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Snow forecast

Updated: 2.40pm Friday 2 January 2015

After several days of fine weather – in the western Alps at least – the weather is changing again with fronts piling in from the north-west.

The first will be a weak affair bringing just a little snow (and some rain) to the northern and north-eastern Alps in particular later today (Friday). The second more active set of fronts will arrive on Saturday and continue to influence the weather into Sunday.

In both cases there will be warmer air in the mix which means the rain/snow limit will be yo-yoing all over the place. However, by the end of the weekend we can expect some significant accumulations of snow at altitude across many northern Alpine areas – particularly in Switzerland and Austria, where it will eventually snow to quite low levels. Italy and the southern Alps will again miss out on the heaviest precipitation.

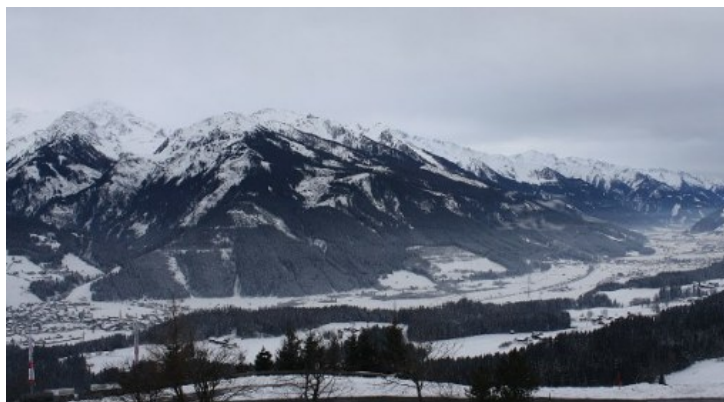
Detailed forecast:

Austria

The rest of today (**Friday**) will see cloud thicken from the north with some showers later in the day (snow above 1000-1400m). The southern Austrian Alps should stay dry and quite bright.

Saturday will again start dry with the best of any brightness in the south. Further north, cloud will thicken to bring further showers, heavier and more persistent overnight with some significant accumulations (20-50cm) likely at altitude. Rain/snow levels will be highly variable but will eventually come down to low levels (400m) by **Sunday**.

On **Monday**, snow flurries will continue for a time in the eastern Austrian Alps with sunnier weather gradually spreading from the west.



Thickening cloud with showers moving into the Austrian Alps from the north-west today. This is Pass Thurn near Kitzbühel - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

The rest of today (**Friday**) will see cloud thicken in the northern French Alps but, except for the odd light shower, it should stay mostly dry. The best of any sunshine will be further south.

Saturday should start dry, but cloud will again thicken from the north-west to bring some moderate rain/snow to the northern half of the Alps later in the day. The rain/snow limit will be a bit all over the place but could reach 1800m in places for a time before lowering again on Saturday night.

The last of the showers will die away on **Sunday** morning (snow 1000m) by which time there may be some moderate accumulations (10-30cm) over parts of the northern French Alps. The southern French Alps will see little if any snow.

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Monday will be fine but quite cold.



Clouding over today in Tignes, but it should stay dry until later tomorrow (Saturday) - Photo: tignes.net

Italy

The rest of today (**Friday**) will be dry with plenty of sunshine and variable cloud, thickest in the north-west later.

Saturday will start dry and in places bright, but cloud will thicken from the north-west later in the day to bring a little snow close to the border areas (i.e. the upper Aosta valley), but also in very modest quantities in parts of Lombardy and the Dolomites (with a dusting possible above 1600-2000m).

Sunday will be mostly dry and bright again in the western Italian Alps. Further east, a few flurries (1000m) may persist close to the Austrian border but still not amounting to much, and most places will stay dry with sunny spells.

Monday will be cool but sunny in all areas.



High cloud thickening in Livigno this afternoon, but there isn't much snow in the forecast - Photo: valtline.it

Switzerland

The rest of **Friday** will see cloud increasing in the north and west with the best of any brightness in the south-east. There will be some showers later, mostly light or moderate, and mostly across the northern half of the Alps where a few cm of snow is possible above 1800m.

Saturday will see something of a repeat performance with many places starting dry. However, more significant precipitation will move down from the north-west later and continue in many places overnight. The rain/snow limit will be highly variable but may hit 1800m for a time before lowering considerably on Saturday night.

Showers or longer spells of rain/snow will continue at first on **Sunday**, heaviest in northern areas where accumulations could reach 20-40cm at altitude. Brighter skies should reach the west as the day progresses and it may stay dry in some southern parts all day long.

Monday will be dry and mostly sunny, but rather cool.



Cloud thickening across Verbier this afternoon, with a few light showers likely later - Photo: verbier.ch

Outlook:

From Tuesday onwards most of next week should be dry with plenty of sunshine and increasingly mild temperatures, particularly at altitude.

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Tuesday 6 January 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates