

Mountains of the UK

The United Kingdom's mountains, though modest compared to ranges like the Alps or Himalayas, are landscapes of striking beauty and great ecological importance. England's highest summit, Scafell Pike (978 m), rises above the glacial valleys and lakes of the Lake District, Cumbria — a region designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2017.

Wales is home to Snowdon (1,085 m), the highest point in Wales and England combined. It lies within Snowdonia National Park and can be reached either on foot via several waymarked trails or by the Snowdon Mountain Railway, one of the few rack-and-pinion railways in Britain.

Scotland dominates when it comes to altitude. Ben Nevis, at 1,345 metres, is the highest point in the entire British Isles. Scotland is also home to all 282 Munros — peaks exceeding 3,000 feet — which attract hillwalkers from around the world who aim to "bag" every summit.

These upland environments support fragile ecosystems containing rare species such as ospreys, snow buntings, wildcats and arctic-alpine plants including purple saxifrage. Climate change poses a significant threat to these habitats, with rising temperatures affecting snowfall levels and the survival of cold-adapted species.

Walking, climbing, mountain biking and wild camping are popular pursuits. However, with weather conditions capable of deteriorating rapidly, safety preparation — including navigation skills, appropriate equipment and knowledge of mountain rescue procedures — is absolutely essential.

Questions

1. What height is Scafell Pike?
2. What was the Lake District designated as in 2017?
3. In which country or countries is Snowdon the highest point?
4. What is unusual about the Snowdon Mountain Railway?
5. What is the height of Ben Nevis?
6. What qualifies a Scottish mountain as a Munro?
7. How many Munros are there?
8. Name two rare species found in UK upland environments.
9. Name one threat that climate change poses to mountain ecosystems.
10. Why do you think the article describes UK mountain ecosystems as "fragile," even though mountains themselves seem very big and strong?



Text D Quiz



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