MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

West Highlands

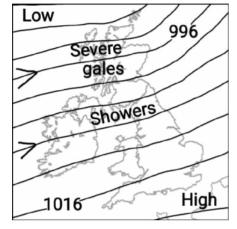
Western Highlands accessible from, and south of, Glenfinnan (Road to the Isles) and Glen Spean (includes Creag Meagaidh). This area includes Ben Nevis and the mountains around Glencoe. In the east, from Ben Alder south to Loch Lomond and Trossachs NP. Also Arran and Mull.



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General Summary for Friday, 19 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 19 December, 2025

Southwesterly gales, severe across the Highlands, giving significant wind chill and showers. Showers frequent western Scotland, with snow falling down to 800m with hail and risk lightning. Scattered showers for England and Wales where hill fog confined to western tops.

Headline for West Highlands

Severe gales; significant wind chill. Frequent showers, snow tops. Risk thunder.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 19 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 50 to 70mph, may start to lessen a little later in south.
Effect of wind on you?	Difficult conditions over the mountains, frequent buffeting from modest elevations upward. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent showers, hail, snow tops Showers merging into near constant precipitation in the morning over western hills, with hail, also falling as snow above 800m; risk lightning. Tending to become fewer and less intense showers afternoon.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied but often capping high tops Often shrouding higher terrain, cloud base constantly changing, bases 600 to 900m, brief lower patches coastal areas. Occasional breaks toward upper slopes.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Brief bursts of sun mainly well inland. Visibility intermittently very good, but at times very poor in precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 to 1C, slight rise later. Feeling like -15C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	900 to 1000m, may then rise a little to 1200m onward into the night.

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West Highlands - Looking Ahead

uth to south-easterly 25 to 40mph, but stern coastal hills and Arran 45 to mph. alking arduous, or near west coast d Isles difficult, with a very turbulent flow. Significant wind chill and ffeting. tchy rain or drizzle with snow tops. tches of rain or drizzle with snow falling ove 1000-1100m. Precipitation may come persistent from west coast as front ges in, uncertainty how extensive.	South-easterly backing easterly 20 to 30mph, perhaps lifting to 40mph at times. Blustery, turbulent airflow with significant wind chill. Sudden gusts running downslope and reversals in direction. Patchy rain and summit snow The legacy of a front may give patches of rain and summit snow, mainly towards the west coast and Arran. Otherwise mostly dry.
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tensive	
	Fairly extensive, best breaks west coast
vering hills with the lowest bases west Loch Linnhe and down across the rochar Alps and Loch Lomond, 0-700m. Above 800m N Lochaber.	Be prepared for fairly extensive cloud on the hills of the central and southern Highlands, but higher bases with some breaks are likely west of Loch Linnhe.
%	40%
tle or no sun	A little weak sun perhaps toward west coast. Otherwise cloudy. Visibility good, but poor in any rain or snow.
zzle. General haze west coast.	, g,
or 3C, small rate of change in nperature with height.	Around 1C, small change in temperature with height. Feeling closer to -10C in the wind.
ound 1200m	Around 1000m
O/W//	e or no sun bility good, but poor in any rain or zle. General haze west coast. 3C, small rate of change in perature with height.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 20 December, 2025

A switch to east-southeasterly winds by Sunday into early next week, some residual rain and high-level snow, but a drier and colder theme develops into the Christmas period and perhaps into the New Year, as high pressure builds to the north and northeast. An extensive cloud sheet will likely come in from the North Sea over many days with light snow showers or flurries likely, rain to lower slopes, but many areas dry. Best breaks in the west.

Forecast issued at 16:26 on Thursday, 18 December, 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.