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### Snow forecast

**Updated: 12.25pm Friday 19 December 2014**

Right now (Friday afternoon) we are at the peak of an exceptionally mild spell of weather, brought about by a parcel of sub-tropical air behind Wednesday's warm front. It will turn colder again from the north-west tonight and tomorrow, with a little snow in places – but really only for the northern and eastern Alps and even then (generally) in modest quantities.

What's more, with high pressure quickly reasserting itself on Sunday – and possibly hanging around for much of the week – there is still no widespread and heavy snowfall in prospect during the timeframe which can be reliably forecast.

This morning's weather models have again hinted at something more positive after Christmas but, given their recent inconsistencies, there is little point in speculating that far ahead.

For the moment the best we can offer is some light to moderate snowfall across the northern and eastern Alps (especially Austria) in the 24 hour period starting in the early hours of Saturday morning.

In terms of numbers, we can hope for 1-5cm across the northern French Alps (e.g. **Avoriaz**), 5-20cm across the northern Swiss Alps (e.g. **Mürren**, **Engelberg**) and 5-30cm across Austria, with the heaviest falls in the northern Alps (Vorarlberg, northern Tirol, Salzburgland, Styria). The east Tirol and Carinthia will see little if any snow.

So, while this snow is obviously welcome, it will also be both relatively modest and localised doing little to change the overall situation, especially in the west.

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#### Detailed forecast:

##### Austria

The rest of **Friday** will see low cloud/fog stuck in some of the valleys, but at altitude it will be mostly fine with plenty of sunshine and very mild temperatures (freezing levels 2600-2800m). Friday night will see cloud thicken with a little rain/snow in the north and west later. The rain/snow limit will start quite high but drop to 1000-1400m by morning.

**Saturday** will remain quite cloudy close to the northern edge of the Alps with scattered showers (snow 1000m or so), but mostly fine further south. Later in the day another band of more organised showers will move in to the north, with some snow as low as 500-700m on Saturday night.

On **Sunday** any early flurries will die away from the northern Alps to leave most places with a cool but dry day with variable cloud. It will remain on dry on **Monday** with sunny spells and increasing temperatures.

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Still looking spring-like in Kitzbühel today, but some snow is forecast over the next 36 hours - Photo: bergbahn-kitzbuehel.at

**France**

The rest of **Friday** will be dry with plenty of sunshine, but cloud will increase in the north later. It will be very mild with freezing levels around 3000m. It will turn colder on Friday night with a few light showers (snow above 1800m then 1400m) likely across the far north (mostly the Haute Savoie), but nothing significant.

On **Saturday** early cloud in the north should break up to leave a mostly dry but noticeably colder day, with increasingly sunny skies the further south you go.

**Sunday** and **Monday** will be dry and increasingly mild with plenty of sunshine.



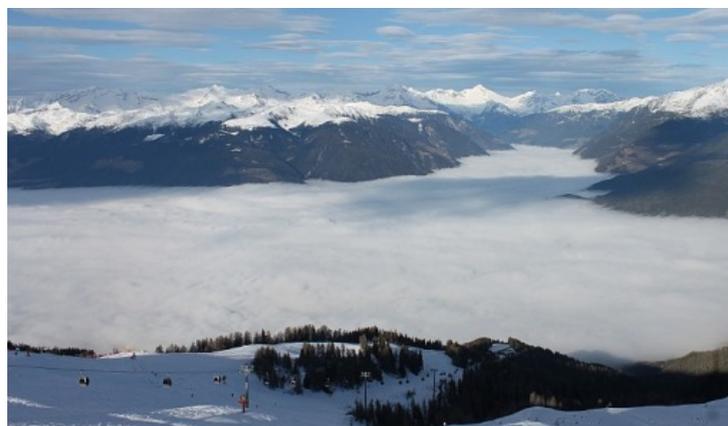
Fabulous day today in Avoriaz, but way too warm - Photo: avoriaz.com

**Italy**

The rest of **Friday** will be dry with plenty of sunshine and freezing levels between 2600 and 3000m. On Friday night a few flakes of snow might affect the far north-western border region with France, but it won't be of any significance.

**Saturday** will be cooler but dry with variable cloud and long sunny spells.

It will remain fine on **Sunday** and **Monday** with plenty of sunshine and rising temperatures.



Sunny at altitude today in Kronplatz, with more fine weather in the forecast - Photo: foto-

## Switzerland

The rest of **Friday** will be dry and mostly sunny, though cloud will increase in the north later. It will be exceptionally mild with freezing levels close to 3000m. It will start to turn colder on Friday night with a little rain (snow above 1800m then 1400m) reaching the northern half of the Swiss Alps, while in the far south it stays mostly dry.

**Saturday** will remain rather cloudy along the northern fringes of the Alps with the odd flurry (1000m then 700m later), with some more organised snow showers on Saturday night, heaviest in the north-east. The southern Swiss Alps will again miss most of the precipitation and see the best of any sunshine, but it will feel distinctly colder everywhere.

On **Sunday** the last of any snow flurries will clear the far eastern Alps then mostly places will be dry with sunny spells, if rather cool. **Monday** will also be fine and milder.



Spectacular clouds over Zermatt today - Photo: zermatt.ch

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### Outlook:

The rest of the week looks mostly dry and relatively mild, with the best of any sunshine in the west. Some weather models suggest that snow showers are possible in the eastern Alps (particularly Austria) later in the week.

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