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Snow forecast

Updated: 5.30pm Friday 9 January 2015

The weather in the Alps is all over the place at the minute - with rain, snow, wind and some sun all thrown into the equation this weekend.

As has often been the case in recent weeks, Italian resorts will see the least precipitation with some places staying completely dry. The extreme south of the French Alps (e.g. **Isola 2000**) as well as the Austrian province of Carinthia (e.g. **Nassfeld**) is in a similar position, but the majority of the Alps will see at least some rain or snow over the next 48 hours.

The first weather front has already brought a little light rain and snow to the northern half of the Alps this afternoon (Friday) which will die away tonight, but not before the rain/snow limit has risen above 2000m.

The second much more active front will arrive on Saturday night and bring the rain/snow limit back down from 2000m (or higher) to low levels during the course of Sunday. This front has the potential to deliver significant snow across a wide swathe of the northern Alps by the end of Sunday.

It will then turn milder for a time next week, but we have been looking for some time at the possibility of a more pronounced return to winter towards the end of next week.

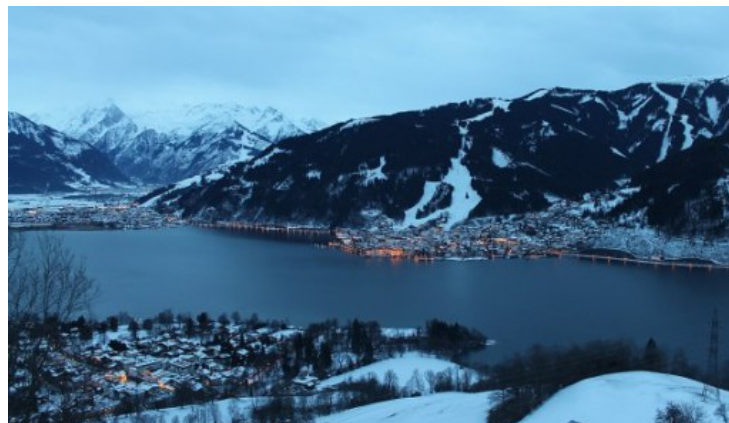
Detailed forecast:

Austria

Friday night will be cloudy with showers at times, especially in the northern half of the Austrian Alps. It will turn milder with the rain/snow limit rising from 1500 to 2200m later.

On **Saturday** the last of the showers will clear the north-east (snow 2200m) then most places will be dry, and exceptionally mild with sunny spells. On Saturday night further rain/snow will arrive from the north-west, spreading to most areas during **Sunday** but always heaviest in the north. The rain/snow limit will start close to 2000m on Saturday night but fall rapidly to reach 400-700m later on Sunday. It will become very windy on Sunday, particularly at altitude.

At altitude, significant quantities of new snow (20-50cm) are expected (except in Carinthia and perhaps the Osttirol).



Some rain tonight in Zell-am-See, but snow is expected on Sunday - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

Friday night will see any light rain or snow die away (snow above 2000m).

Saturday will be mostly dry but very mild with sunny spells. Saturday night will see the return of some rain, chiefly affecting the northern Alps. Any snow will

initially only fall above 2000m but will drop rapidly to 1000m or under by **Sunday** morning.

Sunday itself will see early snowfall dropping to 600-800m before dying out later. The far south will again stay mostly dry. Above 2000m there could be 20-30cm of new snow in the north (locally more). It will become very windy, particularly at altitude.

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Rain is expected in Les Gets on Saturday night, hopefully turning to snow on Sunday morning - Photo: lesgets.com

Italy

Friday night will be mostly dry.

Saturday will also be mostly dry, and fine with variable cloud and very mild temperatures. On Saturday night some showers may affect the upper Aosta valley (e.g. **Courmayeur, La Thuile**) with snow above 2000m, but it won't amount to much and most Italian resorts will stay dry.

On **Sunday** almost anywhere close to the border (from the Aosta valley right across to the Dolomites) could see a little rain or snow – any snow gradually descending to low levels. However, except for perhaps the extreme north-west, it is unlikely to amount to much and some places will stay dry. It will become very windy, particularly at altitude.



Only light and patchy snow likely in Livigno this weekend - Photo: valtline.it

Switzerland

Any showers around tonight (**Friday**) will slowly die away, but not before the rain/snow limit has risen above 2000m.

Tomorrow (**Saturday**) will be mostly dry and very mild during daylight hours. On Saturday night it will turn wet again across large parts of the country with a rain/snow limit starting around 2000m but falling rapidly later.

Sunday will be mostly cloudy with outbreaks of snow to increasingly low altitudes, though it should brighten up in the west later. At altitude some significant amounts of snow are possible (20-50cm) across the northern half of the Alps. It will become very windy, particularly at altitude.



Light rain/snow falling in Davos this afternoon (Friday), with heavier falls forecast on Sunday -
Photo: davos.ch

Outlook:

It will turn milder again for a time, but there are signs that winter might return with a vengeance towards the end of next week. Watch this space...

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Tuesday 13 January 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates