MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

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 Friday, 29 March, 2024



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 29 March, 2024

Centres of low pressure will circulate across Britain, bringing areas of rain (snow higher areas, particularly Scotland) which will gradually transition to heavy showers, and extensive fog to the mountains. It will remain cold. However, in Scotland, winds will be light.

Headline for West Highlands

Light wind, particularly morning. Extensive fog. Precipitation on and off.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 29 March, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Mostly south to southeasterly, in afternoon 20 or locally 25mph, but speeds low in morning, when almost windless on some summits.		
Effect of wind on you?	Fairly small.		
How wet?	Precipitation on and off; risk thunder		
(Precipitation and its impact)	Areas of rain or above 500m snow, mainly Loch Lomond NP and Arran morning. By afternoon more showery across the region: hail, in places heavy; small risk thunder.		
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive, patches on lower slopes, particularly morning		
Chance of cloud	Overall fog very extensive, although cloud base will tend to rise. From dawn fragments on lowest slopes, but widespread in precipitation. Generally cloud base lifting by afternoon toward 600m, but probably breaks nearer 900m Lochaber. Less than 10%		
free Munros?			
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun, if any. Visibility good for periods, but very poor in precipitation.		
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C; probably rising marginally during day.		
Freezing Level	600 to 750m; may reach 1050m in places afternoon. Slight frost at dawn some valleys.		

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 30 March	Sunday 31 March
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southerly around 20 or 25mph, strongest near the coast. Fairly small	Southeast or easterly 15 to 20mph, generally strongest near Clyde sea lochs and southern Loch Lomond NP. Small
How wet?	Heavy showers, mainly afternoon	Scattered hail showers
(Precipitation and its impact)	Morning: isolated pockets rain (or snow above 450m) but all areas dry. From about midday: hail or on higher slopes snow showers developing, in some areas frequent. Risk thunder.	Hail flurries or showers developing in afternoon; probably well scattered.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive at first; mostly lifting to or perhaps above higher summits	All or nearly all clearing
	Very varied from dawn; some higher slopes cloud free, but most mountains foggy, in places from valleys up. Will change through morning as cloud base rises. From late morning, cloud base often above 800m, sometimes 1100m Lochaber but lower in precipitation.	Patches of some higher slopes after dawn will very likely clear before midday. Higher tops east of Loch Lomond and Crianlarich may not clear or clear only briefly, before cloud base lowers here in evening.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Rising to 50% from midday	60%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Bursts of sunshine and very good or excellent visibility. However, visibility abruptly very poor in precipitation, especially snow.	Patchwork of sunshine; least sun eastern Loch Lomond NP. Excellent or superb visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m)	Around 0C after dawn before reaching 2 to 4C mid afternoon (warmest Lochaber).	2 rising to 5C.
Freezing Level	700 to 900m, rising to 1200m or above. Frost in many glens at dawn.	1200m, before rising above the summits, although in lowland and upland valleys widely frosty after dawn.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 30 March, 2024

Overall the next week to 10 days will often be cloudy with rain from time to time particularly over England and Wales. However, after widespread hail showers on Saturday, few showers on Sunday (which will also be the warmest day nearly everywhere). Then largely dry Scotland and the Lake District until about Wednesday, but persistent very low cloud (in easterly winds) will shroud all but some western summits in fog. Rain (sometimes snow higher tops) will be more widespread throughout next week Pennines and across Wales.

Forecast issued at 18:00 on Thursday, 28 March, 2024

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, 2024.