

The Northwest Highlands

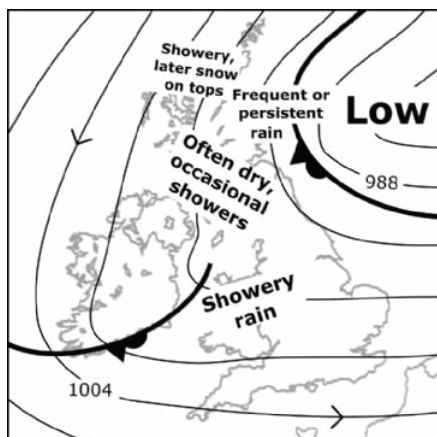
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



Skye Basecamp - a brand new climber's hostel run by Skye Guides mountain guiding

Visit www.skyebasecamp.co.uk to book your stay

General Summary for Friday, 24 October, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 24 October, 2025

Cold northerly winds gale force across Scottish mountains. Showery in the north, most frequent precipitation for the Cairngorms, turning to snow on higher tops. Drier with some sun SW Highlands. Areas of rain extend into Borders and northern England with time. Frequently showery in Wales, particularly south.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Gales, severe higher terrain. Frequent rain, later snow on tops.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 24 October, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northerly soon strengthening 35 to 45mph, often 50mph higher areas by mid-late morning soonest in north, reaching 55-60mph at times afternoon Ben Hope to Ben Wyvis; squally gusts in showers.
Effect of wind on you?	Generally arduous walking becoming difficult conditions over the mountains, affecting balance and mobility. Significant becoming severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Showery, frequent rain, becoming summit snow especially north Frequent precipitation, more constant much of the day north-facing areas, including at times running down the west coast to Skye. Sleet or later mainly snow on higher tops above 900m, from dusk 700-800m, soonest in north.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive, lowest in showers and north Whilst bases will vary, be prepared for poor conditions with extensive hill fog. Bases widely around 500-700m, but lower at times in the north. Highest breaks most often toward Kintail, but often capping high tops.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Overcast, rare brief sun mainly toward Kintail. Visibility frequently poor due to rain, very poor in summit snow later.
How Cold? (at 900m)	2C, but lowering to 0C in the north later. Feeling like -15C in the strongest winds.
Freezing Level	Close to highest tops, lowering to 900-1000m later afternoon, lowest soonest in far north, widely 800-900m after dark.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 25 October	Sunday 26 October
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	North to northwesterly 35 to 55mph, sustained speeds strongest over northern hills; squally gusts widely in showers. Be prepared for arduous conditions, difficult mobility higher up. Significant wind chill, severe on high tops.	Northwest turning west or briefly SW'ly afternoon; 25 to 40mph, a window of lower speeds, but risk increasing again. Conditions likely to vary; a period when fairly small, but then risk more challenging again. Prepare for considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent showers, snow upper slopes Frequent showers moving in on the northerly winds. Snow falling as low as 500-600m at first, but level to which snow falls will rise to 800-900m. Sometimes hail.	Snow showers on tops, then steady rain A few showers moving inland from the west coast in the morning, locally more frequent, snow falling above 700m. Tending to merge into more constant precipitation, turning sleet possibly rain to highest tops.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive higher slopes Fairly extensive coverage across higher slopes above 700-900m, at times down to 500m Ben Hope to Ben Wyvis. Best breaks southern areas near Kintail.	Varied on tops, becoming extensive Cloud banks most frequent over western hills early in the day, bases 700-900m, some breaks in east. Filling in and lowering from west in rain, widely 600-800m, but 500m or lower near west coast with time.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	40% dropping to 10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun, mainly toward Great Glen. Visibility ranging from very good to poor or very poor as showers come and go.	Any early sun weak, high cloud thickens to become overcast. Visibility starting good away from showers, becoming poor in rain.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	0 to -2C, small rise during daytime, but feeling closer to -15C in the wind. 700 to 900m, highest near coast and into the afternoon more widely for a time.	-1C rising to +2C afternoon. If exposed to stronger winds, feeling like -10C. 800m, plus frost in some inland glens at dawn. Rising near/above high tops afternoon-evening, then 1100m into night.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 25 October, 2025

A cold weekend; higher summits close to freezing point in England and Wales and below in Scotland. Substantially dry on many mountains but areas of frequent showers (hail and snow), mainly NW and W Highlands (where wind close to gale on Saturday) and north and west Wales. By Sunday afternoon, increasing threat of rain setting in on many western mountains - ahead of a less cold but often windy and wet few days. Westerly winds prevail, later in week trending southerly.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Thursday, 23 October, 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.