28 for 12.3 miles, take a right onto US-22 and then a left onto N. Pine St. to end at McCormick.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 4 hours

Visit the historic town of McCormick, built on gold mine tunnels and maintaining the flavor of the past. Along with the historic McCormick Depot, walk along the street to take in the hotels that have been standing since the turn of the 20th century. Get a bite at the McCormick Hotel, and Storm's Drug Store on Main Street still offers fountain cokes, ice cream and shakes as it has for decades.

- **Stop 4: Baker Creek State Park**

**From previous stop:** 6 minutes / 3.93 mi (6.3 km)

**stop:**

**Directions:** Drive southeast on N. Pine St, then make a right onto US-221. After 3.9 miles, end at Baker Creek State Park.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 45 minutes

Situated in a heavily wooded area with rolling terrain, enjoy a wide range of camping and fishing opportunities; a 10-mile mountain biking trail and a lake front pavilion to enjoy the unequalled views of the Piedmont forest and the wildlife residing within.

- **Stop 5: Willington**



**From previous stop:** 22 minutes / 11.4 mi (18.2 km)

**stop:**

**Directions:** Drive southwest on US-378, then turn right onto SC-7; drive for 6.6 miles before making a left onto SC-81. After 2.6 miles, turn right onto SC-S-33-30 to end at Willington.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 20 minutes

**time at this stop:**

Visit what was once the home of the Willington Academy, established by the famous educator Moses Waddel and get a taste of history of the Old South.

- **Stop 6: Calhoun Falls State Park**



**From previous stop:** 27 minutes / 13.93 mi (22.3 km)

**Directions:** Drive south on SC-S-33-39, then make a right onto SC-81. After 13.2 miles, turn left onto Calhoun Falls State Park Rd, then make a right onto Maintenance Shop Rd. to end at Calhoun Falls State Park.

**Suggested time at this stop:** 45 minutes

Visit Calhoun Falls State Park, located on Lake Russell and one of South Carolina's most popular fishing lakes. Enjoy a day of fishing, water skiing, sailing or power boating.

- **End: Abbeville**



**From previous stop:** 25 minutes / 17.08 mi (27.3 km)

**Directions:** Drive southwest on Maintenance Shop Rd before turning left onto Calhoun Falls State, then right onto Calhoun St. After 1.1 miles, turn left onto SC-7; turn right to stay on the road. After 14.7 miles, turn left on S. Main St, then take a left onto Washington St. to end at Abbeville.

The town of Abbeville is the perfect place for antique hounds and history buffs, with the Burt-Stark Mansion, dozens of antique shops, boutiques, historic churches and cafes.

### **Totals for Day 1**

**Total Distance Traveled:** 68.94 miles / 110.3 km

**Total Travel Time:** 1 hour 55 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 8 hours 35 minutes