MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

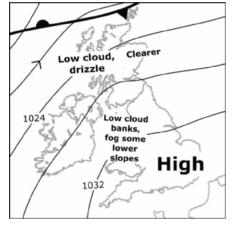
West Highlands

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.



Fort William Mountain Festival - 13th-16th February 2025 Inspire / Respect / Protect www.mountainfestival.co.uk

General Summary for Friday, 17 January, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 17 January, 2025

Windy over Scottish mountains, gales particularly toward north in morning; powerful gusts to some lower elevations. Gusty too for northern England & west Wales. Low cloud and drizzly rain for western Scotland; cloud shrouding most tops in the Highlands. Higher summits in England & Wales may poke out above cloud layer.

Headline for West Highlands

Gales lessening, turbulent gusts. Low cloud, areas of drizzle.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 17 January, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southwesterly 40 to 55mph early morning, strongest in Lochaber. Wind easing slightly into middle of day to around 35mph Ben Nevis to Mull, and 25mph further south and well inland. Mobility difficult where exposed to the full strength of the wind early in the day. Powerful downslope gusts may blow you over. Significant wind chill. Moderating	
	with time, but still blustery.	
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain and drizzle on and off Lochaber Rain and drizzle on and off through the day, most often around Lochaber. Will be most persistent near the west coast with only a little reaching Creag Meagaidh and the Central Highlands.	
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive Cloud will shroud summits from lower slopes up near the west coast. Cloud base rising progressively to the east and on Creag Meagaidh will be around 600m. Local breaks may form into southern Loch Lomond NP with time.	
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10%	
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Rare if any glimpses of sun. Very poor visibility.	
How Cold? (at 900m)	5C, small variation of temperature with height above 600m. Feeling like -5C in the wind, nearer -10C some higher slopes early in day.	
Freezing Level	Above the summits.	

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 18 January	Sunday 19 January
How windy? (On the Munros)	Gusty southwesterly 30 to 40mph, some variation up and down through the day but possibly strongest in the morning.	Southerly, 20-30mph, stronger near Mull and north.
Effect of wind on you?	Your balance will be affected on high ground. Beware gusts throwing you further off balance on downslopes. Significant wind chill.	Walking starting to be impeded, higher winds and gusts affecting movement and balance.
How wet?	Small risk of localised drizzle	Light drizzle patches possible west
(Precipitation and its impact)	Risk of fine drizzle where in fog near Loch Lomond NP and Arran.	Occasional drizzle spells possible near Arran and Loch Linnhe. Dry elsewhere.
Cloud on the hills?	Probably very little on high ground	Low fog/cloud banks, clear higher
	Cloud may fill in on lower slopes around Loch Lomond NP and Arran, particularly in the morning. A few wisps of mid-level cloud may be present in Lochaber. Summits likely to be cloud free.	Fog/low clouds likely on lower south facing slopes and bottoms of glens. Thicker, persistent low clouds near Arran and Lochaber. Cloud tops staying near or below 800m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	60%	20% low slopes, 80% above 800m
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Extensive sunshine, possibly weakened by high cloud. Good visibility low down if not in cloud; superb visibility on high ground.	Widely sunny above fog/cloud banks, occasional mid- or high-level clouds. Excellent visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m)	1C. Higher ground may be a few degrees warmer above hill clouds. Feeling around -10C in the wind.	2C, feeling a few degrees warmer on sunny mountain tops.
Freezing Level	Above the summits.	Above the summits during daylight. Dropping to the high summits after dusk.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 18 January, 2025

Slow changes in the days ahead as high pressure to the southeast slowly fades and allows weak fronts to make inroads from the west. Small amounts of precipitation until later next week - patchy drizzle in places, locally snow flurries developing as temperature falls slowly. South to southeasterly winds prevailing, locally very gusty, bringing areas of low cloud or fog - at times higher slopes clear above the cloud. Sunniest overall toward north of major hill groups. Deeper areas of low pressure over the Atlantic are expected toward late January, bringing a risk of more frequent precipitation and periods of gales or possibly stormy winds at times; fluctuating temperatures and freeze-thaw cycles.

Forecast issued at 15:38 on Thursday, 16 January, 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.