

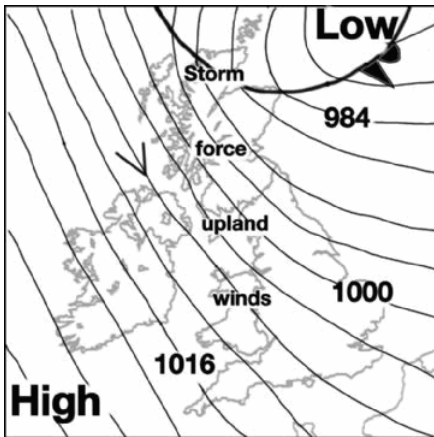
West Highlands

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 Sunday, 22 December, 2024



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 22 December, 2024

Very severe conditions due to widespread storm force northwesterly winds across the mountains. Frequent snow showers will come in off the sea, extending well inland and in some areas merging to give almost constant snow and whiteout for a few hours.

Headline for West Highlands

Storm force upland wind. Frequent snow; whiteout.

Detailed Forecast for Sunday, 22 December, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 55 to 75mph; particularly gusty near precipitation.
Effect of wind on you?	Arduous walking on lower slopes, whilst higher up severe wind chill and any mobility challenging, particularly near precipitation.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent hail and snow toward coast Near, west of Loch Linnhe, Loch Etive south to Clyde sea lochs: Showers, sometimes heavy and one after another; mostly rain valleys. Risk of almost constant precipitation for a couple of hours Lochaber and Mull giving whiteout. This less likely progressively southward; near central belt only flurries.
Cloud on the hills?	Very extensive across many mountains; cloud base varying Near, west of Loch Linnhe, Loch Etive south to Clyde sea lochs: Near precipitation cloud sometimes below 400m particularly near the coast, but breaks to 750m, perhaps fleeting breaks to higher tops. Elsewhere: will vary, sometimes breaking to 900-1100m, but intermittently below 600m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Less than 10% near coast to 30% well inland
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sunshine, but intermittent sunshine well inland. Very varied visibility, sometimes excellent, but appalling or near zero in snow/blowing snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C , slight rise through day. Will feel as cold as minus 20C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	600m; will rise marginally through daylight.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Monday 23 December	Tuesday 24 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	West backing southwesterly; a lull to around 20mph after dawn, before strengthening toward 40mph afternoon. Mostly small; but anticipate a change in afternoon to considerable wind chill and more strenuous walking.	Southwesterly 45mph; perhaps a little less strong southward toward Loch Lomond and particularly Clyde sea lochs. Very difficult conditions where exposed on higher areas; significant wind chill and walking strenuous; balance/foot placement not easy.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain spreading inland The odd snow shower morning. From about midday: Rain, or temporarily snow or refrozen rain above 600m, spreading inland.	Raining most of the day Raining almost constantly, although on more eastern mountains from Creag Meagaidh south near and north of Glen Spean, and near lochs Ossian and Treig, the rain on and off and total rainfall small.
Cloud on the hills?	Deteriorating as cloud later envelops lower slopes Patches of cloud near the coast above 750m whilst well inland cloud may well lift off summits below 900 to 1100m. But anticipate deterioration in precipitation as cloud fills in across the hills, forming on lower slopes near the coast.	Blanket of cloud across even most lower slopes. Cloud base widely below 200m west of Loch Linnhe, near and west of Loch/Glen Etive, to S & W Loch Lomond NP and Arran. Elsewhere, the cloud a little higher, but rarely above 600m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30% dropping afternoon from west to 10%	Almost nil
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little or no sunshine. Visibility very good or excellent, particularly well inland but poor in precipitation.	Sunshine not expected. Widely poor visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-2C rising to 0 to 2C afternoon. Will feel as cold as minus 8C directly in the wind. 700m, through afternoon transitioning to above the summits, initially near the coast,.	7C. Will feel as cold as minus 8C where exposed to the wind Above the summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Monday, 23 December, 2024

A change in the weather pattern from Tuesday as high pressure progressively envelops Wales and England. Here (and also in S Scotland), extensively dry and the and progressively dropping, initially across Wales. 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 12:03 on Saturday, 21 December, 2024

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