

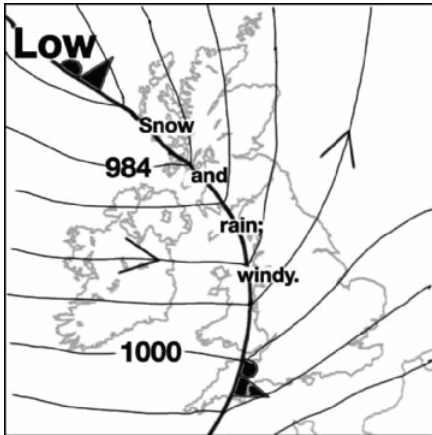
West Highlands

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 Thursday, 23 January, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 23 January, 2025

The onset of a change as air begins to come in off the Atlantic. There will be extensive low cloud, and as a weakening front comes inland precipitation (snow on the mountains, even lower slopes Scotland) will set in for a couple of hours or so (very little N/NE Scotland). Upland winds will also strengthen markedly.

Headline for West Highlands

Snow; rain lowest slopes. Windy.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 23 January, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Morning: Southerly 30 strengthening 45mph from west. Afternoon: turning abruptly westerly 30 to 40mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Soon significant wind chill and buffeting where exposed.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow extending inland Initially just a few flurries. Snow (becoming rain lower slopes, particularly coastal hills) spreading inland later morning; persistent for a couple of hours then more showery.
Cloud on the hills?	Becoming very extensive; shrouding many lower slopes Some breaks Lochaber to higher slopes, but mountains widely cloud covered, extensively below 500m near coast and Loch Lomond NP.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Less than 10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little or no sunshine. Visibility becoming very poor or appalling in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C. Will feel as cold as minus -13C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	Poor defined between 400 and 800m (little temperature change with height).

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 24 January	Saturday 25 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southeast veering southwest or westerly: temporarily low speeds, but abruptly, 60 to possibly 90mph (strongest toward south). Severe wind chill and even on lower slopes mobility at times difficult. Progress tortuous higher up.	Westerly later southwesterly, typically 40mph, although perhaps 55mph post dawn. Expect significant wind chill and walking to be difficult on higher areas particularly morning.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent heavy snow; whiteout Frequent or persistent snow, sometimes heavy, although one or two dry interludes. Prolonged whiteout. Sometimes rain lower slopes.	Frequent hail and snow A mix of snow and hail showers and sometimes almost constant intermittently heavy precipitation. Expect whiteout and small risk thunder.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied, often extensive Cloud bases fluctuating, at times covering hills from lower slopes up, but occasionally (mainly Lochaber) breaking toward higher slopes.	Extensive on higher areas Varying cloud base; breaks to 800m, occasionally 1000m, but near precipitation, forming at 450m or sometimes lower (particularly within a few miles of the coast).
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Less than 10%	10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Rare brief sun valleys Lochaber. Visibility appalling or in heavy/blowing snow, almost zero.	Glimpses of sun, most widely lower easternmost slopes. Visibility intermittently very good, but abruptly appalling in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-2C rising to 1C during morning. Will drop toward -1C again afternoon. Will feel as cold as minus 18C directly in 200m soon rising to 900 to 1050m. Starting to lower again from south toward dusk.	-3C. Will feel as cold as minus 16C directly in the wind. 450m

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 24 January, 2025**

An extremely intense Atlantic low will make landfall in Scotland on Friday. In many areas upland winds will approach or reach hurricane force, and widespread precipitation will occur.

Precipitation will then fall most days over the coming week as low pressure continues to dominate, giving further periods of upland gales or storm force winds. On the Scottish Highlands most precipitation will be of snow, whilst further south snow more intermittently and often confined to higher summits.

Forecast issued at 14:31 on Wednesday, 22 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.