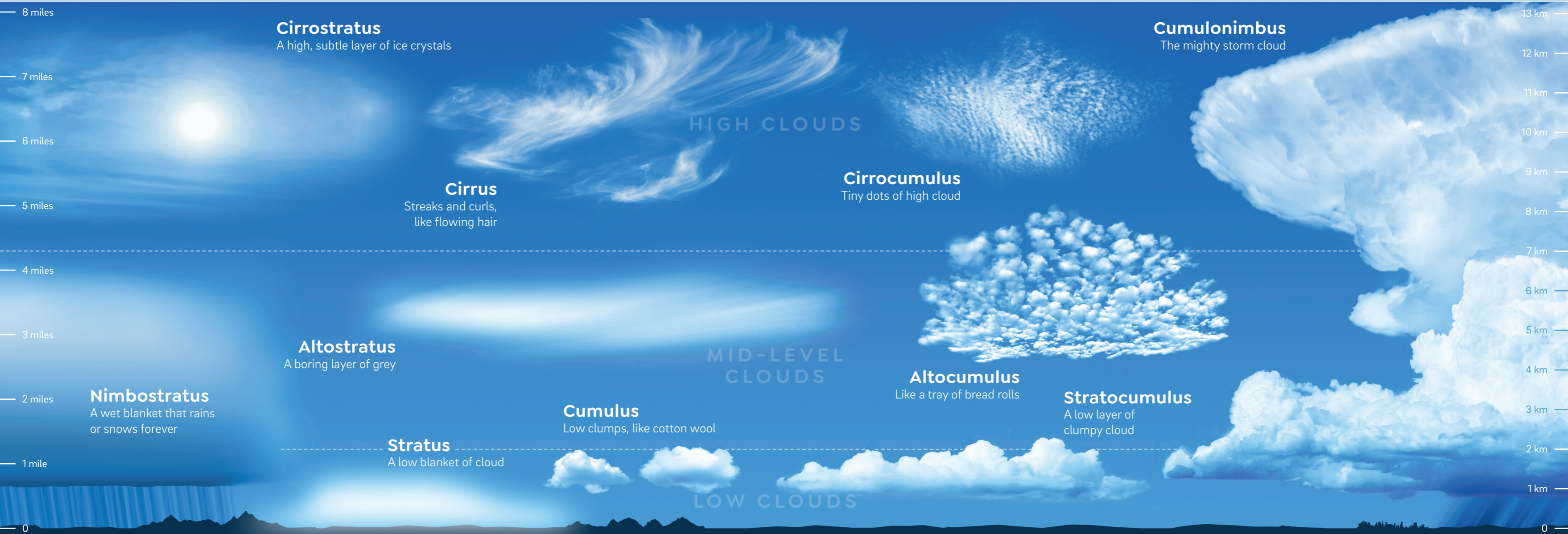


# CLOUDSPOTTING CHART

## THE TEN MAIN CLOUD TYPES



<b>Cumulus</b> The fair-weather cloud. Low, bright white clumps, like thick cotton wool. Has crisp edges and often has flat, darker base. Forms on a sunny day. <b>LOW CLOUD</b>	<b>Stratocumulus</b> The low clumpy layer. Sometimes joined-up. Sometimes with gaps. Often chaotic and untidy-looking, showing every shade from white to grey. <b>LOW CLOUD</b>	<b>Stratus</b> The low, featureless blanket. Often covers the whole sky. Tends to be thick enough to hide the position of the Sun. Can form so low as to touch the ground or sea as fog. <b>LOW CLOUD</b>	<b>Alto cumulus</b> Mid-level clumpy layer. Can look like countless bread rolls arranged on a tray. Forms neater patterns than Stratocumulus. Makes for stunning sunsets. <b>MID-LEVEL CLOUD</b>	<b>Altostratus</b> The boring cloud. Just a plain, grey sky with no features or tones. Usually shows the location of the Sun – as if you're seeing it through frosted glass. <b>MID-LEVEL CLOUD</b>	<b>Cirrus</b> High streaks of ice crystals that look like long, straight hair flowing in the current of a stream. Appears delicate and wispy. Lets the blue of sky above shine through. <b>HIGH CLOUD</b>	<b>Cirrocumulus</b> The rarest of the ten main types. Looks like grains of rice or salt scattered across the sky. Tends to form in patches rather than cover the whole sky. <b>HIGH CLOUD</b>	<b>Cirrostratus</b> The least showy of the ten main types. A high layer of ice crystals that's often just a milky whitening of the blue. The Sun shining through it casts shadows. <b>HIGH CLOUD</b>	<b>Nimbostratus</b> The dark grey, wet-blanket of the sky that makes lots of rain or snow, which falls steadily for long periods. It takes a while to arrive and a long time to leave. <b>MULTI-LEVEL CLOUD</b>	<b>Cumulonimbus</b> The huge rain, snow or hail cloud. A monster of the sky that makes thunder and lightning, heavy localised showers and blustery winds. <b>MULTI-LEVEL CLOUD</b>

The scale of cloud altitudes in the Ten Main Cloud Types diagram applies to mid-latitude regions of the world. Cloud altitudes are higher near the Equator and lower near the Poles.

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