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#### **Snow forecast**

Updated: 11.30am Monday 23 December 2013

Will it snow on Christmas Day?

The answer is yes, in **most** resorts, to varying degrees. Indeed, after a relatively quiet start to the week it will become very stormy for a while mid-week with strong winds and snow affecting most regions.

The heaviest of the snow will be in Italy and the southern Alps with more variable (but still often useful) quantities of snow further north too. Don't be surprised if there are multiple lift closures during this period, particularly on Tuesday and Wednesday, due to high winds.

#### **Detailed snow forecast:**

#### **Austria**

**Monday** afternoon will be mostly dry with plenty of sunshine and relatively mild temperatures.

On **Tuesday** the Foehn wind will begin to blow, which means mild and bright conditions on the northern side of the Austrian Alps but cooler cloudier weather in the south, particularly close to the Italian border where a few showers are likely (snow above 1400m).

On **Wednesday** more significant snow will reach the southern border regions with Italy (snow to 1000m or lower by evening). Further north some showers will also develop but on the north side of the Alps the Foehn will again keep it mostly dry and bright.

On **Thursday** the snow will finally make it across the entire Austrian Alps, still heaviest in the south – especially Carinthia.



Zell-am-See, Austria - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

### France

 ${\bf Monday}$  afternoon will see some cloud here and there, but also plenty sunshine for most.

**Tuesday** should start bright or even sunny in the northern Alps. In the southern Alps, however, it will already by cloudier and here some showers are expected later in the day (snow 1400-1700m) intensifying on **Tuesday** night. Protected by the Foehn, the northern Alps (especially the internal valleys) should stay dry.

**Wednesday** will see heavy snow for much of the day in the southern Alps (rain/snow limit between 1200-1600m, dropping later). The northern Alps will be more variable – mostly cloudy, some showers, becoming more frequent later (snow 1400m dropping to 1000m later).

Thursday is likely to start cloudy with further snow showers to low levels (600-



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Fresh snow for parts of the Alps this morning: tinyurl.com/d9cz7z2



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800m), but these should ease later with some brighter spells possible.

#### Italy

Monday afternoon will be dry with sunny spells just about everywhere.

Tuesday will be windy and mostly cloudy with showers or longer outbreaks of rain/snow, especially later in the day. The rain snow/limit will be around 1200-1400m, perhaps lower in the Aosta Valley (e.g. Courmayeur).

Wednesday will see snow for all Italian resorts heaviest in the east (Lombardy, Dolomites) with a rain/snow limit around 1200m.

Snow should die out from the western Italian Alps on **Thursday**, but will remain for a time further east, with further heavy falls likely to relatively low levels in the Dolomites.

#### **Switzerland**

Monday afternoon will be dry and mostly sunny.

Tuesday will be dry and bright across most of the Swiss Alps, especially the north and east. Cloud will increase in the south as the day goes on with a few showers (snow 1400m) possible close to the Italian border.

Wednesday will see lots of snow in the southern Swiss Alps (e.g. Zermatt, St Moritz) but progress further north will be more erratic. Most resorts further north will see some snow, especially on Wednesday night but in highly variable quantities.

On **Thursday** snow showers (600-800m) are likely to die away from the western Swiss Alps, but will remain for a while in the south-east (e.g. St Moritz) where they could still be heavy.



Zermatt, Switzerland - Photo: zermatt.ch

## Outlook:

After a brief respite on **Friday**, further weather fronts are expected to move into the western Alps on Saturday with snow above 1200-1500m or so.

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Friday 27 December 2013, but see **Today in the Alps** for daily updates