

The Gathering 2009 – be a part of history!

The Gathering 2009 is one of the biggest events happening in Scotland next year, as part of Homecoming Scotland 2009. This one-off event is set to be the world's greatest international clan gathering and largest Highland Games ever held in this country. Thousands of Scots and their descendants will join together in Edinburgh on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 July 2009 to celebrate the nation's rich heritage and culture.

The capital's Holyrood Park will provide the perfect setting for the Highland Games, where the top "heavy" athletes will compete in the Deuchars World Highland Games Heavy Events Championship. There will be a Highland dancing competition, hill race and kilted run, traditional music and a solo piping contest.

There will also be an opportunity to enjoy a Flavour of Scotland, with top quality textiles, arts and crafts, and food and drink on offer. The Clan Village will give visitors an opportunity to meet the Chiefs, find out more about their roots in the genealogy zone, and learn more about Scotland through traditional storytelling.

The centrepiece of the weekend is an unprecedented international Clan Parade when around 5000 people from 140 clans, together with pipe bands, will march from the Palace of Holyroodhouse along the historic Royal Mile to a spectacular Historic Pageant on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, where the dramatic story of Scotland's history will unfold.

To be a part of history, you can buy a "passport" which gives you a place in the clan parade, a seat for the historic pageant and entry to both days of the Highland games. Tickets for the Highland Games are also available from www.thegathering2009.com