

# Moray

**Nestling between the rich farmlands of Aberdeenshire and the mountains and glens of the Highlands, Moray is one of Scotland's smallest regions, but it's a veritable giant when it comes to business.**

## Made in Moray

Food and drink made in Moray is exported across the world. Industry leaders such as Associated Seafoods, the Baxters Food Group and Walkers shortbread are located in Moray as well as over half the distilleries in Scotland including many world-famous brands such as Macallan, Benromach, Cardhu and Glenlivet. Indeed, it is estimated that over thirty million litres of whisky travel south down the A95 every year, making Moray a major contributor to Scotland's food exports and the UK's tax revenues.



New Macallan Distillery, Ian Bevan Magnum Photos

But Moray is not just a centre for food and drink. Cashmere and fine woollens specialist Johnstons of Elgin established in 1797 and major construction firms such as Robertson Group and Springfield Homes, as well as the internationally renowned engineering firm Forsyth Group, have their roots in Moray.

Whilst the products made in Moray are exported across the world, it's generally been true to say that when the company starts in Moray it usually stays in Moray. So what is it about Moray that makes successful businesses want to stay?

## Employed in Moray

Moray offers a well-educated, skilled workforce with a great reputation for customer service, as well as low staff turnover and high retention rates. The area has access to an even wider labour pool as there are 236,000 people within a one hour drive of the area's capital Elgin. Over 85% of its working age population are in employment, 5% higher than the Scottish average.

Workers in Moray are more likely to have a skill than those in Scotland as a whole. Moray College, a key partner in the University of the Highlands and Islands, has over 6,000 enrolled students who study a range of degree and postgraduate courses.

There has been a Ministry of Defence base in Moray for over 70 years. RAF Lossiemouth is the home of the RAF's fast-jet Typhoons and the UK Tornado aircrew training school and is soon to be the UK base for the new fleet of P8 surveillance aircraft. Fifteen miles along the coast, Kinloss Barracks is the base for 39 Engineer Regiment. The close affinity of the armed services provides a highly-skilled labour base, particularly in electrical and mechanical engineering disciplines when servicemen look for local employment upon leaving the services.



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The strengths of engineering and the ongoing strategy to diversify and apply the benefits of the oil and gas industry around Scotland put Moray in a prime position as a great place to invest.

## Backing Moray

Whilst Moray is proud of its existing industries, like all regions it needs to invest in the future. The Moray Economic Partnership set up in Moray in 2011 has a remit to do precisely that. The partnership maximises the combined strengths of its business community and the public sector including Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Moray Council.



Their stated purpose is to deliver the four main targets for the Moray Economic Strategy, namely; grow Moray's population, attract young people from 16-25 to stay in the region, create jobs and increase average earnings.

Speyside is leading the way when it comes to investment in the Scotch whisky industry, with almost a quarter of a billion pounds spent or pledged in the last five years making the distilleries in Moray some of the most modern production facilities in the world.

The public sector is also investing heavily, in the area with £170 million spent in Moray on flood alleviation schemes and on schools. October 2017 saw the opening of the £28.8million new Elgin High School which follows a £30 million replacement building for Elgin Academy in 2012 and £10 million for a replacement Keith primary school.

The Enterprise Park Forres is home to a mix of diverse businesses across a range of sectors. The park provides a thriving environment with a unique range of high quality units, land development opportunities and an on-site business and innovation centre. In 2012 Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) invested a further £10 million to accelerate the building of facilities and infrastructure at the Forres Enterprise Park to meet the needs of investors and ambitious businesses who want to grow in Moray. In 2018 with £1.5 million invested by HIE work began on the roads infrastructure for Elgin Business Park.

## Make it Moray

Even small businesses get to prosper around 300 new businesses got off the ground each year. In the year to March 2018, 128 with support from the local Business Gateway.

The Alexander Graham Bell Centre, located at Moray College UHI is a research, education and business hub designed to bring together expertise in Digital Healthcare and Life Sciences within Moray and across Scotland. The £6.5million project is an alliance between Moray College UHI, Moray's healthcare provider NHS Grampian, and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Building on Moray's long history as an engineering and fabrication base for the oil and gas and distillation industries, combined with its proximity to the proposed offshore wind projects in the Moray Firth, Buckie Harbour is suitable for a wide range of uses for cargo handling, manufacturing, fabrication, shipbuilding and repair.



Buckie Harbour

## Location

Inverness Airport is only 35 minutes away and Aberdeen Airport is a leisurely 90-minute drive. Moray has better air connections than most UK locations with 138 flights per week, including 35 flights to London airports and a daily connection into the international hub of Amsterdam. Every major UK city can be reached within a day.



Forres Enterprise Park

## VisitMoray

Home to the real Macbeth, Moray Speyside Tourism actively promotes its coast, its many cycle ways and its rich larder. The area is also boosted by a number of popular festivals and events held over the year such as the Speyside Whisky Festival, the Gordon Castle Highland Games and the Keith Show. The creative arts are showcased by the Findhorn Bay Arts Festival, the Speyfest traditional music event and many other live performances across the region.

And if the above has not persuaded you to come and discover Moray for yourself, maybe this just might:-

- Moray is home to 18 golf courses including one with the highest tee in Scotland.
- Its 35 miles of golden sandy beaches are in the top 12 most beautiful and unspoiled in the world, as voted by National Geographic
- We enjoy one of the sunniest and driest regions in the United Kingdom
- We're possibly the only region in the UK where you can ski and surf on the same day.

## Land & Property Contacts

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## The Moray Economic Partnership

The partnership maximises the strengths from its business community, the public sector and the wider Moray community. The members are displayed at the bottom of this page.

Photo below: Macbeth the Remix  
© Paul Campbell, Findhorn Bay Arts



River Spey

