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Latest snow report

Latest snow forecast

Season progress report

Who got the most snow?

The complete guide to...

The snow quality equation

What is the Foehn?

Avoiding rain

Avalanche awareness

Archive

2016-17

2015-16

2014-15

2013-14

2012-13



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Latest snow forecast

Updated: 12.30pm Friday 2 December 2016

High pressure is currently dominating the weather in the Alps, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The only blip is a weakening cold front that will bring a little snow to the far north-eastern Austrian Alps today, otherwise there is no significant snow within sight – and by that we mean for at least the next 8 to 10 days.

There will therefore be lots of sunshine in the mountains in the coming days (above any fog/cloud that typically plagues some low-lying areas at this time of year). This obviously isn't ideal for the snow situation in the Alps, but on the positive side it will generally be cold enough to continue to make snow, at least at night, and often during the day too (thanks to low humidity), depending on local conditions.

Yes, snow will continue to melt on low/medium altitude slopes with direct exposure to the sun. However, on north-facing slopes and/or anywhere out of the sun, any melting will be minimal (again helped by low humidity/dew points) and, with the low sun angle at this time of year, there are plenty of slopes that will stay in the shade all day long.

Detailed forecast:

Austria

The rest of **Friday** will see some snow showers (500-700m) in the north-eastern Austrian Alps (mostly to the east of Salzburg) with a few cm here and there. However, most of the country will be dry, with good sunny spells in the south and

Saturday will be dry with plenty of sunshine at altitude but guite a lot of fog in the valleys. Freezing levels will be somewhere between 1000m and 2000m (east to west).

Sunday and Monday will see little change with lots of sunshine and less in the way of valley fog.



Deep blue skies in the Austrian Vorarlberg today. This is Schröcken – 2 December 2016 – warth-schroecken.com

France

The rest of Friday will be dry with plenty of sunshine at altitude and just a few stubborn areas of low cloud/fog. It will feel cold in any shady valleys but mild at altitude, with freezing levels close to 3000m.

There will be very little change on **Saturday**, **Sunday** and **Monday**, though freezing levels will be lower generally, especially in the south.

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Clear skies above Val d'Isère, something we will see plenty of over the next few days – 2 December 2016 – Photo: valdisere.com

Italy

The rest of ${\bf Friday}$ will be mostly sunny with freezing levels between 1500m and 3000m (east to west).

Saturday will see a few clouds in the far western Italian Alps (where the odd light snow flurry can't be ruled out) otherwise most regions will be sunny. It will be colder in the west, however, with freezing levels more typically between 1300m and 1900m.

Sunday will be very similar with some clouds and just the chance of a light flurry in the far western Italian Alps. However, most regions will be sunny with freezing levels between 1300m and 1800m.

Monday will be universally sunny again with little change in temperature.



Good snow-making weather in the Dolomites. This is San Pellegrino – 2 December 2016 – Photo: dolomitisuperski.com

Switzerland

The rest of ${\bf Friday}$ will be mostly sunny above any low-lying fog, with freezing levels between 2000m and 3000m (east to west).

There will be very little change on **Saturday**, **Sunday** and **Monday** with plenty of sunshine, above any low-lying cloud/fog patches (which should generally be less prevalent as the weekend progresses). Freezing levels will drop a little, especially in the west.



Perfectly sunny in south-eastern Switzerland this afternoon. This is Brigels – 2 December 2016 – Photo: brigels.ch

Outlook:

The whole of next week is likely to be dry with plenty more sunshine. It will be again feel mild (though not excessively so) at altitude, but relatively cold on shady north-facing slopes or in any valleys out of the sun.

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Tuesday 6 December 2016, but see $\underline{\text{Today in the Alps}}$ for daily updates

