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Updated: 6.15pm Tuesday 12 January 2016

There has been lots of weather going on in the Alps this week, but one thing we can say for certain is that it has now turned much colder and will stay cold for the next few days at least. This is great news, as any snow falling this week will be falling at very low altitudes (below 700m).

For the remainder of this week, most of the snow will be falling across the northern half of the Alps. The southern Alps will have good spells of sunshine, but might also see a few flurries.

The best weather windows in the snowier northern Alps will be on Wednesday afternoon in the north-west, and on Thursday in the north-west (namely Austria).

Snow showers are likely to continue in the north into the weekend, although they will focus increasingly on the north-east.

Detailed forecast:

Austria

Tonight (**Tuesday**) and tomorrow (**Wednesday**) will be mostly cloudy, with further snow showers (400-700m) in the northern and western Austrian Alps. South of the main Alpine ridge it will be mostly dry.

Thursday will be mostly dry but cold with variable cloud and sunny spells.

On **Friday**, snow showers (all levels) will return to the northern and western Austrian Alps, while the far south stays dry.



Plenty of sun on the southern side of the Alps today, as there will also be in the coming days. This is Bad Kleinkirchheim - Photo: badkleinkirchheim.at

France

Tuesday night will see plenty more snow showers (400-700m) piling into the northern French Alps, with further significant accumulations in places. The further south you are, the fewer snow showers there will be, and the far south will be mostly clear but very cold.

On **Wednesday**, any early flurries (400-600m) across the northern French Alps should gradually die away to leave some spells of sunshine. The southern French Alps should be mostly sunny all day, but it will be very cold everywhere.

Thursday should start dry, but further snow showers (600m) are expected in all parts later.

Snow showers will continue to low levels on **Friday**, but these will be mostly in the north, with the best of any sunshine further south.



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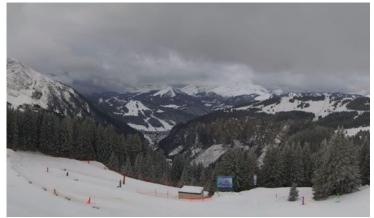
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Got a burning question about weather or snow conditions in the Alps? Contact us and we'll do our best to answer it...

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Snow all the way down to Morzine at least. This is the view from Avoriaz - Photo: avoriaz.com

Italy

Tonight (Tuesday) will see some snow flurries close to the border regions, especially in the far north-west (Aosta valley), otherwise many areas will be dry with clear spells.

Wednesday will see sunny spells and a just few snow flurries (400-600m) close to the border regions, but these will not amount to much.

Thursday may start dry, but snow flurries are expected to develop in the west later.

On $\ensuremath{\mathbf{Friday}},$ except for a few flurries close to the border areas, many places will be dry with sunny spells.



Courmayeur has a lot more snow than most Italian resorts right now - Photo: courmayeu montblanc.com

Switzerland

Tuesday night will see further snow showers (400-600m), heavy at times, especially in the northern Swiss Alps. Some parts of the south may stay dry.

Wednesday will see snow flurries to low altitudes. These will be increasingly confined to the north, then the north-east. Sunny spells should develop further south, and also in the west later.

Thursday should start dry, but snow showers (500m) will soon reach the western Swiss Alps, before spreading erratically eastwards later.

Friday will see further snow showers to low levels, heaviest in the north. The far south will be brighter and may even stay dry.



Lots of snow in recent days in the western Swiss Alps. This is Grimentz in the Val d'Anniviers - Photo: valdanniviers.ch

Outlook:

It will remain cold over the weekend with further snow showers, mostly in the north and east.

There is still a lot of uncertainty over what will happen next week, with some models going for a slow return to mild weather while others suggest rampant cold.

Tune in to our daily updates for more information...

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Friday 15 January 2016, but see <u>Today in the Alps</u> for daily updates

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