

The Scottish Highlands and The Great Glen

World-famous Loch Ness is located in the Scottish Highlands.

Originally, the Highlands was a predominantly Gaelic-speaking region of Scotland and home to a tribal system known as Clans.

This was the system the British Government wanted to destroy after the defeat of the Jacobites in 1746, on the field of Culloden, just outside Inverness. The Jacobites wanted to restore the Stuart royal family to the throne of Great Britain, and found many of their supporters within the Clan system and elsewhere.

Following the defeat at Culloden, the Highland Clans were banned from wearing the kilt, tartan, speaking Gaelic or bearing arms - unless part of a British Army Highland regiment, such as the Black Watch. In the 19th century, the world's fascination with the region was rejuvenated thanks to royal and literary figures, who promoted the Highlands through praise of its landscape, romance, battles, myths and legends.

Today, the Highlands and Islands is a highly sought after location

to live, work, play and visit. Close to half a million people call it their home and it's easy to see why.

Unemployment rates are lower than the Scottish average whilst school attainment is above the national average. Tourism, agriculture, forestry, fishing and construction are major employers and the public sector accounts for around one in three jobs. Life sciences, energy and the creative industries also add diversity, opportunity and value to the area.

Cutting through the Highlands, from the west coast of Scotland to the east, is The Great Glen. Also known as 'Gleann Mor', it is a series of glens (or valleys) stretching 62 miles (100km), following a geological fault line created by glaciers during the last Ice Age.

The Great Glen is an area of outstanding natural beauty, rich with wildlife, flora and fauna. It is also renowned for very mild seismic activity and it is not uncommon to hear of a report of an earth tremor. The deep dark waters of Loch Ness make up just over a third of the Great Glen.

