

The Northwest Highlands

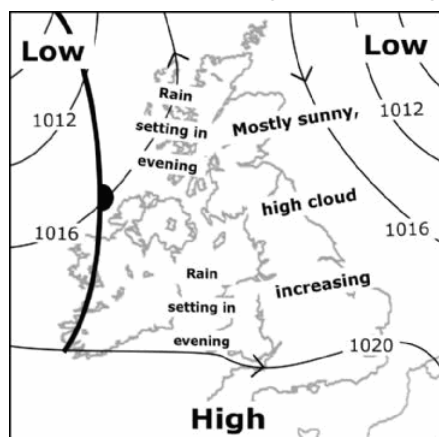
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Friday, 23 May, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 23 May, 2025

A sunny start for most. High cloud begins drifting over western areas, gradually thickening through afternoon. Patchy high cloud builds in eastern Scotland and down the spine of the Pennines before high cloud reaches these areas too. Overcast for most by dusk with rain setting into western coastal areas, spreading east overnight.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Patchy sun, high cloud increasing; evening rain setting in

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 23 May, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Variable 10mph or less; east-to-southeasterly in the north, up to 15mph. Shifting southwesterly 15-25mph later afternoon, further strengthening on coastal slopes through dusk, 35mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Negligible most of the day. Some uncomfortable winds later afternoon, deteriorating into the evening - balance challenges may arise after sunset.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Dry most of day, rain by evening Dry for much of the daytime. Rain approaching from the west into the later afternoon, soonest on Skye. Setting in steadier then heavier, extending east over the mainland through dusk. Rain and drizzle continues during night.
Cloud on the hills?	Little if any until evening At dawn, patchy banks on middle slopes of northern and eastern mountains; highest tops may be out of cloud. Soon lifting and dispersing. Returning to high terrain around Skye as evening approaches, filling in, lowering, and spreading inland into night.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Above 90% most of daylight
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Extensive sun through morning, high cloud filling in through afternoon, becoming overcast by evening. Superb visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m)	1C well inland to 4C around Skye. warmest south. Most places rising to 6 or 7C. Areas well inland near Kintail may reach 9C.
Freezing Level	Possibly just touching the highest summits in the far north at dawn, soon lifting above summits. Also frost inland glens at first.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 24 May	Sunday 25 May
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southwesterly 25 to 35mph, more westerly at first. Possibly strengthening into late night. Blustery over the mountains, affecting comfortable walking and balance on exposed tops and ridges, feeling cool.	At dawn, west to southwest 30-40mph. Soon westerly 40-50+mph. Frequent squally gusts around showers. Walking arduous, squally gusts may inhibit forward progress or blow you over. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain or drizzle most of day Damp in many areas all day, some steadier rain, particularly western mountains Wester Ross to Skye. May fade out for a time north from Ullapool. Risk heavier rain moving in from southwest into evening and night.	Frequent showers, heavy bursts west Near constant showers onto the west coast; heavy bursts with some hail/flurries mixed in over tops; possibly an odd flash of lightning. Chance widely rainy for a time early.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive, may break north Blanket cloud from lower slopes up most or all day Skye to coastal Wester Ross; widespread above 600-700m further inland. Some breaks may form toward upper slopes Sutherland in afternoon.	West coast often shrouded, variable bases Widely shrouded along the west coast from 600m upward at first, becoming variable. Higher bases inland though will vary in showers. Chance breaks up to 1000m towards Moray Firth/Ben Wyvis.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun possible north and east mainly afternoon, where visibility may become good, otherwise overcast, poor visibility, misty to low levels near Skye.	Overcast in the morning, breaking for glimpses or patchy sun. Visibility often poor, though good out of showers inland.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	7 or 8C, coolest in far north, little change all day. Feeling sub-zero directly in the wind, nearer -5C on higher northern tops. Above the summits	4 to 6C at dawn, possibly 8C easternmost slopes at first. Cooling to 2C most places. Feeling like -10C in direct wind. Above the summits early in the day. Soon lowering to highest tops, further lowering to about 1200m afternoon.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 24 May, 2025

Low pressure facilitates a strong westerly Atlantic breeze over the weekend: blustery winds, low cloud, damp conditions for Saturday, then widely heavier rain is expected by Saturday night, accompanied by winds strengthening to gale force over many hills. Remaining very windy through Sunday and Monday with mountain gales; cooler too, with heavy showers, particularly frequent in western Scotland, a risk of hail and thunder. A changeable week follows, winds generally easing and likely a period of rain for England and Wales Tuesday. Eastern Scotland may be substantially dry with regular sun. Some improvement likely late week into the weekend.

Forecast issued at 16:21 on Thursday, 22 May, 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.