MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

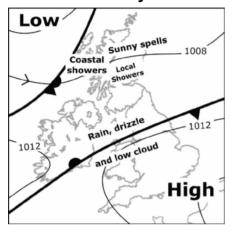
Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath. Also includes the Ben Alder area hills between Loch Ericht and Loch Laggan.



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General Summary for Tuesday, 21 January, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 21 January, 2025

Below freezing on Scottish tops. Noticeably chilly in the breeze. A cluster of showers with hill snow moves across the Highlands early in the day, but clears to be often dry and bright. Showers continue near to western coasts, some moving inland. A slow-moving front over England & north Wales brings grey and damp conditions.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Largely dry, brief flurries; broken cloud and sun. Moderate breeze.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 21 January, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 15 to 25mph, strongest over higher Cairngorms, at times 30mph exposed slopes.	
Effect of wind on you?	Fairly small, but marked wind chill over the mountains. May affect comfortable walking on some higher slopes.	
How wet?	Early showers/flurries, often dry	
(Precipitation and its impact)	Showers passing eastward in the morning, with snow above 700-800m. Soon clearing to be often dry. A rare brief shower or flurry possible into the afternoon.	
Cloud on the hills?	Occasionally covering tops, clearer north/east	
	Varied banks of cloud over higher slopes in the morning, mainly during and after showers for a time. Lifting and breaking to upper slopes. Patches may come and go toward Drumochter. Often clearer north and eastern hills.	
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40% southwest, to 70% northeast.	
Sunshine?	Occasional sun, best toward east and north into afternoon.	
Air clarity (below cloud)	Visibility mostly very good, reduced briefly in showers.	
How Cold? (at 900m)	0C. Wind chill feeling like -10C on high tops.	
Freezing Level	900m or slightly higher eastern areas.	

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Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 22 January	Thursday 23 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Variable direction, 10mph and under. Occasionally 15mph on higher terrain. Little to none	Southerly later west-southwesterly; speeds likely increasing 20 to 35mph, risk 45mph afternoon, suddenly squally. Walking becoming impeded with increasing buffeting on higher terrain where exposed. Significant wind chill.
How wet?	No precipitation expected	Risk snow developing
(Precipitation and its impact)		Local snow flurries developing from the southwest, but several hours likely dry. Into afternoon, increasing risk of more persistent snow developing from the southwest, rain only lowest slopes.
Cloud on the hills?	High ground mostly covered, clearer north	Most persistent toward south
	High ground of Cairngorm Plateau mostly shrouded. Other high tops often capped too. Often clear on northern slopes.	Banks of cloud mostly southern Cairngorms in the morning, some patches drifting north, but toward Strathspey may be clear for a few hours at least. In snow, cloud lowering more widely over hills.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50%, 70% north	50%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sunshine in and out, more frequent north. Good visibility.	Glimpses of weak sun mainly morning, giving way to thickening high cloud. Visibility very good away from local cloud banks, becoming very poor where snow develops.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C, some areas several degrees cooler.	-1 or -2C. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -15C.
Freezing Level	800m, some areas south of Cairngorm Plateau down to 600m	Locally varied 600 to 800m, some pockets of near-freezing air some lower slopes.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 22 January, 2025

Deteriorating later this week - a series of storm systems coming in from the Atlantic through late January bringing frequently severe conditions to the mountains. Thursday sees winds reach gale force on many tops with a spell of heavy rain and upland snow developing from the west. By Friday, severe conditions from lower elevations upward, hurricane-force winds over the mountains, plus extensive rain and hill snow. Gales continue into Saturday, severe for the Highlands. Snow is likely to accumulate over Scottish mountains during the next week or so with only brief thawing. More variable temperatures for England and Wales with cycles of freeze and thaw. Atlantic patterns likely prevail into early February.

Forecast issued at 16:00 on Monday, 20 January, 2025

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, 2025.