

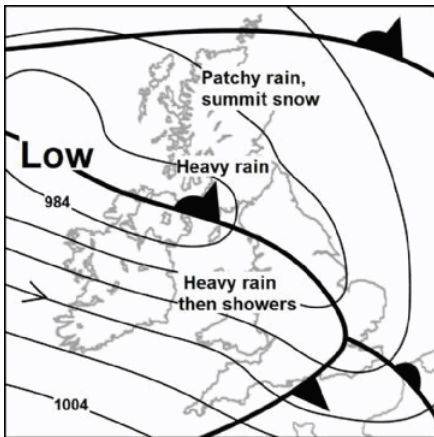
West Highlands

Western Highlands accessible from, and south of, Glenfinnan (Road to the Isles) and Glen Spean (includes Creag Meagaidh). This area includes Ben Nevis and the mountains around Glencoe. In the east, from Ben Alder south to Loch Lomond and Trossachs NP. Also Arran and Mull.



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General Summary for Saturday, 9 December, 2023



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 9 December, 2023

Patchy rain and snow on higher Scottish tops push north over the Highlands. Heavy rain sets in across south & central Scotland. Heavy rain moves across England and Wales in the morning, followed by showers. Varied winds, fairly light much of Scotland, but increasing upland gales for England, severe for Wales.

Headline for West Highlands

Areas of rain and snow on tops. Varied winds and cloud.

Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 9 December, 2023

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly or variable 15 to 25mph, local lulls.
Effect of wind on you?	Fairly small
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain and snow tops, wettest south Areas of rain and upland snow on the Munros from dawn, tending to clear northwards for a time. Further rain and snow on tops pushing in from the south, setting in heavy Arran to Loch Lomond NP.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive Cloud extensive, or soon becoming extensive, across the hills. Down to lowest slopes in precipitation in south. Highest bases initially in Lochaber.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Overcast. Visibility poor, appalling in summit snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	3C later lowering to 1C. Feeling like -5C if exposed to breeze.
Freezing Level	Around 1200m, lowering to 1000m in constant precipitation, especially Lochaber. Lying snow on higher terrain, icy in places.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 10 December	Monday 11 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southeasterly, 15 to 30mph, speeds varied. Possibly becoming gusty 40mph coastal mountains in south. Often fairly small inland and in Lochaber, but risk more challenging conditions developing locally Arran to Kintyre.	Direction variable, most likely 10 to 20mph or less. Mostly small.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Risk rain and upland snow moving in Patchy rain and wet snow on tops clearing north in the morning. Drier for a time, then risk of rain pushing in from southwest, may become heavy Arran to Loch Lomond, increasingly falling as snow above 700m.	A little snow or rain Occasional showers, snow flurries above 800-900m inland, but rain to higher slopes near coasts. May amount to very little many areas, locally often dry.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Extensive higher areas Shrouding most mountain tops throughout the day, lowest and most persistent in southern areas. Some breaks may form in Lochaber in middle of day. Filling in widely if precipitation sets in. 20%	Often covering many tops Varied banks of cloud or fog from lower elevations upward. Some slopes may be between cloud banks. Locally the cloud may clear, but risk often capping high tops. 30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Mostly overcast, some brighter skies for a time in north. Visibility locally good if dry, but becoming poor if precipitation sets in.	Fairly cloudy, glimpses of sun. Visibility mostly good out of cloud, but locally reduced around showers.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	1 or 2C, dipping below 0C later. Wind chill feeling like -5C, or -10C if wind increases. 1000 to 1200m; most Munro tops at least part-frozen with varied snow cover. Dropping below 700-800m in heavy precip.	1 to 3C, highest on coastal tops. If exposed to breeze, feeling like -5C on tops. 1000 to 1200m, lowest inland in the morning. Local frost pockets inland glens at dawn.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 10 December, 2023

Areas of low pressure dominate into the weekend and early next week bringing unsettled conditions as a series of fronts circulate over Britain. Periods of heavy rain, with snow over higher mountains in Scotland as tops stay near or just below freezing point. Some freeze-thaw higher up, but mid-heights generally above freezing - very wet underfoot due to rain and snowmelt, beware flooding of streams and rivers. Most tops in England and Wales above freezing with terrain not frozen apart from local snow pockets. Generally windy, gales or severe gales at times over the tops - strongest speeds most sustained for England and Wales. Least windy in northern Scotland.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Friday, 8 December, 2023

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, 2023.