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Latest snow forecast

Updated: 12.30pm Wednesday 16 March 2016

The weather in the Alps is unsettled right now, though any serious snowfall will be confined to the Italian Piedmont region and some adjacent border areas with France and Switzerland.

Today's snow is the product of cold continental air from the north-east colliding with moist Mediterranean air from the south. Many Piedmont resorts (e.g. Sestriere, Alagna) can expect somewhere between 20cm and 50cm of snow by Thursday morning, but there is the potential for 1m or more to fall in a few favoured locations, such as Prato Nevoso in the far south.

The snow is also likely to spill over the border into some parts of France (notably the Queyras region) and, perhaps, into parts of southern Switzerland (e.g. Zermatt, Saas-Fee). However, other parts of the Alps will see little or no new snow for the rest of this week.

On Friday and over the weekend, the weather in the Alps will have settled down again, with lots of sunshine across the board...

Detailed forecast:

Austria

Wednesday may see a few flurries in the far south-east of Austria, but most places will be dry with sunny spells, the best of which will be further north. Freezing levels will be between 1200m and 1700m.

Thursday and **Friday** will be glorious, with further long spells of sunshine and freezing levels creeping up towards 2000m.



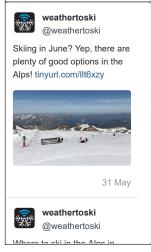
Mostly sunny in the north-eastern Alps this afternoon. This is Zell-am-See - 16 March 2016 - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

Wednesday will be rather cloudy and cold in France. Most places will stay dry, but there will be a few flurries here and there, with some heavier snow (400-600m) possible close to the border with the Italian Piedmont (e.g. Queyras).

Thursday will see early snow showers in the south, especially close to Italy, though these will die away later. Elsewhere there will be variable cloud, but some sunny spells, with freezing levels lifting to between 1400m and 1800m.

Friday will be mostly sunny and a touch warmer still.



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It's snowing today in the southern French Alps close to the Italian border. This is Abriès in the Queyras - 16 March 2016 - Photo: abries-queyras.com

Italy

Wednesday will be mostly cloudy with snow (400-600m) in the western Italian Alps, heavy at times in the Piedmont (e.g. Alagna, Prato Nevoso), but patchier in the Aosta region (e.g. La Thuile). Some parts of Lombardy will also see some flurries, but the eastern Italian Alps (Dolomites) will be mostly dry with variable cloud.

Thursday will see some early snow showers (600m) in the Piedmont region, but these should die out with sunny spells developing. Elsewhere it should be a mostly fine day, with the best of the sunshine in the central and eastern Italian

Friday will be mostly sunny with freezing levels between 1400m and 1800m.



Heavy snow in the southern Piedmont today. This is Prato Nevoso - 16 March 2016 - Photo:

Switzerland

Wednesday will be mostly dry with variable cloud. However, some snow will affect the far south at times, notably the Simplon area. The best of any sunshine will be in the north-east.

Thursday will see some residual clouds in the far south, but these should break up and most places will be sunny with freezing levels creeping up towards 1500-

Friday will also be sunny and a little warmer still.



Sunny spells in the northern Swiss Alps today. This is Flumserberg near Zurich - 16 March 2016 - Photo: flumserberg.ch

Outlook:

The weather in the Alps looks set to remain fine over the weekend, with plenty of sunshine and freezing levels creeping up towards 2000m.

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Friday 18 March 2016, but see <u>Today in the Alps</u> for daily updates

