

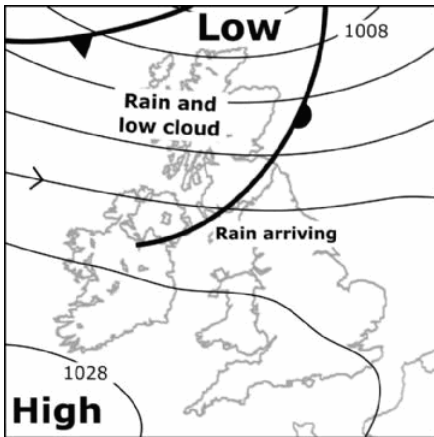
West Highlands

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 Thursday, 18 April, 2024



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 18 April, 2024

Gale force westerly winds across Scottish mountains, strengthening with time for northern England. Rain and low cloud most persistent in western Scotland, spreading southeastwards during the day. Lifting above freezing to all tops. Dropping colder from north into night.

Headline for West Highlands

Upland gales. Rain and drizzle much of day.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 18 April, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Westerly, soon strengthening during morning 30 to 50mph, up to 60mph highest tops in Ben Nevis range middle of day.
Effect of wind on you?	Deteriorating quickly to make walking arduous or increasingly difficult on higher terrain. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain setting in, showery by evening Drizzly rain and snow flurries on higher tops at first. Becoming persistent steady rain, heavier near/west of Loch Linnhe for a few hours during middle of day. From dusk, showers with snow high tops.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive Banks of cloud over some slopes from dawn, filling in and lowering extensively, shrouding hills to lower slopes near coast and islands. Highest bases well inland. Bases starting to lift and break into evening from north.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Generally overcast, dull and murky in west. Visibility widely poor across the mountains.
How Cold? (at 900m)	1 to 3C, highest in middle of day. Wind chill feeling like -10C, to -15C on higher tops in stronger winds.
Freezing Level	1000m early morning, lifting above freezing to highest tops until dusk, but then dropping back toward 900m into night.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 19 April	Saturday 20 April
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Northwesterly 25 to 40mph, strongest early morning over high tops and especially near coast; tending to ease during day. Considerable wind chill and blustery, buffeting where exposed early in day; lessening gradually.	Northwest turning westerly, 15 to 20mph, at times 25mph around higher summits in Lochaber. Fairly small, locally feeling blustery at times around some tops.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Local showers for a time Isolated snow or hail showers, grazing the coast and islands in morning, one or two over Lochaber. Tending to fade out.	Patchy drizzle Occasional drizzly rain spilling in from the west, mostly Lochaber. Small amounts overall.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly clearing Patchy cloud on some higher slopes in the morning, mostly near to coasts, perhaps Ben Nevis range for a time, but lifting toward or above most summits.	Fairly extensive, lowest west Lochaber Some hills starting clear, but low cloud extending inland from west to increasingly cover most hills, likely to fill in to mid-slopes near/west of Loch Linnhe. Near Loch Lomond & Arran may stay clearer.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	70%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Broken cloud and sun. Visibility excellent.	Early glimpses of sun giving way to cloudy skies. Visibility locally good below cloud, but likely dull in Lochaber, murkier toward Mull.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-1 to +2C, highest near coasts in south. Wind chill feeling like -10C or below in strongest wind in morning. 800 to 1000m in morning, rising to 1000 to 1200m in afternoon; lowest Ben Nevis range to Creag Meagaidh.	2C rising to 5C. Feeling like -5C if exposed to breeze early in day, and still sub-zero in afternoon. Slight frost inland glens plus some sheltered higher areas at first. Otherwise above freezing to highest tops.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 19 April, 2024**

Near freezing over high tops on Friday with a scattering of brief hail showers on brisk northwesterly winds. Milder into the weekend. High pressure builds into the weekend bringing mostly dry conditions and lighter winds. However, fairly cloudy over the Highlands, shrouding many western mountains, with patchy drizzle mainly in the northwest on Saturday. High pressure then centred toward the northwest into next week, cool northeasterly breezes developing. Near or below freezing on tops with overnight frost into valleys and glens. Sunny spells and scattered showers with hail and snow.

Forecast issued at 7:15 on Thursday, 18 April, 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.