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Latest snow forecast

Updated: 6pm Wednesday 28 December 2016

The northerly blast that has brought significant snow to the eastern Austrian Alps over the last 24 hours will die away tomorrow, leaving just about all parts of the Alps with four days of gloriously sunny and relatively mild weather, lasting up to and including Sunday.

On Monday there will then be a more general change to the weather in the Alps, with the arrival of a cold front from the north. In the first instance it probably won't bring a huge amount of snow. However, it will bring much colder weather to all Alpine regions and, fingers crossed, will open the door to further "cold storms" from the north or north-west during the first two weeks in January.

If we sound a little cautious it is because the models are still very inconsistent after Monday. However, the overall pattern certainly looks to be better than it was for much of December, so we are hoping for a much more wintry early 2017...

Detailed forecast:

Austria

Thursday will see any residual snow flurries across the extreme east of Austria die away, leaving all regions with a dry and mostly sunny day. Freezing levels will reach 2200m in the far west but remain below 1000m for much of the day in the far east.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday will then be universally sunny (at least above any lowland fog patches) with freezing levels remaining close to 2000m in the west, but more typically 1200-1700m in the east.



Heavy snow in the eastern Austrian Alps this afternoon. This is Afenz in Styria – 28 December 2016 – Photo: aflenzer-buergeralm.at

France

Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be universally sunny above any lowland fog or cloud patches. It will feel relatively mild at altitude with freezing levels typically around 2000m.

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Sunny skies above Les Arcs today – 28 December 2016 – Photo: lesarcs.com

Italy

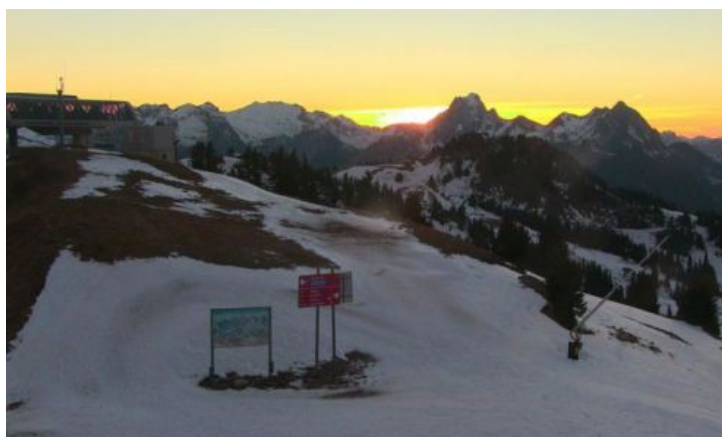
Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be universally sunny above any lowland fog or cloud patches. It will feel relatively mild at altitude with freezing levels often close to 2000m in the western Italian Alps, but a bit lower in the east.



Clear blue skies above Champoluc today – 28 December 2016 – Photo: monterosa-ski.com

Switzerland

Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be universally sunny above any lowland fog or cloud patches. It will feel relatively mild at altitude with freezing levels typically around 2000m.



Sunset in Gstaad, where snow is urgently needed – 28 December 2016 – Photo: gstaad.ch

Outlook:

On **Monday**, a relatively weak cold front is expected to generally introduce colder air, and a little snow to the northern half of the Alps though amounts are not expected to be particularly significant at this stage.

There is still lots of uncertainty as to how things will pan out after this, but it is likely to remain cold with further chances of snow. Any snow will be mostly across the northern and north-eastern Alps at first, but will possibly become more widespread towards the second week of January.

Next detailed snow forecast will be on Friday 30 December 2016, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates

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