

The Northwest Highlands

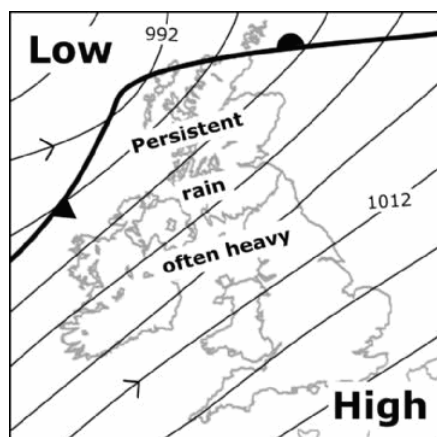
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Sunday, 14 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 14 December, 2025

Extensive rain, sustained heavy falls over many western mountains, expect flooding. Smaller amounts of rain toward the N/E Cairngorms, also S/E Wales and Peak District. Widespread gales, powerful gusts around high tops, locally downslope to east. Blanket cloud across hills, lowest in west.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Gales, severe high terrain. Wettest around Skye, drier N/E.

Detailed Forecast for Sunday, 14 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 40-55mph, at times 60mph, local powerful gusts downslope. Tending to strengthen up to dusk, risk 70mph on/near Skye for a time. Easing later in evening to 30mph, or less for a time into night.
Effect of wind on you?	Arduous conditions over the mountains. Strong gusty winds will challenge balance and stability all day, including less exposed slopes. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain most persistent Skye & Wester Ross, occasional north/east Frequent rain Skye and nearby with persistent falls drifting inland and northward. At times falling heavier, and mainly later in day into evening merging into a more widespread area of rain. Least rain Ben Wyvis to Ben Hope, sometimes drier or only spots. Streams in spate, expect flooding especially west.
Cloud on the hills?	Covering most high tops, lowest coasts toward Skye Shrouding high tops along the coast from Skye towards Ullapool, southern inland hills as well. Variable bases, 600-900m, lowest on Skye. Higher bases Ben Wyvis to Loch Broom northward, some local breaks to tops.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10% around Skye, to 30% north inland.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little or no sun, glimpses Sutherland, but often dull on southern coastal hills. Visibility mostly poor Skye and Wester Ross, local improvements inland north.
How Cold? (at 900m)	5C, to local 7C north/east; then lowering rapidly into night to 0 or 1C. Feeling like -8C in direct wind.
Freezing Level	Above the summits, but after dark into late evening a quick drop to 900-1000m.

	Monday 15 December	Tuesday 16 December
How windy? (On the Munros)	Some uncertainty, speed may vary; southwesterly 25 to 40mph, likely strongest over west coast mountains.	Southwesterly 30 to 40mph. Strengthening onward into night to gales, risk becoming severe.
Effect of wind on you?	Winds uncomfortable or strenuous walking in exposure with a chilly feel, but may also be fairly small for periods.	Strenuous walking over higher terrain, affecting balance on exposed ridges, considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Some west coast showers Showers mostly near the west coast, most frequent on Skye to coastal Wester Ross, some heavier with possible hail, snow above 800-900m. More scattered inland, often dry toward north and east.	Showery west coast, snow and hail Showers most frequent toward coasts and on islands, falling as snow above 800-900m, also hail at times. Some moving inland over Wester Ross, but fewer showers further eastward.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly high terrain west, clear periods Variable banks on west coast slopes, 600-900m, most frequent Skye/Kintail with few higher breaks; well-broken inland with higher bases, many Munros often clear. Increasingly frequent south, more widely along the west coast later.	Most frequent over west coast tops Often capping western tops, base varying in and out of showers, mostly 700 to 900m, brief lower patches on coastal slopes. Breaks at times higher up, more common further inland and eastward.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Patchy sunshine for most, except around Skye, more extensive northward, some high cloud. Very good visibility, reduced in showers west.	Glimpses of sun. Visibility often very good out of cloud, but intermittently poor in showers.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 or 1C. Feelings as cold as -10C in direct wind.	0 to 1C. Feeling like -12C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	900 to 1000m.	900 to 1000m. Slight frost inland glens in morning.

All mountain areas of Britain from Monday, 15 December, 2025

Prolonged rain will leave flooding of streams and rivers in many mountain areas early in the new week, with the exception of northeastern Scotland. A frontal system will eventually pass eastwards Monday-Tuesday, wind easing; dropping to freezing above 900m, beware of ice forming on higher Scottish mountains. Drier conditions for many on Tuesday, though showery near west coast of Scotland. By Wednesday, another system sweeps in from the Atlantic bringing further rain and gales. A risk of more heavy rain particularly England and Wales later in the week. A change of weather pattern is likely in the run up to Christmas, as high pressure builds northward, bringing drier weather, possibly chillier with time.

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.