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Snow forecast

Updated: 4.15pm Tuesday 27 January 2015

We have already seen several light to moderate snowfalls across the northern Alps this week, but things are about to get a whole lot more interesting as a vast and highly unstable polar air mass descends across practically the entire continent.

Most of the Alps will see new snow over the next few days, but the really heavy stuff is likely to be reserved for the northern French and western Swiss Alps, where well over 1m is quite feasible between Wednesday night and Sunday.

The rest of Switzerland and much of Austria are also likely to see some decent falls, but there are still question marks as to whether Italy and the far southern French Alps will see anything really significant.

Stay tuned to our daily updates in [Today in the Alps](#) and on [Twitter](#)/[Facebook](#) for further information...

Detailed forecast:

Austria

The rest of **Tuesday** will be bright in the far south (Carinthia). Otherwise it will be mostly cloudy with showers or longer spells of snow, heaviest in the north (particularly the Salzburgerland and Upper Austria) with further moderate accumulations (10-25cm) in places.

Wednesday will see the last flurries move away from the eastern Alps leaving most places dry with sunny spells. Freezing levels will be around 500-800m.

Thursday will be mostly cloudy with snow (above 400-700m) spreading to all but some parts of the far south (Carinthia). It will be heaviest and most prolonged in the far west (west Tirol, Vorarlberg). Snow showers will continue on Thursday night and at first on **Friday** (especially in the east) before dying out from the west as the day goes on.

Between **Wednesday** and **Friday night** we can expect between 15 and 30cm of new snow across a good part of the Austrian Alps, perhaps 50cm+ in the far west (Vorarlberg).



Snow showers today in Zell-am-See, with more in the forecast for Thursday and Friday - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

The rest of **Tuesday** will be mostly dry with just the odd very light flurry in the northern Alps. The best of any sunshine will be further south.

Wednesday will start sunny and remain bright in the southern Alps until late in the day. Further north it will cloud over in the afternoon as the "big storm"

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approaches. Freezing levels will remain at around 800-1000m. The first precipitation will reach the northern and western foothills of the Alps before midnight, extending to all but some parts of the far south (Alpes-Maritimes) by Thursday morning. The rain/snow limit may temporarily reach 900m in some exposed parts, but will remain lower in the more internal valleys, dropping everywhere later.

Thursday itself will be cloudy with persistent snow above 500-800m, lowering to all levels later. The snow will be heaviest in the northern half of the Alps (roughly defined as north of Grenoble), a little less intense further south, especially in the far south (e.g. **Isola 2000**) where there may not be much snow at all. Further north, between 30 and 60cm of new snow is expected above 1200m by the end of Thursday, with the heaviest falls in the Haute-Savoie (e.g. **Flaine, Avoriaz**).

Snow will continue on and off (at all altitudes) on **Thursday night** and **Friday**, always heaviest in the northern half of the Alps, and patchy or non-existent in the far south. Additional snowfall totals (in the north) are likely to be in the range of 20-50cm, meaning that some areas might by then have seen more than 1m of new snow since the start of the storm.



Variable cloud cover this afternoon in Val d'Isère, where massive snowfalls are expected later in the week - Photo: valdisere.com

Italy

The rest of today (**Tuesday**) will be mostly dry with variable cloud and sunny spells.

Wednesday will also be dry with plenty of sunshine, but cloud will thicken up in the far north-west later.

Thursday will be cloudy with occasional showers, snow falling above 500-800m, perhaps a bit lower by the end of the day. Accumulations will be much less significant than on the northern side of the Alps.

Friday will be cold with variable cloud and a few snow flurries, these mostly likely early in the day.



Sunny this afternoon in Sestriere, which is expected to see less snow from the "big storm" than more northerly resorts - Photo: vialattea.it

Switzerland

The rest of **Tuesday** will see variable cloud with the odd flurry in the east and the best of any sunshine in the south.

Wednesday will be mostly dry with plenty of sunshine, particularly in the south and south-east. Later in the day cloud will thicken in the west, heralding the arrival of the "big storm" overnight.

By **Thursday morning** it will be snowing across a wide swathe of the Swiss Alps, heaviest in the north and west, patchier in the south and south-east where some places might stay dry for a while. The rain/snow limit may reach 900m for

short time in some exposed northern and western areas, but will often be lower and will descend to all levels later in the day.

The snow will become more showery on **Thursday night** and **Friday** with the heaviest showers always in the north and west.

Snow accumulations between **Wednesday** and **Friday night** will be greatest in the far west (e.g. **Portes du Soleil, Villars, Verbier**) where 50-90cm is quite feasible. Further north and east, 20-60cm is more likely, with perhaps less than 20cm in some parts of the far south (Ticino).



Cloudy today in the Bernese Oberland, where big snowfalls are expected later in the week. This is Lauterbrunnen - Photo: lauterbrunnen.com

Outlook:

It will continue cold and unsettled over the weekend and into next week, with further snow to low altitude at times.

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Friday 30 January 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates