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Snow forecast

Updated: 11.10am Tuesday 23 December 2014

After an exceptionally mild and mostly sunny day today (Tuesday) the weather will start cooling down again tomorrow, before a cold front brings some snow to the northern Alps later on Thursday.

The real interest, however, is still with what happens over the weekend - the very latest models suggesting that the western and southern Alps are the areas in line to receive significant snowfalls on Sunday.

So in summary we have two shots at snow over the next five days, the first affecting the northern Alps (in particularly the northern Swiss and Austrian Alps) on Thursday/early Friday. The second potentially larger (but at this stage less predictable) event due on Saturday night/Sunday.

Detailed forecast:

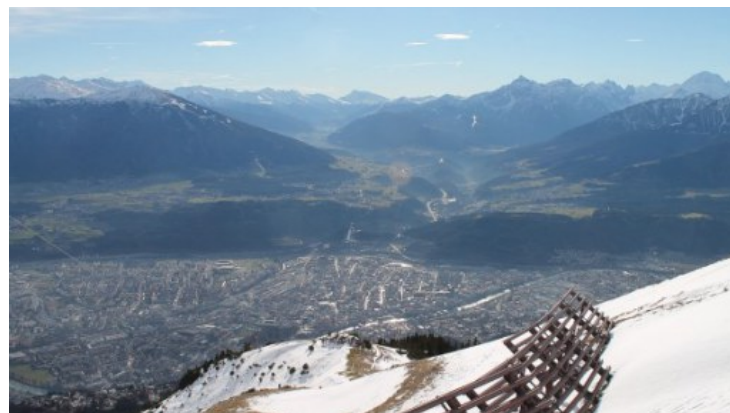
Austria

Tuesday will be dry with plenty of sunshine and very mild temperatures (freezing levels close to 3000m). It will continue fine on **Wednesday** though fractionally cooler.

On **Thursday** (Christmas Day) a cold front will introduce cloudier conditions with some snow above 1500m, dropping to 900m later in the day. The southern Austrian Alps (East Tirol, Carinthia) will see little if any precipitation.

Between Thursday and Friday morning much of the northern side of the Austrian Alps (Vorarlberg, Tirol, Salzburgland, Upper Austria) can expect between 10 and 20cm of new snow above 1000m, locally 30cm.

Friday (Boxing Day) will be very cold with temperatures struggling to get above freezing, even in the lowlands. Most places will be dry with variable cloud, but further snow flurries are possible in the north, especially in the Tirol and Salzburgland.



Blue skies across the Inn valley today - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France


Tuesday will be dry with plenty of sunshine and very mild temperatures (freezing levels close to or even above 3000m). It will remain fine on


Wednesday, though it will be noticeably cooler and some high cloud may affect the northern Alps later.

Thursday will be cloudier, especially across the northern French Alps, with showers and a little snow above 1500m then 800m later. Any accumulations will be very modest - generally 1-3cm, perhaps 5cm at best in parts of the Haute Savoie. The southern French Alps will stay mostly dry with the brightest weather


closest to the Mediterranean.

Friday will be dry and bright, but cold with freezing levels around 500m.


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
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Deep blue skies across the French Alps today. This is Val d'Isère - Photo: valdisere.com

Italy

Tuesday will be dry with plenty of sunshine and very mild temperatures (freezing levels close to 3000m). It will remain fine on **Wednesday** despite a noticeable drop in temperature.

Thursday will be cooler still and mostly cloudy, with a few snow flurries in the upper Aosta valley close to the French and Swiss border. Some bright spells are also likely, especially close to the southern edge of the Alps.

Friday will be cold and mostly dry with variable cloud.



Sunny, mild weather taking its toll on the lower slopes of the Monte Rosa region. This is Antagnod near Champoluc - Photo: regione.vda.it

Switzerland

Tuesday will be dry with plenty of sunshine and very mild temperatures (freezing levels close to or above 3000m). **Wednesday** will continue fine but with a noticeable drop in temperature and perhaps some high cloud in the north later.

Thursday will be cloudier with some snow above 1400m, quickly dropping to 800m. Any precipitation will be heaviest in the north, lighter and patchier in the south.

Friday will see a few snow flurries to low altitude across the north-eastern Alps at first, dying out later. By Friday morning between 5 and 20cm of new snow is likely across the northern half of the Swiss alps (e.g. **Wengen**, **Engelberg** and **Laax**), but only a dusting further south (e.g. **St Moritz**).



Perfect weather in Villars today, as in most other parts of the Alps - Photo: villars.ch

Outlook:

Current weather models suggest that after a mostly dry start to the weekend an active storm will bring heavy snow to the western and southern Alps in particular on Saturday night/Sunday. Slight changes to the track of this storm could push it further east or west, so stay tuned to our daily updates.

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Friday 26 December 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates