

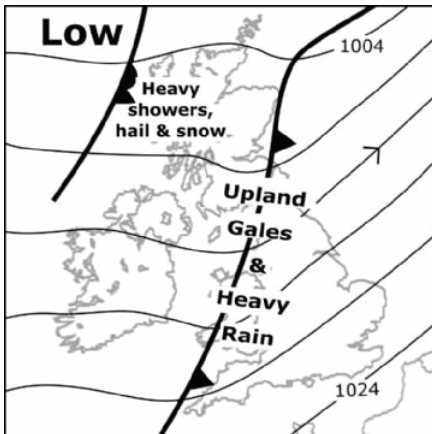
West Highlands

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
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General Summary for Tuesday, 4 February, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 4 February, 2025

A cold front moving southeastwards brings heavy rain to southern Scotland, England & Wales, accompanied by severe gales on higher mountains. The wind moderates for periods across Scotland, but squally showers will develop increasingly, becoming heavier, with hail and snow to lowering elevations as the temperature falls.

Headline for West Highlands

Variable winds, clusters of showers, hail and increasingly snow.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 4 February, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly, soon easing from 40-50mph at dawn to be variable around 20-30mph or sometimes less in Lochaber. On Arran, often 30-35mph. Squally gusts in showers later 40-50mph near coast, turning westerly. More widely 40-50mph by evening.
Effect of wind on you?	Variable conditions, at times fairly small, but expect some buffeting over exposed tops, greater risk furthest south. Suddenly arduous conditions returning locally around showers later. Deteriorating again into evening.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Early rain fades, then showery with hail and snow; risk lightning later. Heavy and persistent rain from before dawn, slowest to ease around Loch Lomond. Turning to patchy sleet then snow on the Munros. By afternoon, becoming showery bursts with hail, risk setting in for periods in west, later snow falling toward 500m. Risk isolated lightning late in day. Very wet underfoot, especially southern areas.
Cloud on the hills?	Lifting to upper slopes, but rarely clearing Extensive across the mountains in the morning, to lower elevations toward coast and sea lochs. Bases rising, but staying persistent over most higher terrain, varied in showers. Some breaks above 800-900m inland Lochaber.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Brief glimpses of sun, mainly north/east of Rannoch Moor. Visibility at times very good where dry, but poor where precipitation persists, risk periods of whiteout developing later.
How Cold? (at 900m)	+2C at or before dawn, soon lowering to around 0C; during afternoon to -2C. Wind chill varied, at times below -10C in stronger speeds.
Freezing Level	Starting above most or all summits, soon dropping to 900m, or during afternoon to 600-700m. Icy surfaces forming on tops.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 5 February	Thursday 6 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southwesterly 25mph up to 40mph some higher slopes, mainly Ben Nevis range; sudden gusts in places; lessening. Balance affected on exposed ridges, buffeting gusts around some major summits. Considerable wind chill.	Southerly 25mph, risk gusty 40mph on mountains furthest west near Mull; locally gusty elsewhere downslope to north. Affecting comfortable walking and balance in places, sudden buffeting not just on highest terrain; considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow and hail mostly morning Showers of snow and hail frequent over coastal mountains in the morning. Intensity of showers easing, but snow flurries may continue in west, turning drizzly with time up to some upper slopes.	Precipitation unlikely Chance of fine drizzle some coastal slopes if within cloud banks.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Mostly higher tops, breaks forming Varying cloud bases will come and go over higher slopes in the morning, most frequently capping coastal areas above 800m. Inland often above 900m. Breaks more frequent with time. 30%	Patchy cloud southern mountains Cloud banks around south-facing slopes, mostly at mid-elevations, plus some fog in sheltered glens inland in the morning. Some cloud patches may drift higher up at times. Northward into Lochaber, many mountains clear. 70%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Occasional sun. Slight haze, but visibility becoming increasingly good as showers fade.	Generally sunny out of the local patchy cloud; some thin high cloud. Visibility very good, but a haze some lower slopes, particularly toward coast.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-2C rising to 0C. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -15C. 600-700m, plus frost in some glens from dawn, rising slowly just above freezing point to around 900m.	0 or 1C, but locally some slopes may rise near 5C inland Lochaber. Wind chill feeling like -7C. Terrain frozen or part-frozen, including frost sheltered glens early morning. Gradual thawing at many elevations in the sun.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 5 February, 2025

High pressure builds from the south during Wednesday bringing often dry conditions in the extended outlook. On many higher areas, the terrain largely frozen, although air temperature on some upper slopes will rise above freezing at times, some thawing in sunlight then overnight refreezing likely. Frost common into the valleys. Gusty south to southeasterly winds toward west coast of Scotland late this week, periods of lighter winds elsewhere. Chilly east to southeasterlies prevail into mid-February, bringing some snow flurries at times to hills, mainly Pennines & Wales. West and especially northwest Scotland largely dry, often sunny.

Forecast issued at 15:40 on Monday, 3 February, 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.