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Snow forecast

Updated: 7pm Tuesday 2 December 2014

It's a very complicated weather picture across the Alps this week with a bit of everything thrown in depending on location and altitude. With low pressure sitting in the Mediterranean, the greatest chance of snow is again at altitude in the Italian Alps (mostly above 1500-1800m). By contrast much of the northern Alps will again stay dry with some sunshine at altitude, but also a lot of low-lying cloud/fog.

So while some higher parts of the southern Alps will continue to accumulate snow (significant snow in places) we will have to wait a little while longer before we see a more general return to winter.

There are two points of interest to note in the medium term though. First is the possibility of some moderate snowfall to relatively low levels across the northern and eastern Alps (including Austria) on Friday night and Saturday. Second, the possibility of a more potent sustained arctic blast around the middle of next week. Clearly these events are too far off to be popping the champagne corks just yet, but there is a feeling that we are moving in the right direction, albeit slowly!

Detailed forecast:

Austria

Wednesday will be mostly with sunny spells at altitude but plenty of low cloud in the valleys. Above this cloud layer it will feel relatively mild with freezing levels around 2000m in the west.

Thursday will be very similar with lots of low cloud giving a little drizzle here and there but brighter skies at altitude.

Friday will see rain showers (snow above 1500m) edging into the southern Austrian Alps (especially Carinthia) while most other regions will remain dry with variable cloud.


France


Wednesday will be mostly dry with plenty of sunshine above any low-lying cloud, which will plague some valleys. The southern Alps will see more general cloud at times, especially close to the Italian border where there may be the odd shower (flurry above 1800m).

Thursday and **Friday** will be similar with variable cloud and a scattering of showers, these most frequent in the south and close to the Italian border, with a little snow above 1600-1800m.



Dusk at the Grande Motte glacier above Tignes this evening - Photo: tignes.net


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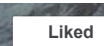
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Italy

Wednesday will be mostly cloudy with showers, most frequent later in the day and in the west with snow above 1500m (Aosta Valley), but as high as 1900m in the Dolomites.

Similar weather is expected on **Thursday** and **Friday** with showers or longer spells of rain/snow (1400-1800m). Above 1800m some significant snowfalls are possible in places.

Switzerland

Wednesday will see lot of low cloud, but also some brightness at altitude, particularly in the northern Alps. Most places will stay dry though, except for the odd shower (snow 1800m) close to the Italian border.

Thursday will see showers become more prevalent in the far south with snow above 1500-1800m. Most other regions will, however, stay dry with variable cloud and the best of any brightness at altitude in the north.

Friday will be mostly cloudy with further showers in the far south and south-east (a little snow above 1600-1800m). Many other regions will be dry, but the odd shower is possible almost anywhere later.



There will be lots of cloud in the Alps this week. This is Zuoz in the Swiss Engadin.

Outlook:

On **Friday night** and **Saturday** rain or snow is expected to move south-east across much of the Alps. The heaviest snow will be across Austria and the northern and eastern Swiss Alps with the rain/snow limit descending to around 1000m later. Some moderate accumulations are possible above 1500m, but this is unlikely to be a game-changing storm yet.

There are early indications that a more potent storm could bring widespread and heavy snow across the Alps around 10-11 December, but this is a long way off so stay tuned with our daily updates...

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Friday 5 December 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates

