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Snow forecast

Updated: 12.45pm Friday 21 March 2014

After more than two weeks of mostly fine spring-like weather it's all change this weekend with much colder unstable polar air sweeping down from the north-west. This will bring significant snow to many over the next 48 hours, especially (but not exclusively) at altitude where 50cm+ is possible in places.

In a change to the forecast earlier this week, all areas, both east and west, have the potential for some serious snow with the biggest falls likely across south-east Switzerland (e.g. St Moritz), south-west Austria (e.g. Obergurgl) and the central and eastern Italian Alps (e.g. Passo Tonale).

Detailed forecast:

Austria

Saturday should start dry but showers will reach both the far west and the far south later in the day with a little snow above 2000m. Protected by a Foehn wind, the northern and particularly north-eastern Austrian Alps will stay dry with good sunny spells and temperatures as high as 18°C in the likes of Kitzbühel.

On **Saturday** night showers will become more widespread, spreading to all parts by **Sunday** morning, by which time the rain/snow limit will be 1000m or lower in the west, a little higher still further east.

On **Sunday** significant snow is likely above 1000m in many areas, lower later, especially in the west. It remains unsettled on **Monday** with further snow flurries to low altitude, heavy at times.

France

It may start dry in a few sheltered valleys on **Saturday**, but many areas will have showers from the word go and these will become heavier and more persistent later in the day. The rain/snow limit is likely to start between 1600-1900m but fall rapidly later. **Saturday** night will see further snow falling to 700-800m later.

Sunday will be cold with snow showers in the north (700m), but some brighter spells for the southern Alps. Little change is expected in the weather on **Monday**, with a few snow flurries to low altitude in the northern Alps and the best of any sunshine further south.



Still bright this afternoon in Alpe d'Huez, but note the clouds on the horizon heralding a big change this weekend - Photo: alpedhuez.com

Italy

Saturday should start dry, but snow (1600m) is likely in the western resorts by the middle of the day, lowering and moving further east later. On **Saturday** night

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the snow will become more intense, particularly in the central and eastern Italian Alps with a rain/snow limit falling to 1000m.

On **Sunday** a snow flurries will tend to die away from the western Italian Alps, but persist – heavy at times – further east (800m). **Monday** will be cold with occasional light snow flurries, especially in the east, but also some brighter spells, especially in the south-west.

Switzerland

Saturday will start dry in the east, but showers in the far south and west will spread to all areas as the day progresses. The rain/snow limit will start round 1500-1800m, quickly dropping later. **Saturday** night will see further snow (800-1000m) for most, heaviest in the south-east later.

On **Sunday** the heaviest snow will be in eastern Switzerland where it will fall to 400-600m. There will be snow showers elsewhere too, but they should die out in the south later. **Monday** will be cold with further snow flurries in the northern Alps, mostly dry with sunny spells in the south.

Outlook:

It will remain relatively cool but mostly bright for much of next week, with just the chance of a few snow flurries here and there.

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Monday 24 March 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates