

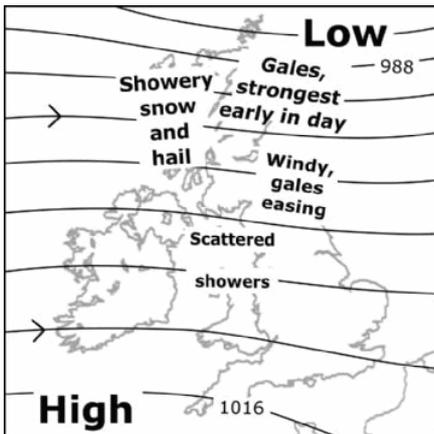
# West Highlands

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 Wednesday, 11 March, 2026



### British Mountain Summary:

**Based on forecast chart for noon 11 March, 2026**

Cold strong westerly winds, gales over Scottish mountains and more widely early in day, significant chill factor over mountains. Showery snow and hail most frequent W & NW Highlands, more scattered elsewhere. Cloud base varying, occasional sun.

### Headline for West Highlands

Upland gales, strongest early and late. Snow & hail showers.

## Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 11 March, 2026

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	Westerly up to 60mph post dawn; dropping to 35-45mph middle of day, strongest Lochaber, squally gusts around showers.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Expect significant wind chill and walking - sometimes any mobility - to be difficult across the hills, particularly near precipitation. Deteriorating to stormy conditions into night.</b>
<b>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</b>	<b>Frequent hail and snow</b> Particularly morning, succession of sudden hail and above 600m snow showers. Sometimes whiteout will occur. Onward into evening, more prolonged rain, snow becoming confined higher up.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>  <b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>Persistently covering higher areas; rapid variation in cloud base.</b> In precipitation, cloud forming below 300 to 500m (generally lowest morning near the coast). Otherwise, by midday (as average cloud base tends to rise) between 600 and 1000m, highest well inland. <b>20%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Bursts of sunshine, mainly afternoon lower slopes well inland. Very varied visibility: general haze, but abruptly appalling in precipitation.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>  <b>Freezing Level</b>	-1C during day, then up to +2C after dark. Will feel like -15C directly in the wind.  750m, then rising into evening, briefly toward 1100-1200m into night.

## West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 12 March	Friday 13 March
<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>  <b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	Southwesterly 50 to 70mph, tending to decrease a little during afternoon.  <b>Difficult conditions, mobility challenging over exposed terrain from mid-elevations upward. Severe wind chill.</b>	Westerly 35 to 45mph, squally gusts around showers. Risk 50-60mph up to dawn. <b>Challenging walking conditions over the mountains, considerable buffeting and severe wind chill.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Early rain, then showery snow and hail</b> Heavy rain to upper slopes from before dawn finishing as snow as low as 700m. Then a succession of showers, of snow above 600m, frequent Lochaber to Mull, often heavy, hail, risk thunder.	<b>Frequent hail and snow; risk thunder</b> Showers with hail merging into periods of constant precipitation mainly western mountains; also snow falling toward lower elevations in morning, then mostly rain below 400-500m. Risk isolated lightning.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>  <b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>Extensive higher slopes, breaks north with time</b> Covering most higher terrain all day, though cloud base varying in and out of heavier precipitation, some banks of cloud to below 600m, brief breaks above 1000m. An increasing chance of breaks north later.  <b>30%</b>	<b>Varying over tops</b> Cloud base frequently changing: at times shafts of cloud to 600m or lower near coast and islands, often capping western mountains above 800m, but some breaks to 1000m, more often well inland.  <b>30%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Brief glimpses of sun mostly north into afternoon where visibility very good when dry, but at times very poor in snow and cloud; general haze near coast.	Brief bursts of sun, most often well inland. Visibility varying between intermittently very good, and at least briefly appalling when in snow/hail and cloud.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>  <b>Freezing Level</b>	0C or above at dawn, lowering, -2C evening, further lowering overnight. Wind chill feeling like -15 to -18C.  1000m or above up to dawn (highest in the south), soon lowering to 800m, later in day nearer 600m.	-3C, lifting slightly, to -1C coastal tops. Feeling like -15 to -18C directly in the wind.  Near freezing from lower slopes up at first inland, becoming typically 700m by early afternoon.

**Planning Outlook****All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 12 March, 2026**

Generally unsettled onward into the upcoming weekend and start of next week as low pressure systems pass near and north of Britain - strong west or southwesterly winds prevail, often gale-force to at times storm-force over the mountains. Some fluctuation of temperature and freezing level, but mostly below freezing over Scottish mountains, at times snow falling to lower elevations. Colder for all by the end of this week with widely lowering freezing level by Friday. Frequent precipitation most western mountains, accumulations of snow across the mountains, most substantial in western Scotland from Glencoe northwards. Quieter weather patterns indicated beyond mid-month as higher pressure builds.

**Forecast issued at 16:00 on Tuesday, 10 March, 2026**

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, 2026.