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Snow forecast

Updated: 12.50pm Tuesday 16 December 2014

The weather is in a highly changeable state with yo-yoing temperatures and still no sign of a sustained wintry spell. Right now a cold front is bringing some welcome snow to parts of the eastern Alps, but still in modest quantities.

Later tomorrow and on Thursday not one but two warm fronts will introduce much milder Atlantic air to all areas with rain as high as 2200-2500m across some parts of the northern Alps. The southern Alps will see much less precipitation with many places remaining dry.

It will turn cooler again by the weekend with some snow possible to lower elevations, but again only in modest quantities. Stay tuned...

Detailed forecast:

Austria

The rest of **Tuesday** will be cloudy with showers or longer spells of mostly light or moderate rain/snow. The snow will fall above 1000-1400m, perhaps a bit lower in the north later. Accumulations will be modest – in the range of 2-10cm above 1500m, but 15cm or more in some favoured spots.

Wednesday will see a few flurries (700-900m) over the north-eastern Austrian Alps at first, otherwise most places will be dry with sunny spells. However, cloud will thicken in the west later with further rain (snow 1000m then 1300m) overnight.

On **Thursday** it will rain across the western and northern Austrian Alps (Vorarlberg, Tirol, Salzburgland, Styria) while the south (Carinthia) stays mostly dry. It will also turn warmer with the rain/snow limit reaching 2000m.

Friday will be mostly dry with sunny spells and mild temperatures.

France

Except for one or two light flurries (1300m) close to the Italian border, the rest of **Tuesday** will be mostly dry with variable cloud.

Wednesday will start dry but cloud will rapidly increase from the west with rain/snow for many regions later in the day (the far south may stay dry). The rain/snow limit may start low (especially in the internal valleys where pockets of cold air linger) but will rise to 1500m or so by evening, then to 2000m later in the night. Some significant snow is possible above 2000m across the northern Alps for a while.

Thursday will be very mild with another band of rain moving in from the west. This time the rain/snow limit could rise as high as 2200-2500m, but the southern third of the French Alps will see little if any precipitation.

Friday should see improvement in the weather, but it will still be mild.



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Italy

The rest of **Tuesday** will be mostly cloudy with scattered showers (snow 1400m), the most persistent of these in the central and eastern Italian Alps (e.g. **Livigno, Madonna di Campiglio**) where a few more cm are possible.

Wednesday will be mostly dry with variable cloud, but some precipitation will reach the western Aosta valley close to the French border later in the day with a rain/snow limit starting low but rising to 1500m or higher by evening.

Thursday will continue to see some rain/snow (2000-2200m) close to the north-western border with France otherwise most areas will be dry with variable cloud.

Friday should see an improvement in the weather everywhere, but it will still be mild.

Switzerland

The rest of **Tuesday** will see further showers (snow 1000-1300m) across the eastern Alps dying away later. Further west it should be mostly dry with variable cloud.

Wednesday will start dry but cloud will rapidly increase from the west, with rain/snow spreading reading east later in the day. Some southern, and particularly south-eastern parts, may stay dry. The rain/snow limit will start low but gradually rise to 1200-1500m by evening, then towards 2000m in the north overnight.

Thursday will see further rain at times across many parts though the far south will again stay mostly dry. The rain/snow limit will be between 1800 and 2200m, above which some significant accumulations of snow are possible.

Friday will be drier, but still mild, with variable cloud.



Light snow this morning for St Moritz, which should avoid the rain forecast further north later this week - Photo: stmoritz.ch

Outlook:

It will turn cooler again over the weekend with a little snow possible across the northern and eastern Alps (though probably not much).

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Friday 19 December 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates

