

The Northwest Highlands

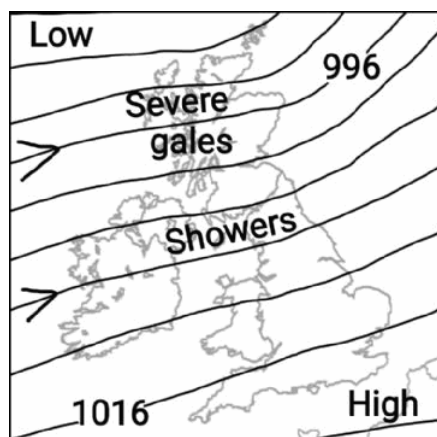
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Friday, 19 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 19 December, 2025

Southwesterly gales, severe across the Highlands, giving significant wind chill and showers. Showers frequent western Scotland, with snow falling down to 800m with hail and risk lightning. Scattered showers for England and Wales where hill fog confined to western tops.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Severe gales; significant wind chill. Frequent showers, snow tops. Risk thunder.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 19 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 50 to 70mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Difficult conditions over the mountains, frequent buffeting from modest elevations upward. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent showers, hail, snow tops 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.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied, but often capping western tops Often shrouding higher terrain, cloud base constantly changing, bases 600 to 900m, brief lower patches in west. Occasional breaks toward upper slopes.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Brief bursts of sun, most common east. Visibility intermittently very good, but at times very poor in precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 to 1C, slight rise later. Feeling like -15C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	900 to 1000m, may then rise a little onward into the night.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 20 December	Sunday 21 December
How windy? (On the Munros)	South to south-easterly 25 to 40mph, but on and near Skye 45 to 60mph.	South-easterly backing easterly 20 to 30mph, perhaps lifting to 40mph at times.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking arduous, or near west coast and Isles difficult, with a very turbulent airflow. Significant wind chill and buffeting.	Blustery, turbulent airflow with significant wind chill. Sudden gusts running downslope and reversals in direction.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Most areas dry, damp on and near Skye. Most areas dry, although a front near the west coast will likely bring damp weather on and near Skye with rain, and over highest tops, patchy sleet or snow.	Many areas may well be dry The legacy of a front may give patchy rain and snow tops, on and near Skye. Whilst a few showers may well feed in to Easter Ross and Caithness. Dry otherwise.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly hills on and near Skye Hills on and near Skye, likely covered extensively in fog throughout the day, from mid slopes upwards. Elsewhere, varied banks upper slopes, but often clear.	Fairly extensive, best breaks west coast Be prepared for fairly extensive cloud on the hills, most widespread Ben Wyvis up to Ben Hope, and perhaps Skye too. Higher bases and best breaks west coast.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30% on and near Skye. 60% elsewhere	40%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	A little weak sun possible as cloud layers thin at times. Visibility good or very good, but poor in any rain. General haze west coast.	A little weak sun perhaps toward west coast. Otherwise cloudy. Visibility good, but poor in any rain or snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	2 to 4C, highest northern hills, small rate of change in temperature with height.	Around 1C, small change in temperature with height. Feeling closer to -10C in the wind.
Freezing Level	Confined to highest tops or above	Around 1000m

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 20 December, 2025

A switch to east-southeasterly winds by Sunday into early next week, some residual rain and high-level snow, but a drier and colder theme develops into the Christmas period and perhaps into the New Year, as high pressure builds to the north and northeast. An extensive cloud sheet will likely come in from the North Sea over many days with light snow showers or flurries likely, rain to lower slopes, but many areas dry. Best breaks in the west.

Forecast issued at 16:26 on Thursday, 18 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.