



[Latest snow report](#)

[Latest snow forecast](#)

[Season progress report](#)

[Who got the most snow 2014-15?](#)

[Who got the most snow 2014-15 - N America](#)

[The snow quality equation](#)

[What is the Foehn?](#)

[Avoiding rain](#)

[Avalanche awareness](#)

[Who got the most snow 2013-14?](#)

[Who got the most snow 2013-14 - N. America](#)

[Who got the most snow 2012-13?](#)

[Who got the most snow 2012-13 - N. America](#)

[The winter of 2012-13 in pictures](#)

[Archive](#)

[2015-16](#)

[2014-15](#)

[2013-14](#)

[2012-13](#)

Snow forecast

Updated: 5.05pm Tuesday 13 January 2015

We have good news and bad news in this week's snow forecast.

The good news is that we are on the brink of a major pattern change which will sweep colder air across much of western Europe this weekend, lasting into next week. The bad news is that we won't (in the northern Alps at least) see quite as much snow as hoped for a few days ago.

That's not to say that most places won't see at least some snow - they will - but for this weekend the heaviest falls now look likely to be across the southern Alps, namely Italy. This is no bad thing - the southern Alps haven't seen any serious snow for weeks now - but snow is also needed further north, particularly at low altitude.

Still, this means interesting times ahead and there is some snow in the forecast as early as tomorrow, albeit generally in modest quantities.

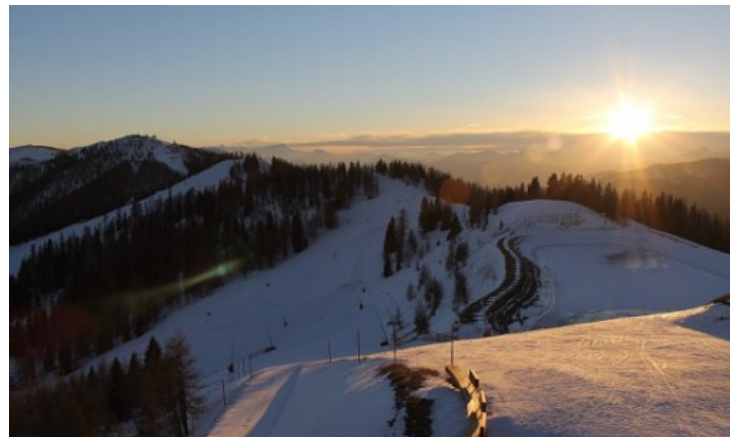
Detailed forecast:

Austria

Apart from in the far south of Austria (Carinthia) where it will be mostly dry, most regions will have a cloudy **Wednesday** with showers or longer spells of rain and, above 900-1100m, a little snow. Generally speaking any snowfall will be modest but 15cm or more is possible in some parts of the western Tirol and Vorarlberg.

Thursday will be dry with variable cloud and relatively mild temperatures.

Friday should also be mostly fine, but cloud will thicken in the south later with a few showers possible close to the Italian border (snow above 1400m).



Stunning sunset in Bad Kleinkirchheim this evening - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

Overnight rain and snow will continue for a while on **Wednesday**, especially across the northern French Alps, before dying away later. The rain/snow limit will be around 1000-1200m, and above 1500m there could be 5-15cm of new snow in places (especially in the north).

Thursday will be mostly dry with sunny spells, though cloud will thicken up again later. Thursday night and **Friday** will see deterioration in the weather from the west with rain/snow likely in all regions. There is some uncertainty over how low the snow will fall but it could be reach 1000m or lower later on Friday.

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Variable cloud cover across Megève this afternoon - Photo: megeve.com

Italy

Wednesday will see variable cloud and some showers in the north-west (Aosta) in the morning (snow above 1100m). Further east the odd flurry can't be ruled out, but it should stay mostly dry.

Thursday will be mostly dry with sunny spells and relatively mild temperatures.

Friday will be cloudier with showers breaking out almost anywhere, especially later in the day (snow above 1200-1400m). Any accumulations of snow will, however, remain modest for the time being.



More snow would be welcome in Sauze d'Oulx - Photo: vialattea.it

Switzerland

Wednesday will start mostly cloudy with rain and snow (900-1200m) mostly across the northern half of the Alps, with some southern regions staying dry. Accumulations will be modest, typically 5-10cm above 1500m.

Thursday will be mostly dry with sunny spells, and relatively mild, but cloud will thicken up in the far south and west later.

Friday will be cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain/snow (above 1000-1400m) in all regions.



The Dents du Midi as viewed from Morgins today - Photo: tele-morgins.ch

Outlook:

The outlook is very uncertain but it looks likely to stay cold with the chance of further snowfalls, especially in the southern Alps.

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Friday 16 January 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates