

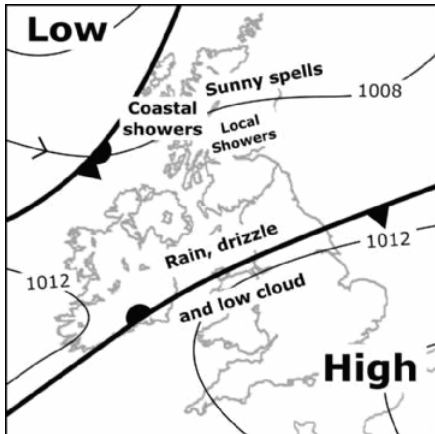
The Northwest Highlands

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 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 The Northwest Highlands

Chilly, breezy. Showers and low cloud mostly toward Skye.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 21 January, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 20 to 25mph, at times 30mph on western mountains, strongest sustained speeds on Skye.
Effect of wind on you?	Affecting comfortable walking on exposed higher terrain, some buffeting on western ridges impacting balance. Considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Showers mostly west near Skye Showery rain and upland snow early morning passing east across most areas, soon clearing to be often dry inland and toward the north and east. Showers with sleet on tops will come and go all day around Skye to Torridon.
Cloud on the hills?	Most persistent west, breaks east/north Banks of cloud across many higher slopes early in the day, lifting with some breaks to summits in the east and far north. Nearer to western coasts, tops more often covered, frequently above 700m on and near to Skye.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10% Skye, 40% further north/east.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Some glimpses of sun in the east and north, more often cloudy west. Visibility often good, very good in east; reduced in showers.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 or -1C. Wind chill feeling like -10C.
Freezing Level	800 to 900m, slightly higher near coast.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 22 January	Thursday 23 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Generally southeasterly, though direction variable. 10mph and under. Little to none	Southerly turning west-southwesterly; speeds likely increasing 25 to 40mph, risk 50mph for a time, suddenly squally. Walking becoming impeded with increasing buffeting on higher terrain, risk difficult where exposed. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Mostly dry, coastal showers A few isolated snow showers possible along coastal hills, particularly near Skye, rain below 600m. Likely dry inland and north.	Risk of snow/rain mainly Skye-Kintail Initially just a few showers near Skye, snow flurries above 600m. Elsewhere likely dry for a few hours. Increasing risk with time of heavy rain and upland snow developing from southwest; little may reach far north.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	High tops often capped, clearer inland High tops near the west coast often capped, with bases sometimes reaching towards terrain below 900m. More often clear inland, though tops occasionally capped. 40%	Varied, clearest far northwest Patchy cloud banks on south or southeast facing slopes early in day. Western hills north from Wester Ross may be clear for a few hours. Banks of cloud forming on Skye increasingly, lowering widely in rain/snow. 50%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Intermittent sun during hill cloud breaks. Good visibility, poor where in showers.	Glimpses of weak sun giving way to thickening high cloud. Visibility very good, reducing where rain/snow develops.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-1C, some pockets of slightly cooler air inland. 800m	-1 or -2C. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -15C. Locally varied 600 to 800m, tending to lower during the day.

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.