

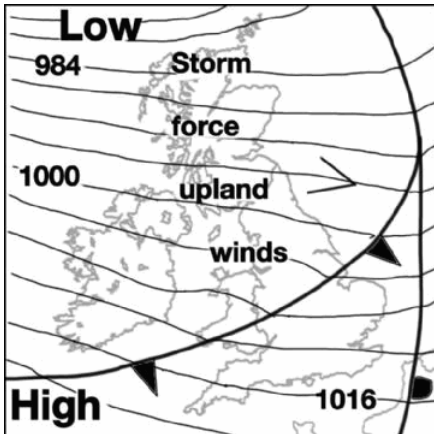
The Northwest Highlands

Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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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 The Northwest Highlands
 Storm or hurricane force upland wind. Snow.

Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 21 December, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Westerly 70 to 80mph; strongest far north; particularly squally near showers.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking difficult where exposed in valleys; higher up severe or extreme wind chill and any mobility difficult or tortuous. You could be repeatedly blown over and difficult to stand in places.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent hail and snow. Showers, often one after another and increasingly heavy and squally giving periods of whiteout. Hail, and above about 500m snow.
Cloud on the hills?	Very extensive: rare breaks on higher slopes. Cloud base varying considerably; patches below 400m near precipitation (particularly western mountains), whilst at other times cloud base between 750 and rarely 1050m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Bursts of sunshine, mainly easternmost areas. Varied visibility; appalling in snow and blowing snow to sometimes very good.
How Cold? (at 900m)	Dropping slowly to around -1C. Will feel as cold as minus 21C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	Dropping slowly from 950m at dawn to near 800m afternoon.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 22 December	Monday 23 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Northwesterly around 60mph; particularly gusty near precipitation. Arduous walking on lower slopes, whilst higher up severe wind chill and any mobility challenging, particularly near precipitation.	West backing southwesterly; a lull to around 20mph, before strengthening toward 30mph afternoon. Mostly small; but anticipate a change to considerable wind chill and more strenuous walking.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent hail and snow Showers, sometimes one after another; mostly rain only valleys. Additionally risk of the precipitation more or less constant over a couple of hours, giving whiteout.	Rain spreading inland The odd snow shower morning. Rain, or temporarily snow or refrozen rain above 700m, spreading inland most likely middle of the day onward.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Very extensive across the mountains; cloud base varying Near precipitation cloud sometimes below 400m particularly near the coast, but breaks to 750m, perhaps fleeting breaks to higher tops. 20%	Deteriorating as cloud later envelops lower slopes Moderate confidence well inland of cloud lifting off summits below 900 to 1100m for a few hours. But anticipate deterioration as cloud fills in from many lower slopes up, although well inland (from west) most cloud may remain above 600m. 50% dropping from west to 10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sunshine, mainly well inland. Very varied visibility, appalling or near zero in snow/blowing snow.	Little or no sunshine. Visibility very good or excellent, but poor in precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-2C, may rise marginally through the day. Will feel as cold as minus 20C directly in the wind. 600m	-1C rising to 0 to 2C afternoon. Will feel as cold as minus 7C directly in the wind. 700m, transitioning to above the summits, initially near the west coast, afternoon onwards.

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.