

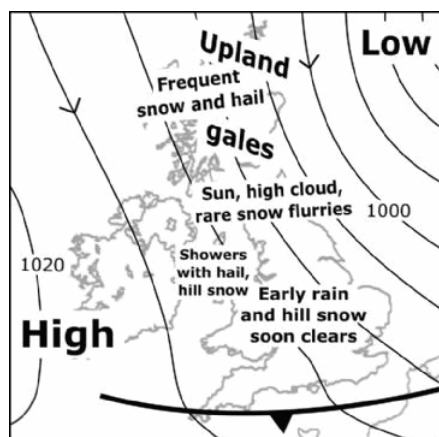
West Highlands

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 Thursday, 1 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 1 January, 2026

Cold north-northwesterly winds, widely gale force over the mountains, difficult conditions with severe chill factor on Scottish high tops. Showery snow and hail frequent in northern Scotland. Rare showers central Scotland and northern England. Early rain and hill snow followed by showers in Wales.

Headline for West Highlands

Gales on mountains, snow and hail showers.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 1 January, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 35 to 50mph, sustained winds tending to strengthen widely into middle of day, at times up to 60mph higher tops mainly in Ben Nevis range; squally gusts in showers.
Effect of wind on you?	Frequent buffeting, walking increasingly arduous on higher terrain, gusts knocking you off balance in places in exposure. Significant wind chill, severe higher up.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Occasional snow and hail Showers most frequent near coasts and sometimes inland across Lochaber, falling as snow and hail to many lower slopes, though a mix of rain and hail on islands below 600m. Drier Loch Lomond NP. Greater risk snow showers more widely into the evening.
Cloud on the hills?	Most frequent north and coasts Cloud base varying, but often capping higher slopes in Lochaber and near coasts, bases 700-1000m. Breaks higher up most often toward and south of Crianlarich, best near Loch Lomond.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30% north, to 60% south.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Occasional sun, best near Loch Lomond. Visibility often very good, but reduced to very poor at times in snow and cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C (-5C Ben Nevis top), to -1C coasts, dropping widely to -5C into night. Wind chill feeling like -15C, near -20C highest tops.
Freezing Level	500 to 600m, up to 700m toward Arran. Some inland glens near freezing all day, then into night dropping to all lower slopes.

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 2 January, 2026

Terrain extensively frozen onward into the weekend and early next week at least ; sub-zero temperatures from the glens upward in Scotland and some valleys inland in northern England. Substantial fresh snow accumulations in the North West Highlands and Cairngorms, heavy showers streaming in from the north also containing hail. Largely dry and sunny from central Scotland to northern England. Hail and snow showers will run into north and west Wales from the sea . Bitter northerly winds, up to gale force higher tops, tending to lessen into Sunday. Some fluctuation of freezing level during next week, but some fronts moving in from northwest likely bring snowfall to hills at times more widely.

Forecast issued at 15:55 on Wednesday, 31 December, 2025

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