MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

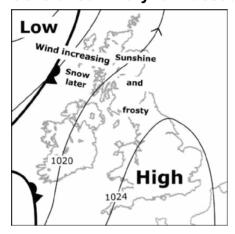
West Highlands

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



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General Summary for Tuesday, 3 December, 2024



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 3 December, 2024

Bright but cold, terrain widely frozen from valleys upward. Dry many areas all daylight, but in western Scotland by afternoon, rain and hill snow arriving - snow more widespread into evening, turning wetter from the west. Southerly winds strengthening, gales coastal mountains western Scotland.

Headline for West Highlands

Upland gales into afternoon; snow arriving later, rain coasts.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 3 December, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southerly, strengthening during the daytime, soonest near Mull - 20 to 40mph, reaching 50mph tops in Lochaber later afternoon, more widely from sunset. Turning southwest then westerly 30-40mph into night.	
Effect of wind on you?	Generally deteriorating, starting fairly small, but walking becoming arduous, increasingly difficult on exposed high terrain; significant wind chill developing.	
How wet?	Snow moving in from west from dusk	
(Precipitation and its impact)	Dry morning, very likely dry all daylight well inland. In afternoon, snow moving in from the west, initially flurries; from dusk more persistent, extending inland, turning wet on low-mid slopes, or higher up near coast and on islands. Fading to leave rain showers near coast into night.	
Cloud on the hills?	Very little; developing, lowering later	
	Fragments around some slopes, but many mountains clear all of daylight. Patches forming more readily on south-facing coastal hills, may fill in further with time; lowering to become extensive into evening.	
Chance of cloud free Munros?	80%, later 30% coasts	
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sun weakening as layers of high cloud thicken from west, then overcast. Visibility excellent, becoming hazier west, very poor later in snow. Some early fog in glens.	
How Cold? (at 900m)	-4C rising to -2C, nearer 0C coasts & islands; rising widely to +1C into night. Wind chill -10 to -15C as speeds increase.	
Freezing Level	Most terrain frozen, hard frost inland glens at dawn; lifting to 500m coasts, or higher up to dusk, then variably toward 1000m or above all areas into night.	

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West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 4 December	Thursday 5 December
How windy? (On the Munros)	West soon turning southerly, 20-30mph or less in morning, but increasingly rapidly afternoon to 40-50mph, later 60mph.	Southerlies 35 to 50mph shifting westerly. Severe gales possible further south. Details uncertain.
Effect of wind on you?	Small early in day, but walking becoming challenging in the afternoon, deteriorating to arduous later; wind chill significant.	Walking will be hard work, gusts will threaten balance, strongest requiring bracing. Significant wind chill.
How wet?	Largely dry until late	Frequent or persistent rain
(Precipitation and its impact)	A fresh covering of snow above 800m from overnight. A dry day. Rain and briefly upland snow arriving from southwest late afternoon onward, soon heavy rain early evening.	Rain, some heavy, soon arriving west and moving inland. Primary rain band passing midday with showers through the afternoon. Sleet only at times on highest summits.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied banks, filling in coastal hills	Extensive
	Patches of low cloud and fog below 1000m in the morning. Cloud increasing from the west during middle of day into afternoon, drifting onto coastal slopes, risk later becoming widespread.	Shrouding the mountains most or all day, lowest cloud bases toward the coast and on the islands. Some rise of cloud base well inland, but rare breaks to tops.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	60%	10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Inland hilltops will see plentiful sun until midday when higher clouds arrive. Visibility excellent, hazier later near coast.	No sunshine. Possible bright spells well inland in afternoon. Poor visibility in pockets of showers, intermittently good.
How Cold? (at 900m)	Around 1C in the morning rising to 2 to 3C near the coast.	2 to 3C, briefly higher, then dropping again later. Wind chill down to -10C.
Freezing Level	1000m or above near coast, 800m inland; rising further later. Some pockets of frost lower down inland in the morning.	Touching summits at 1300m in the morning. A brief thaw midday, then gradually lowering to 1200m.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 4 December, 2024

Tuesday night sees a fresh covering of snow on higher terrain, particularly Scottish Highlands, but also tops in northern England. Largely dry and chilly for Wednesday daytime, but rapidly changing again later as southerly gales develop from the west. Milder into Wednesday night and early Thursday with rain and thawing to upper slopes. A generally unsettled pattern onward into the weekend, with low pressure dominant, bringing fluctuating temperatures, gales and periods of rain and hill snow. Indications favour much colder northerly air returning widely during the weekend, with snow returning to many hills. Quieter weather then likely into mid December with frost, fog and inversions.

Forecast issued at 16:16 on Monday, 2 December, 2024

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, 2024.