

Reading a Forecast

Practical skills

What the numbers mean, and which ones matter outdoors.

The figures that actually change a plan.

Figure	Means
Temperature	Air in shade, at 2 m
Feels like	Adjusted for wind and humidity
Wind speed	Sustained; gusts are separate
Gust	Peak; often 40% higher
Precipitation %	Chance of ANY rain in that area
Cloud base	Height of cloud — matters on hills
Freezing level	Altitude of 0°C

Temperature falls roughly 1°C per 100 m of ascent, and wind increases with height. A mild valley can be freezing on a summit.