MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

West Highlands

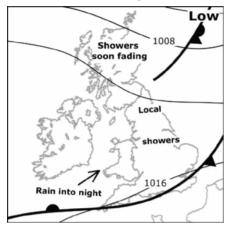
Western Highlands accessible from, and south of, Glenfinnan (Road to the Isles) and Glen Spean (includes Creag Meagaidh). This area includes Ben Nevis and the mountains around Glencoe. In the east, from Ben Alder south to Loch Lomond and Trossachs NP. Also Arran and Mull.



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General Summary for Tuesday, 19 March, 2024



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 19 March, 2024

Upland gales for the Highlands in the morning will ease. Early heavy bursts of rain clearing eastwards to leave often drier conditions. Variable cloud amounts, most persistent over western mountains, but lifting with some breaks forming.

Headline for West Highlands

Gales easing. Early showers fade.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 19 March, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southerly, soon veering westerly, 30 to 45mph, strongest in the morning, later dropping to 20mph or less.		
Effect of wind on you?	Be prepared for arduous, or for a time difficult conditions with significant wind chill. Improving during the day.		
How wet?	Heavy showers soon easing		
(Precipitation and its impact)	A band of showery at times heavy and squally rain will move through early morning, risk isolated hail and thunder briefly. Then local drizzly showers, snow flurries on the Munros.		
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive upper slopes.		
	Cloud bases varying, but fairly extensive through day upper slopes, and even to mid slopes in morning. Best of the breaks in the afternoon, widely well inland.		
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20% morning, 60% afternoon.		
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Cloudy morning, patches of sun in the afternoon, especially in the east. Visibility poor in morning rain, but becoming very good.		
How Cold? (at 900m)	3C lowering to 1C during morning. Wind chill feeling as cold as -10C where directly in strongest winds in morning.		
Freezing Level	Above the summits early in day, then lowering to 1000m into middle of day.		

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West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 20 March	Thursday 21 March
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Westerly 10 to 15mph, perhaps less inland. Tending to increase through afternoon 20-25mph. Mostly small, increasing wind through the afternoon will bring a marked wind chill.	West to southwesterly 50 to 70mph, stronger gusts likely over exposed higher terrain. Difficult conditions over the mountains, gusts could knock you over. Significant wind chill from mid-heights upward.
How wet?	Brief showers	Heavy rain, later snow & hail
(Precipitation and its impact)	Isolated showers, mainly near the west coast, snow flurries above 500 to later 700m. Possibly drizzly rain locally in south at first.	Heavy rain setting in, may last much of the day. An abrupt transition to snow on high tops as this finishes by evening. Then into night, showers with snow & hail falling below 600m.
Cloud on the hills?	Cloud breaking off many hills.	Extensive
	Patches of cloud at first, mainly mid to upper slopes, some hills clear. These banks more widely will lift off the tops, although patches may persist west coast.	Shrouding most mountains all day, to lower elevations near the coast.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	60%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Broken cloud and sunshine. Visibility very good.	Overcast and dull. Visibility generally poor.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C lifting to -1C	3 to 5C. Wind chill feeling like -5 to -10C on tops.
Freezing Level	600m lifting to 800m	Soon well above the summits. Then into night, likely to fall rapidly, below 800m by early Friday.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 20 March, 2024

Mixed westerly patterns prevail this week, but turning northwesterly toward the weekend allowing much colder air to move in - dropping extensively below freezing point over all British mountains for several days. Fresh upland snowfalls, concentrated toward the west and north of the Highlands, including heavy showers with hail.

A period of sustained gales over the tops late this week and likely into the weekend - severe gales over Scottish tops on Thursday at least; significant or at times severe wind chill factor.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Monday, 18 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.