



[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: 6.30pm Friday 30 January 2015

The Alps (most of Europe in fact) have been engulfed by a vast polar air mass that looks like it will hang around all of next week. First and foremost this means that it is going to stay cold, very cold for a time next week, with virtually no thaw of any existing snow.

There is also further snow in the forecast. Over the next few days this will fall mostly across the northern and western Alps, with France again likely to see the lion's share.

By the middle of next week, however, the southern French and western Italian Alps might be more favoured, but there is still a lot of uncertainty over this.

Detailed snow forecast:

Austria

On **Friday** night, snow affecting some eastern parts of Carinthia will move away to leave most places dry for a while, but further flurries will move into the north and west later giving a few cm in places.

On **Saturday** any early flurries should die away to leave a mostly dry day with sunny spells.

Sunday and **Monday** will see a return to scattered snow showers, but also some drier, brighter interludes.



Multiple moderate snowfalls are starting to stack up in the Austrian Vorarlberg - Photo: kanisfluh.net

France

Friday night will be cloudy with showers or longer spells of snow, dying away later. The heaviest falls will again be in the north, where 10-20cm is possible in places.

Saturday will start dry (and remain dry in the far south), but further snow showers are expected later in the day, heaviest in the north and continuing at times overnight with a further 10-25cm possible by Sunday morning.

Sunday itself will see little change, with further flurries leading to light to moderate accumulations in places, mostly in the north.

By **Monday** the flurries should be lighter and more sporadic, still mostly affecting the north, while the southern French Alps see plenty of sunshine.

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Lots of snow in Méribel, with further falls to come over the next few days - Photo: meribel.net

Italy

Friday night will be mostly dry, but a few flurries will affect the north-western border with France (upper Aosta). There will also be some heavier snow for a time in the eastern Dolomites.

Saturday will again be mostly dry, but further flurries will reach the north-western areas late in the day with some very isolated snow showers breaking out elsewhere too.

Except for a few very isolated flurries close to the border regions, **Sunday** and **Monday** look like being fine with plenty of sunshine.



Fresh snow for Alta Badia, but a really big dump would still be welcome - Photo: altabadia.org

Switzerland

Friday night will see some snow showers spread east, but becoming more fragmented as they do so. The heaviest snow will be in the far west where 10-20cm is possible in places.

Saturday will start mostly dry with sunny spells, but further snow showers will reach the west by the afternoon, spreading east later. Once again the greatest accumulations will be in the west, with a further 10-20cm possible.

Sunday will see scattered snow showers, few and far between in the south, and heaviest in the north where further slight to moderate accumulations are likely.

By **Monday** the snow flurries should be starting to die away, particularly in the west later in the day. The southern Swiss Alps should stay mostly dry with the best of any sunshine.



Plenty of snow in Verbier, with more on its way over the weekend - Photo: verbier.ch

Outlook:

It will remain cold all week with bits and pieces of snow here and there, but lots of uncertainty over where will be most favoured. Stay tuned!

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Tuesday 3 February 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates