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Snow report - 7 November 2012

It's looking pretty snowy in the Alps right now but, before we get too carried away, it's still only November and the Alpine climate is notoriously fickle. Some high resorts do have enough snow to be fairly sure of a good base early in the season, but not all, and lower down a significant thaw will get underway this week. Another storm will produce some snow at altitude this weekend – mainly in the western and southern Alps – but generally speaking it looks like it will be staying on the mild side for the foreseeable future.

Austria

Austria has the best skiing in Europe right now led by **Stubai** and **Sölden** which each offer around 60km of pistes – not all of which are confined to the glaciers. **Hintertux** (50km) is another good option and you can also ski at **Mölltal**, **Pitztal** and **Kaunertal** – albeit in a more limited capacity. **Schladming** is the only entirely non-glacial resort currently open for business with 6 pistes on the Planai sector.



Lech won't open for several weeks, but there is plenty of snow in the village - www.lech-zuers.at

France

The only option in France right now is **Tignes** where there is fresh snow and conditions on the glacier are superb. Rumour has it that the long Double M run all the way back to resort might even be opening soon...



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8h

Italian village breaks world 24hr snowfall record!

[#snow](http://tinyurl.com/o4u6lmb)
pic.twitter.com/JqVV9dRD5C

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10h

Colder with some snow in the far eastern Alps. Mostly fine elsewhere.

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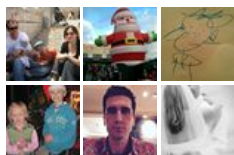
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A good snapshot of how snow is building nicely at altitude in the Tarentaise. This is looking across to Mont Blanc from Montchavin-La Plagne, with Bourg St Maurice in the valley - www.montchavin-lescoches.com

Italy

Skiing is possible from **Cervinia**, but only at glacier level on the Swiss side (see **Zermatt**). On the Italian side, the run from Plateau Rosa to Laghi Cime Bianche is due to open this weekend, but the snow is not yet deep enough to get down to Plan Maison (2550m) let alone Cervinia. You can also ski on the glacier at **Val Senales** where 6 lifts are running and there is 80cm of snow.



Looking good on the upper slopes of Cervinia, but still not enough snow to get down to Plan Maison (pictured here) - www.cervinia.it

Switzerland

Zermatt is enjoying excellent glacier skiing and has 5 runs open today on a base that is 150cm deep. Unlike in the summer months, it is possible to ski the 900m vertical from the Klein Matterhorn all the way down to Trockener Steg. Conditions are also great in **Saas-Fee** where 10 pistes are open and there is 195cm of snow. Elsewhere in Switzerland there is limited skiing in Glacier 3000 (near **Les Diablerets**) and on the Diavolezza Glacier (near **St Moritz**). **Verbier** and **Laax** will reopen at the weekend but **Engelberg** is closed for maintenance until 17th November.



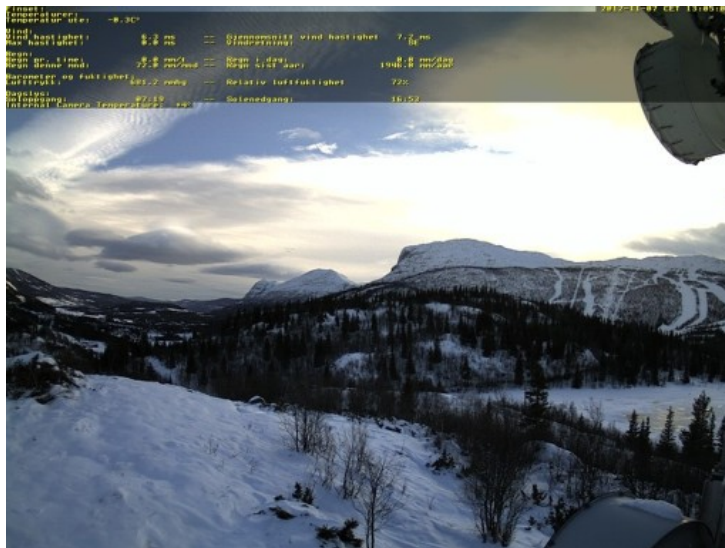
Loads of snow at altitude in Zermatt - www.zermatt.ch

Rest of Europe

Resorts in Scandinavia are beginning to stir in the wake of recent snowfall. **Hemsedal** (Norway) reports excellent early conditions and is currently operating 4 pistes on a 50cm base.

There is also snow in **Åre** (Sweden) which opened a handful of runs last weekend and hopes to repeat the exercise very soon.

Best of all perhaps is **Ruka** (Finland) which is enjoying excellent early season conditions and now has 8 runs open.



Promising early conditions in Hemsedal - www.hemsedal.com

USA

Following some promising early season snowfalls, milder weather has taken its toll on the snow cover across the western US where only a handful of resorts are operating thanks to artificial help. That said, this is not an unusual situation for the time of year and the forecast is promising with snow for most of the major resorts by the end of the week, thanks to a "cold storm" sliding south out of Canada.

In the meantime there is limited skiing available in a handful of resorts (mostly in Colorado) including **Keystone**, **Arapahoe Basin** and **Copper Mountain**. **Breckenridge** aims to join them this weekend.

Canada

Early season conditions are more promising in Canada where Norquay Mountain (**Banff**) managed its earliest ever opening last week – albeit temporarily. **Sunshine Village** and **Lake Louise** should open properly this weekend.



Snowing again in Banff yesterday - www.skibanff.com