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Snow forecast

Updated: 11.40am Friday 5 December 2014

Anyone who has been following our reports over recent days will be well aware that a change in the Alpine weather pattern is imminent. However, how much snow we will see over the next week or so is still up for debate. The very latest GFS (American weather model) has just swung the pendulum back in our favour.

One thing that is certain is that it will turn colder. Why, because having been stuck in a predominantly southerly airflow for what seems like weeks now, the weather is at last going to be coming from the north-west, traditionally the best direction for widespread snowfall across the Alps.

This transition will begin tonight with a weak cold front bringing some light snowfalls, mostly across the northern and western Alps. Don't expect much from this first front though, generally just a dusting here and there, but a few cm in one or two favoured spots. However, it will bring a significant drop in temperature so there may be dusting of snow to 800m or lower in the north by morning.

The next, slightly more active set of fronts is due on Sunday night and will influence the weather on Monday and, in places, into Tuesday too. This will bring more significant snowfall but again mostly to the northern half of the Alps, where 10-30cm is possible above 1200m with a dusting even down to the lowest valley floors.

More snow is then expected during the middle/latter part of the week which, according to the very latest models could prove to be the most significant event of the three. However, there is still enough uncertainty over this to remain cautious at this stage. Either way, it will again be the northern Alps that are most favoured.

Detailed forecast:

Austria

The rest of **Friday** will be mostly dry with variable cloud and some sunny spells. Friday night will start dry, but rain (snow above 1000m) will reach the far west later.

Saturday morning will be mostly cloudy with light showers and snow (lowering to 600m). The south will only see the odd shower and it should brighten a bit everywhere later.

Sunday will be mostly dry with variable cloud and just the odd snow flurry (400m) in the eastern Alps.



Fresh snow on the Mölltal glacier in the far south of Austria, with a bit more likely at times over the next week - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

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France

The rest of **Friday** will be mostly dry with variable cloud. Tonight some light rain (snow above 1000m then 700m) will move in from the north-west depositing a dusting in places.

Saturday will be mostly cloudy with a few very light snow flurries to low levels here and there probably dying away later with some sunny spells developing, particularly at altitude.

Sunday will be mostly dry but cold with variable cloud and further mostly light snow moving in from the north-west overnight.

Italy

The rest of **Friday** will be mostly dry with variable cloud and just the odd isolated shower or flurry. On Friday night, further light flurries (1400m) will move into the far north-western Italian Alps but will not amount to very much.

Saturday will see variable cloud and scattered light flurries (1200-1400m) almost anywhere, but again not amounting to much. Some brighter spells are also likely.

Sunday will be mostly dry but cool with variable cloud and some sunny spells.



Lots of snow at altitude in the Monterosa region, which will probably miss the heaviest snowfalls next week. This is Gressoney - Photo: monterosa-ski.com

Switzerland

The rest of **Friday** will be mostly dry with variable cloud and the best of any sunshine at altitude in the north. Friday night will see some very light precipitation move in from the west with snow above 900m or so.

Saturday will be mostly cloudy with a few very light snow flurries to 500-700m, especially in the north.

Sunday will be mostly dry but quite cold with variable cloud. Further snow will move in from the north-west on Sunday night.

Outlook:

As mentioned in our introduction, further snow is likely during the middle/latter part of next week, possibly in significant quantities. Stay tuned for updates...

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Tuesday 9 December 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates

