

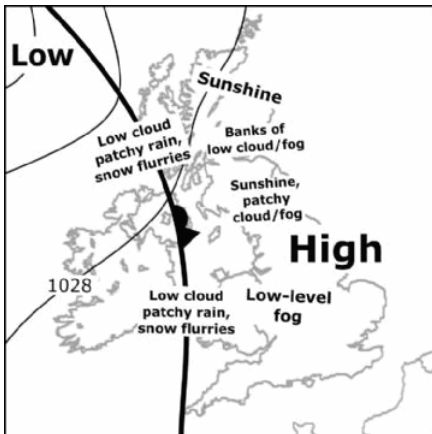
West Highlands

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.



Fort William Mountain Festival - 13th-16th February 2025
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General Summary for Saturday, 11 January, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 11 January, 2025

Patchy snow flurries or light rain near western coasts slowly pushing inland, along with low cloud. High cloud thickening ahead of this. Local fog or banks of low cloud inland, some high tops above fog; sunshine best toward northeast Scotland. Increasing southerly wind.

Headline for West Highlands

Gusty wind near coast; flurries & low cloud pushing inland.

Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 11 January, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southerly 15-20mph well inland, strengthening a little; 25mph toward coast and rising near gusty 30mph, strongest Jura to Mull & west of Loch Linnhe.
Effect of wind on you?	Significant wind chill higher mountains and particularly nearer coasts. Ease of walking starting to be impeded, affecting balance on exposed ridges.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Coastal drizzle and light snow; little inland Drizzly rain pushing onto the west coast and islands, encroaching slowly inland, falling from high cloud as snowflakes or refrozen light rain drops, but mostly amounting to very little.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied cloud banks, filling in soonest near coast Low level cloud banks or fog in corries and southern slopes in morning, some tops may be just above fog for a time. Patchier northwards. Low cloud increasingly forming over coastal hills, may envelop many hills into afternoon. Areas near/north of Glen Spean may stay clearer.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50% (above fog some tops) dropping to 20% from southwest.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Morning sun soon weakening and giving way as high cloud thickens, becoming overcast, soonest near coast. Visibility starting very good some areas, but navigation increasingly difficult where in fog over lying snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C, to -1C coastal hills, rising slowly, nearer 0C later afternoon, or +1C on islands up to dusk. Slight rise after dark. Feeling around -10C with wind chill.
Freezing Level	All terrain frozen. Freezing level becoming poorly defined, but a general rise, likely lifting above freezing on coastal tops.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 12 January	Monday 13 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southwesterly 35mph, rising to near 50mph, local 60mph high tops. Turbulent and gusty in places to lower slopes. Walking strenuous, forward progress becoming difficult. Gusts likely will blow you over. Severe wind chill.	Southwesterly 50 to 70mph, at times stronger on higher mountains. Difficult walking conditions across the hills, severe in exposure higher up. Significant wind chill despite milder air.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain on and off Drizzly rain becoming more frequent, particularly coastal hills.	Rain likely all day Rain incessant and heavy for periods widely. Very wet underfoot as snow melts.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive Cloud often down to lowest slopes near to coasts. Covering most mountains widely, locally clearing above 800m on some leeward slopes, mainly Glen Spean area.	Extensive Shrouding the mountains all day, to lower slopes near west coast, rarely above 700m even well inland.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Mostly shrouded, though occasional clearing and weak sun on leeward slopes. Visibility mostly poor.	No sunshine. Visibility very poor.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	Soon rising to 3C, some leeward areas a few degrees warmer. Feeling as cold as -12C with wind chill. Lifting above freezing to tops. Much terrain remains frozen but beginning to thaw. Sheltered corries stay frozen.	5C, locally warmer some eastern slopes. In the wind, feeling as cold as -10C. Above the summits.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 12 January, 2025**

Terrain still widely frozen and snow covered this weekend, but by Sunday the air temperature lifting above freezing at all elevations - a thaw commencing, more rapid into Monday with some heavy rain in the west. A much milder week ahead, highest Scottish tops only rarely close to freezing point. Southwesterly winds frequently gale force over the Highlands, bringing low cloud particularly to western mountains and occasional rain. High pressure over England & Wales brings quieter conditions here much of the week, some low-level cloud and fog. Changeable west-southwesterlies likely prevail into second half of January, with cycles of freeze and thaw and risk of more frequent precipitation.

Forecast issued at 15:45 on Friday, 10 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.