MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

West Highlands

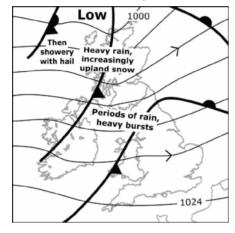
Western Highlands accessible from, and south of, Glenfinnan (Road to the Isles) and Glen Spean (includes Creag Meagaidh). This area includes Ben Nevis and the mountains around Glencoe. In the east, from Ben Alder south to Loch Lomond and Trossachs NP. Also Arran and Mull.



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General Summary for Saturday, 13 April, 2024



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 13 April, 2024

Gales across most mountains, increasingly widespread England and Wales. Heavy bursts of rain and showers passing eastwards. Increasingly snow and hail on Scottish mountains as temperatures fall during the daytime.

Headline for West Highlands

Upland gales, squally. Rain then hail and snow showers.

Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 13 April, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwest turning westerly, speeds changing quickly, but mostly in the range 40 to 70mph, sudden powerful squally gusts especially in showers and as a front passes in the morning.		
Effect of wind on you?	Often difficult conditions over higher mountains all day, significant wind chill. Gusts may knock you over where exposed. Very blustery with sudden buffeting gusts even lower down.		
How wet?	Rain then heavy showers, hail, snow; risk thunder. Dry start inland. Soon persistent and at times heavy rain during morning, sleet or snow on highest tops. Breaking up into showers, heavy bursts with hail and increasingly snow above 700m in the afternoon. Risk isolated thunder.		
(Precipitation and its impact)			
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive across upper slopes		
	Whilst cloud bases will vary markedly, they will shroud upper slopes in fog for much of the day. Near and north of Glen Spean, hill fog mainly above 1000m. Bases tending to lift during afternoon away from showers.		
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%		
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little if any sun. Visibility ranging from good or very good, to poor in showers. Very poor in snow on tops.		
How Cold? (at 900m)	2C, lowering to -1C from midday. Feeling close to -12C in direct exposure to the strongest winds.		
Freezing Level	Around 1200m at first, briefly higher, but lowering abruptly to 800m in afternoon.		

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West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 14 April	Monday 15 April
How windy? (On the Munros)	West turning southwesterly, 30 to 50mph, lowest around late morning. By evening risk 60mph+, especially southern tops.	West to northwesterly, 45 to 60mph, at times 70mph over higher terrain, sudden squally gusts.
Effect of wind on you?	Prepare for very blustery conditions with significant wind chill over the mountains; a brief improvement up to middle of day.	Arduous conditions and significant wind chill from mid-elevations upward. Often more severe on higher exposed tops.
How wet?	Frequent rain and snow, later persistent.	Frequent hail and snow
(Precipitation and its impact)	Showers will become increasingly frequent and merge at times, with snow falling initially as low as 500m, before lifting to 700-800m. More constant precipitation setting in from west with time.	Showery, heavy bursts with hail, at times snow falling toward lower slopes. Merging to be near-constant precipitation for periods. Risk of isolated thunder.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive on upper slopes, local breaks	Varied, often covering tops
	Frequent cloud will move in from the west and shroud upper slopes for much of the day. Breaks fleeting, but locally more prolonged north of Glen Spean.	Cloud base constantly changing, but often covering higher summits. Shafts of cloud down to mid-slopes in showers. Breaks best well inland and Loch Lomond NP.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Increasingly overcast, best of any early sun in the morning. Visibility often poor due to showery rain and upland snow.	Brief bursts of sun between showers. The air quite clear, but appalling visibility when in snow, hail and cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0C to -2C; highest early afternoon. Wind chill feeling like -10C, to -15C in	-1 or -2C. Wind chill feeling like -15C or at times colder
	stronger speeds.	on highest terrain.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 14 April, 2024

Cold northwesterly winds will bring significant chill factor across the mountains during the week ahead. Air temperature near or below freezing across higher terrain; lowest temperatures and freezing level for Scottish Highlands. Showery conditions, clustering into locally more frequent precipitation; a mix of snow over the hills plus hail falling to lower slopes, chance of isolated thunder especially afternoons. Indications favour higher pressure and improving conditions into late April.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Friday, 12 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.