

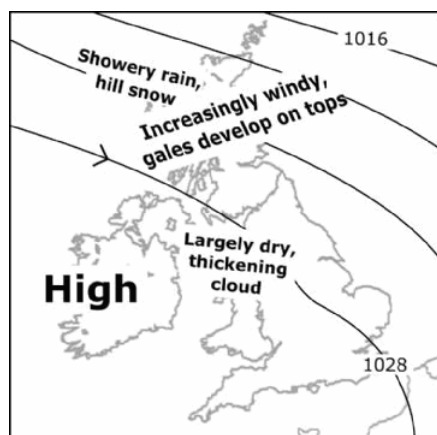
West Highlands

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 Wednesday, 31 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 31 December, 2025

Much terrain frozen, frost into valleys and glens in the morning, all day out of sunlight, but temperature and freezing level tending to lift toward 800m from west. Showery rain and hill snow moving into W-NW Scotland. Wind strengthening, becoming gales over tops in Scotland during day, then N England after dark.

Headline for West Highlands

Increasingly windy, gales later tops. Showers develop, hill snow.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 31 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Westerly 20 to 30mph, increasing through day to 30 to 40mph, by evening 50mph higher mountains. Turning northwesterly but remaining 40-50mph onward into night.
Effect of wind on you?	Be prepared for increasingly fairly arduous conditions through the day with significant buffeting and wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Developing patchy rain or upper slopes snow Mostly dry start, bar an isolated flurry, but increasingly through day patchy precipitation developing. Snow falling above around 500 later 800m. Frequent rain and hill snow during evening hours, some persistent, breaking up into showers with hail beyond midnight.
Cloud on the hills?	Increasingly extensive Soon after dawn low cloud becoming extensive across western hills, filling in above 700-900m, some patches forming below 500m nearest coast and on islands. Higher and more broken cloud inland in morning, some mist in glens.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Increasingly overcast. Becoming hazier, with poor visibility in precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 or -1C; will then drop to -3C into night. Feeling like -10C, later -15C in the strongest winds during day.
Freezing Level	Freezing at all levels in the morning, well below zero inland glens, before freezing level rises through day to 700-900m, then into night dropping to 500-600m.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 1 January	Friday 2 January
How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 35 to 50mph, squally gusts in showers.	Northerly 30 to 40mph, squally gusts in showers, mainly coastal areas.
Effect of wind on you?	Frequent buffeting, walking often arduous on higher terrain. Significant wind chill, severe higher up.	Severe wind chill over the mountains. Frequent buffeting in exposure on higher terrain.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Occasional snow and hail Showers most frequent near coasts and sometimes inland across Lochaber, falling as snow and hail to many lower slopes, though a mix of rain and hail on islands below 600m. Drier Loch Lomond NP.	Snow and hail coasts and north Frequent showers running southward over coastal areas, some showers inland mainly Lochaber; snow and hail falling and accumulating to sea level. Drier Loch Lomond NP to central highlands.
Cloud on the hills?	Most frequent north and coasts Cloud base varying, but often capping higher slopes in Lochaber and near coasts, bases 700-1000m. Breaks higher up most often toward and south of Crianlarich.	Mostly coastal tops and Ben Nevis Varying cloud bases over coastal hills above 700-900m, briefly lower in showers. Also often capping tops in Lochaber above 800-1000m. Better breaks southward.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40%	30% Lochaber/coasts, to 60% south.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Occasional sun, best near Loch Lomond. Visibility often very good, but reduced to very poor at times in snow and cloud.	Bursts of sunshine, sunniest Loch Lomond. Visibility excellent away from showers, but very poor where snow falls or blows around and also if in cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-3C (-5C Ben Nevis top), to -1C coasts, dropping widely to -5C into night. Wind chill feeling like -15C, near -20C highest 500 to 600m, up to 700m toward Arran. Some inland glens near freezing all day, then into night dropping to all lower slopes.	-5C (to -8C at 1200-1300m). Wind chill feeling like -15 to -20C on tops. Most terrain frozen, sub-zero all day glens upward. Just above freezing up to 300-400m nearest the coast and on islands.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 1 January, 2026

Significantly cold wintry conditions into the start of January. Air temperature well below freezing on high terrain, plus low minima into many glens and valleys with sustained hard frost. Strong northerly winds later this week giving severe wind chill. Frequent and heavy snow showers moving into northern areas and running down coastal extremities with significant accumulations. Elsewhere, lots of dry and sunny weather, although occasional organised bands of snow will feed south at times in the Arctic airflow. Staying cold into next week with scope for snowfalls more widely.

Forecast issued at 16:28 on Tuesday, 30 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.