

HISTORY

Moray is an historic County and Lieutenancy area bordering the counties of Nairn to the west, Inverness to the south and Banffshire to east. The name "Moray" is from Gaelic or Pictish, and means "among the seaboard men". Traces of the Picts in Moray can be viewed by the sea at Burghead, the Sculptor's Cave at Covesea and Sueno's stone near Forres.

Thomas Randolph, the 1st Earl of Moray, was a nephew of King Robert Bruce and played a key role in the victory at Bannockburn in 1314. The title became dormant, but Mary Queen of Scots re-created it for her half-brother, James Stewart (changed to Stuart in the 17th century), who became Earl of Moray in 1562.

The Royal links continue today as King Charles and his brothers attended Gordonstoun School, near Duffus.

LANDSCAPE

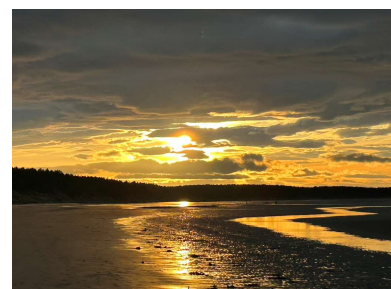


Moray has two ancient Royal Burghs, Elgin and Forres, and many distinct communities from Rothes to Findhorn, Lossiemouth to Fochabers.

The County is renowned for its beautiful and verdant scenery, rich farmlands, hills, woods and flowering meadows. The rugged coastline is spectacular with wide sandy beaches, bays, prominent sand dunes and dramatic rock formations. Moray's sunsets and colour strewn skies are dazzling, with the Northern Lights seen from home, hills and shores.

Two significant rivers, the Spey and Findhorn, along with the smaller Lossie, flow impressively through the area.

Moray's 'micro climate' supports an amazing range of wildlife, including grouse, owls, osprey, eagles, geese, swans, sea ducks, dolphins, seals, deer, pine martin, red squirrels and salmon and trout.



LANDMARKS

Elgin Cathedral was built in 1224. The Cathedral was burnt down by 'The Wolf of Badenoch' in 1530 who then escaped to his home on Lochindorb. Ruined Kinloss Abbey nestles close to the sea. Benedictine monks reside at beautiful Pluscarden Abbey, its chapel and grounds are open to the

public. Spynie Palace, Brodie, Darnaway and Gordon Castles, and Innes House mark the territory of families with a long history in Moray. The Findhorn Foundation has singled out Moray as a retreat.

INDUSTRY

Farming and Forestry are prominent industries throughout the County. Moray is home to one half of Scotland's malt whisky distilleries (Spirit of Speyside) and famous names in Scotland's food and drink industries: Walkers, Baxter's, Diageo, Gordon and MacPhail. Johnstons of Elgin is an international wool/cashmere brand. Innovative industries abound: AJ Engineering, AES Solar, Forsyth's whisky stills, Hendry Hydraulics and Orbex rockets. A high number of social enterprises, such as ReBoot, are active in Moray.



MILITARY

Moray is proud of its historic associations with the Seaforth Highlanders and the Queen's Own Highlanders, and today with RAF Lossiemouth and 39 Engineer Regiment based at Kinloss.

SPORT/CULTURE

A wide variety of sporting activities enrich Moray: golf, fishing, football, curling, mountain biking, tennis, water sports, swimming, gymnastics and running clubs. Culture enriches Moray with a host of choirs and bands, theatre groups, and arts and music festivals.

COMMUNITY

There is an amazing community spirit in Moray, with community cooperation highlighted during the Covid Pandemic. Moray charities thrive on local generosity. The people of Moray have a great pride in their area.

MORAY COUNCIL CREST

Granted to Moray Council by the Lord Lyon in 1927, with the motto 'Sub Spe' (In Hope), a pun on the River Spey.

