

The Northwest Highlands

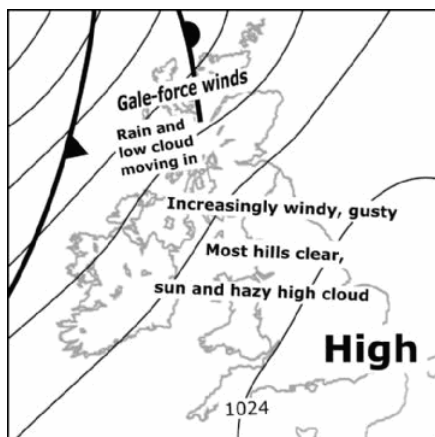
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Thursday, 24 September, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 24 September, 2026

Southerly gales develop widely over Scottish mountains, becoming severe northwest coastal tops. A little rain moves northeast, then more persistent rain sets in for western mountains, turning heavier. Wind strengthens too for England & Wales, generally dry and hills clear, sun giving way to a veil of upper cloud.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Gales strengthen, severe western tops; rain sets in west.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 24 September, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southerly 25-40mph from dawn, but already strengthening rapidly over western mountains, to 50-60mph, soonest Skye, reaching 70mph over higher western tops afternoon; powerful downslope gusts.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking soon challenging, notably west, gusts knocking you off your feet, any mobility increasingly very difficult most high terrain; feeling chilly despite mild temperature.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	A little rain, heavier west later in day Drizzle and patchy rain most common on Skye, sometimes spreading more widely, but most mainland Munros often dry into the afternoon. Rain increasingly sets in Skye afternoon, then spreads widely later, heavier for a few hours.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly clear morning, gradually increasing A few patches graze the Cuillin through morning, but most hills stay clear. Through afternoon, banks more often covering the Cuillin, spreading more widely and filling in over high terrain with time, lowering towards 600-700m Cuillin later.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	80%, lowering to 30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of early sun, weakened by high cloud, trending cloudier. Very good visibility, a little coastal haze building, poorer later.
How Cold? (at 900m)	5C rising to 9C afternoon, tending to then lower onward into night. Feeling as cold as -5C in strongest wind later.
Freezing Level	Above the summits.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 25 September	Saturday 26 September
How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 40 to 55mph, lessening a little toward Great Glen.	Southwesterly 35 to 50mph, strongest sustained speeds over west coast mountains.
Effect of wind on you?	Arduous walking conditions and frequent buffeting on exposed terrain knocking you off balance; considerable wind chill.	Strenuous-to-arduous walking conditions, buffeting gusts knocking you off balance on exposed terrain; considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain on and off Rain most frequent on coastal mountains, particularly near Skye; likely to come and go over many western hills, some heavier showers. More often dry further east. Rain more persistent into night.	Rain on and off west Showery rain most frequent over western mountains, some steadier rain for periods on Skye and coastal areas near Torridon. More often dry toward Ben Wyvis.
Cloud on the hills?	Most frequent west Varied cloud above 700 to 900m, most common Skye and coastal Wester Ross, likely anywhere in rain, but often higher with better breaks further north and east.	Often capping western tops Likely to come and go above 800m in west, some lower patches at times near coast. More often above 900-1000m further inland/east, some breaks to tops.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30% west to 60% east	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Occasional sun mostly inland and east. Fairly hazy west, reduced further in rain, visibility good toward east.	Glimpses of sun mostly eastern areas. Visibility very good where dry and out of cloud, hazier toward Skye, reduced in rain.
How Cold? (at 900m)	5 or 6C, little change all day. Feeling like -5 to -8C in the wind.	5 or 6C, little change all day. Feeling like -5 to -8C in the wind.
Freezing Level	Above the summits.	Above the summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 25 September, 2026

South to southwesterly winds prevail onward into the weekend and next week. Some rain drifting in from the Atlantic, a mix of drizzle, some showery falls, and locally steadier rain at times over western mountains. Cloud often shrouding hills, best of breaks toward east and north. Generally mild air, but prepare for marked chill factor on tops due to often strong winds, gales for periods over high terrain, most sustained in Scotland. Into mid-next week, risk of a more widespread gale, or severe gale over higher mountains. Higher pressure then tends to expand further over the country into the start of October for drier and quite warm weather.

Forecast issued at 16:27 on Wednesday, 23 September, 2026

The Production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by 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, 2026.