

West Highlands

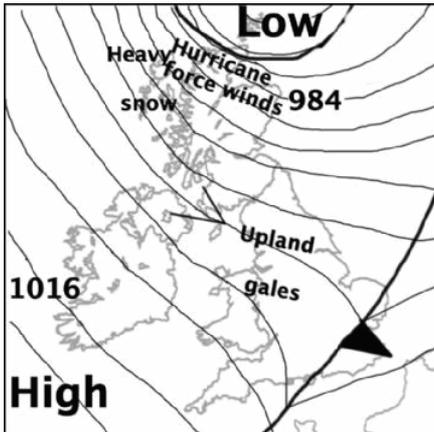
Western Highlands accessible from, and south of, Glenfinnan (Road to the Isles) and Glen Spean (includes Creag Meagaidh). This area include Ben Nevis and the mountains around Glencoe. In the east, includes Ben Alder south to Loch Lomond and Trossachs NP. Includes Arran and Mull.



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General Summary for Thursday, 7 December, 2017



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 7 December, 2017

Exceptionally severe Scottish Highlands: storm or hurricane force upland winds (strongest N/E), considerable snow (centred western hills) giving sustained whiteout. Upland gales elsewhere and progressively dropping temperature will result in showers being increasingly of snow.

Headline for West Highlands

Very severe: Hurricane force winds; heavy snow; almost incessant whiteout.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 7 December, 2017

How windy? (On the Munros)	West, or soon after dawn northwesterly. Soon abruptly 65 to in gusts 100mph. Ferocious gusts to 80mph lower slopes near showers. Speeds a little lower near Clyde sea lochs.
Effect of wind on you?	Difficult walking even on lower slopes. Any mobility tortuous on higher area. Sudden ferocious gusts even on lower slopes. Extreme wind chill.
How wet?	Frequent heavy snow. Extensive whiteout: almost zero visibility. Lightning. Very wet underfoot after overnight heavy rain, focussed near and west of Loch Linnhe. By dawn suddenly snow to a few hundred metres as heavy hail and snow showers come in one after another; sometimes the snow constant. Thunder in some areas. Before dusk snow lying lowest slopes. Least snow Loch Lomond NP.
Cloud on the hills?	Frequently covering higher areas, temporarily forming lower slopes. wets. Dense fog suddenly from lower slopes up near and during precipitation, but (albeit fleetingly, most often Loch Lomond NP) will lift above summits between showers.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Only rare glimpses of sun between the snow showers. Visibility often appalling, though often very good, mainly lower slopes Loch Lomond NP.
How Cold? (at 900m)	Dropping progressively through day; down to -4 or -5C by dusk. Will feel as cold as minus 24 Celsius directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	Very wet mountain terrain increasingly freezing over as freezing level drops progressively toward 300m.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 8 December	Saturday 9 December
How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 40-50mph, sudden gusts to 65mph near precipitation.	Northwesterly 25 to 35mph, strongest Lochaber and Creag Meagaidh. Marginal decrease in speed during daylight.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking widely difficult, especially during squally snow showers, with significant buffeting and extreme wind chill.	Widespread buffeting on higher areas, particularly near showers. Significant wind chill.
How wet?	Frequent snow and hail; risk lightning Frequent and sudden snow and hail showers; at times will merge to give almost constant snow and whiteout. Snow will lie from glens up. Risk of lightning. Fewest snow showers Loch Lomond NP.	Frequent snow showers Snow showers will continue throughout the day - resulting in periods of whiteout. However, few showers, sometimes only flurries Loch Lomond NP and perhaps Arran.
Cloud on the hills?	Varying rapidly, to lower slopes in snow Rapid changes in cloud base; from fleeting glimpses toward higher tops between showers to frequently cloud to a few hundred metres in snow.	Intermittently shrouding higher areas Continually changing cloud base: near showers, shafts of cloud from a few hundred metres up, but between showers breaks to higher summits - perhaps extensive Loch Lomond NP and Arran.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	30%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Glimpses of sun between the snow showers. Visibility often appalling due to snow and cloud.	Bursts of bright sunshine. The air very clear - but sudden appalling visibility in snow and cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-7C	-6C
Freezing Level	Almost all terrain frozen from valleys or just above valleys up.	Almost all terrain frozen. Only slight thawing lowest sunlit slopes and northwest facing coastal slopes.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 8 December, 2017**

Cold throughout the next 10 days, although across mainly Wales, incursions of warmer air will bring freeze thaw cycles to higher areas. Elsewhere, upland areas substantially frozen. Centres of low pressure will track southeast across Britain bringing bouts of sustained snowfall (although not areas will get these). Between areas of fine clear air with light winds, but locally windy with clusters of snow showers near some coasts.

Forecast issued at 7:14 on Thursday, 7 December, 2017

The production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by the Scottish Government through the Mountaineering Council of 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 Geoff Monk & Associates, 2017.