

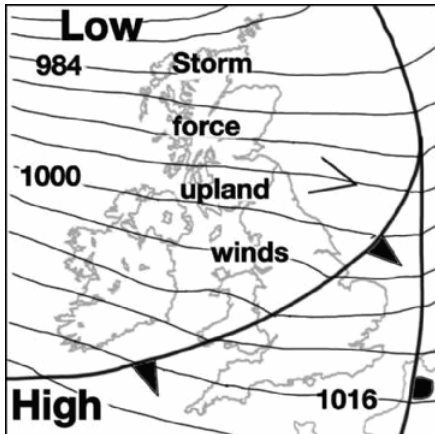
Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath. Also includes the Ben Alder area hills between Loch Ericht and Loch Laggan.



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General Summary for Saturday, 21 December, 2024



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 21 December, 2024

Widespread storm force upland winds, strongest far north, around an intense low centred north of Scotland. Snow showers very frequent across W and NW Scotland; whilst further south showers, of snow only on higher tops. Overnight rain will clear Wales from the north morning and middle of day.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Storm or locally hurricane force upland wind. Snow showers.

Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 21 December, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Westerly 65 to locally 80mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking difficult where exposed on lower slopes; higher up severe wind chill and any mobility often difficult. You could be repeatedly blown over.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Hail and snow showers Showers increasingly frequent, although until late in day, substantially dry on summits accessible from Deeside. Hail, and to progressively lower slopes, snow.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive on higher slopes; may clear at times, mainly toward Deeside Cloud base varying considerably; patches below 700m near precipitation (particularly west of A9), whilst at other times cloud base between 900 and 1200m - may clear for periods Deeside.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Bursts of sunshine, although sunnier particularly lower slopes Deeside. Varied visibility; appalling in snow to often very good of excellent.
How Cold? (at 900m)	Dropping slowly to around -1C. Will feel as cold as minus 20C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	Dropping slowly from 1050m at dawn to near 750m afternoon.

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 22 December	Monday 23 December
<p>How windy? (On the Munros)</p> <p>Effect of wind on you?</p>	<p>Northwesterly around 60mph; particularly gusty near precipitation.</p> <p>Arduous walking on lower slopes, whilst higher up severe wind chill and any mobility challenging, particularly near precipitation.</p>	<p>West later southwesterly; a lull to around 20mph, perhaps strengthening toward 30mph afternoon.</p> <p>Mostly small; but anticipate a change to considerable wind chill and more strenuous walking.</p>
<p>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</p>	<p>Frequent hail and snow</p> <p>Snow showers, sometimes one after another, with risk of the precipitation more or less constant over a couple of hours, giving whiteout. From Ben Alder to southern Cairngorms NP: fewer showers, some dry periods.</p>	<p>Risk rain later in day</p> <p>The odd snow shower morning. Rain, or temporarily snow or refrozen rain above 700m, spreading east afternoon.</p>
<p>Cloud on the hills?</p> <p>Chance of cloud free Munros?</p>	<p>Very extensive across the mountains; cloud base varying</p> <p>Near precipitation cloud sometimes below 500m Monadhliath east to Cairngorms and Lochnagar, but breaks to 750m, perhaps 900m. Higher cloud base Ben Alder to southern Cairngorms NP, where mostly 600 to 1000m.</p> <p>10%</p>	<p>Confined to higher tops; highest cloud base south of Cairngorms</p> <p>Moderate confidence of cloud lifting off summits below 900 to 1100m for a few hours, particularly west of A9 and southern summits in Cairngorms NP. But risk deterioration as cloud fills in above 600-800m before dusk.</p> <p>30%</p>
<p>Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)</p>	<p>Glimpses of sunshine, mainly Ben Alder east to southern Cairngorms NP. Very varied visibility, appalling or near zero in snow/blowing snow.</p>	<p>Little or no sunshine as cloud thickens from west. Visibility excellent.</p>
<p>How Cold? (at 900m)</p> <p>Freezing Level</p>	<p>-2C, may rise marginally through the day. Will feel as cold as minus 19C directly in the wind.</p> <p>600m</p>	<p>-1C rising to 0 to 2C toward or after dusk. Will feel as cold as minus 7C directly in the wind.</p> <p>700m, transitioning to above the summits, initially near the west coast, afternoon onwards.</p>

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 22 December, 2024

A change in the weather pattern from Tuesday as high pressure progressively envelops Wales and England. Here, as in S Scotland, extensively dry and much less windy. Mild - although frost in valleys some nights. Still windy Scottish Highlands, here very mild with lying snow substantially melting. Rain frequent NW Highlands, and less so W Highlands. Further east little or no rain.

Forecast issued at 12:04 on Friday, 20 December, 2024

The production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by the Scottish Government through Mountaineering Scotland with the support of sportscotland. Forecasts are issued daily by 16:30 and are kept under review and amended as necessary. However, expected conditions can still change after issue. © Copyright Mountain Weather Information Service, 2024.