

# The Northwest Highlands

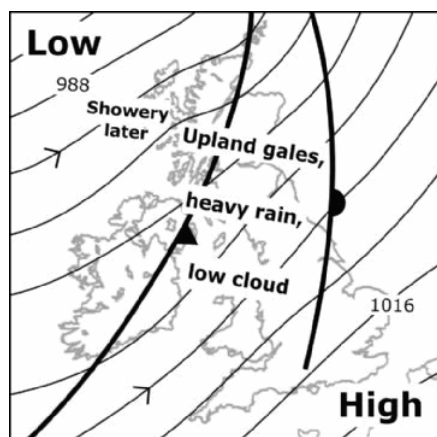
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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## General Summary for Wednesday, 17 December, 2025



### British Mountain Summary:

**Based on forecast chart for noon 17 December, 2025**

Extensive gales across the hills. Rain preceded by early snow on higher terrain in the Highlands, lifting briefly above freezing to high tops. Showery bursts follow into western Scotland, heavy and frequent with hail later. England & Wales sees rain much of the day, spreading eastward, heavy at times.

### Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Upland gales, severe high tops. Rain then heavy showers.

## Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 17 December, 2025

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>              | South-southwesterly 50 to 60mph, in morning up to 70mph higher mountains, powerful gusts in places downslope to north/east for a few hours.   |
| <b>Effect of wind on you?</b>                  | <b>Challenging conditions over the mountains, walking difficult in exposure, particularly morning, sudden buffeting to some mid-slopes. Significant wind chill.</b>   |
| <b>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</b> | <b>Rain then frequent showers west</b><br>Rain and initially snow above 700-900m before dawn, soon turning to rain to higher slopes, persistent for several hours, heaviest around Skye. Breaking up into showers, but these frequent and heavy with hail near coast. Wet underfoot lower terrain. Beware icy surfaces on highest tops. |
| <b>Cloud on the hills?</b>                     | <b>Extensive, higher bases afternoon</b><br>Shrouding the hills widely, from mid-to-lower slopes in morning, then some rise of base during daytime, more often above 800-900m afternoon, some higher breaks may form inland, but rare western areas.  |
| <b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>            | <b>20%</b>  |
| <b>Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)</b>     | Overcast and murky morning.<br>Skies tending to brighten and visibility improving if rain breaks up.  |
| <b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>                     | Soon up to 3C in morning, later starting to fall to 0C.<br>Feeling like -12 to -15C directly in wind.   |
| <b>Freezing Level</b>                          | Varying, 800-1000m pre dawn, rising above highest summits for several hours, then later dropping to 900-1000m.  |

## The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

|   | Thursday 18 December   | Friday 19 December  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>                 | South to southwesterly 40 to 60mph, peak speeds varying during day.  | Southwesterly 50 to 70mph.  |
| <b>Effect of wind on you?</b>                     | <b>Ongoing arduous conditions over higher terrain, walking often difficult in exposure, significant wind chill.</b>  | <b>Difficult conditions over the mountains, frequent buffeting from modest elevations upward. Significant wind chill.</b>   |
| <b>How wet?</b><br>(Precipitation and its impact) | <b>Showers mostly Skye, some snow tops</b><br>Showery over west coast mountains, most frequent rain on Skye. Drier inland, north and east. Later in day more persistent rain developing from southwest. Snow at times as low as 800m, risk hail, mainly later. | <b>Frequent showers, hail, snow tops</b><br>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. |
| <b>Cloud on the hills?</b>                        | <b>Most persistent west, clearer N/E</b><br><br>Often covering western hills around Skye above 700-800m. Breaks higher up inland and north, but widely lowering in rain.   | <b>Varied, but often capping western tops</b><br><br>Often shrouding higher terrain, cloud base constantly changing, bases 600 to 900m, brief lower patches in west. Occasional breaks toward upper slopes.   |
| <b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>               | <b>30%, to 60% north mainland.</b>   | <b>30%</b>  |
| <b>Sunshine?</b><br>Air clarity (below cloud)     | Largely cloudy, visibility varying, good intermittently if dry, but reducing to poor in showers, most often Skye.  | Brief bursts of sun, most common east. Visibility intermittently very good, but at times very poor in precipitation.  |
| <b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>                        | 0 to 2C.<br>Wind chill feeling like -12 to -15C on tops.   | 0 to 1C, slight rise later.<br>Feeling like -15C directly in the wind.  |
| <b>Freezing Level</b>                             | 900 to 1000m, rising for a time, then likely to lower again from west into evening.  | 900 to 1000m, may then rise a little onward into the night.   |

## Planning Outlook

## All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 18 December, 2025

South-southwesterly winds widely remain gale force over the mountains later this week and through into Saturday, severe upland gales for periods. More heavy rain for England and Wales on Thursday, further flooding expected; rain spreads north into Scotland, falling as snow on Munros. Showery by Friday, most frequent in western Scotland with hail, also snow over tops. Another belt of persistent rain likely arrives from the west into Saturday, snow only highest Scottish tops. A switch to east-southeasterly winds by Sunday into early next week, some residual rain and high-level snow, but a drier theme develops and favouring chillier conditions into the Christmas period.

## Forecast issued at 16:20 on Tuesday, 16 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.