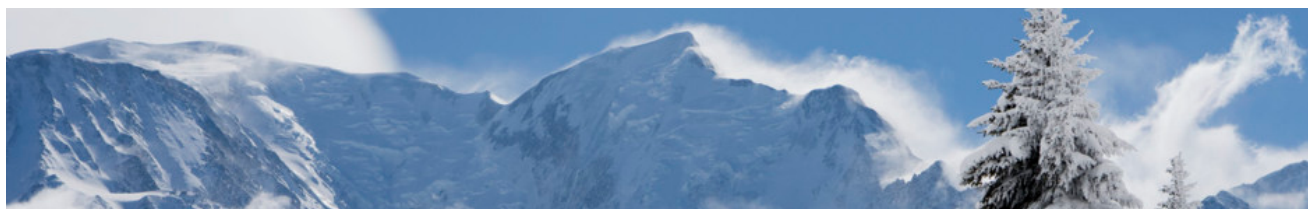




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Snow report - Friday 23 November 2012

There's plenty of snow at high altitude in the Alps, but lower down the thaw continues and lots more snow is needed over the next few weeks before many resorts can open. Fortunately, the medium term forecast is very promising with significant snowfall likely later next week.

Austria

Ischgl opens today and currently offers the most extensive skiable terrain in Europe. You can't ski back to resort yet but, higher up, 28 lifts serve 87km of pistes on a 60cm base. Good piste skiing is also available in **Obergurgl** (15 lifts, 68cm upper snow base) and in **Sölden**, **Hintertux** and **Stubai** all of which have close to a metre on their glaciers. Numerous other glaciers are also open including **Pitztal** and **Kitzsteinhorn**, but lots more snow is needed before most of the lower resorts can start getting excited.



Still good on the Austrian glaciers - www.pitztaler-gletscher.at

France

Val Thorens opened on Thursday two days ahead of schedule with 9 runs, 30cm of snow in resort and 60cm up top on the glacier. **Tignes** (15/60cm) is the other big name currently in operation. Most of the action is still on the glacier, but you can get down to Val Claret on the long Double M run. **Montgenèvre** will offer another pre-season taster this weekend before things kick off properly on 1 December.

Italy

Cervinia is the best option in Italy right now with 8 lifts running and 150cm of snow up top. You can't ski back to resort yet, but the long runs down to Plan Maison (2550m) are open and skiing nicely. Further east, **Madonna di Campiglio** will offer a couple of runs again this weekend, and **Cortina** is also now open, but the best snow remains on the glacier above **Val Senales** (9 lifts, 100cm snow base).

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8h

Italian village breaks world 24hr snowfall record!

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

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10h

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

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WWW.FUNIVIECAMPIGLIO.IT - View from Refuge Stoppani 2500 m

23/11/2012 10:26

Madonna di Campiglio will open a couple of runs again this weekend - www.funiviecampiglio.it

Switzerland

Zermatt (12 lifts, 50cm upper base) and **Saas-Fee** (5 lifts, 135cm) remain the best options in Switzerland for now. More limited possibilities include **Engelberg**, **Davos**, and (at weekends only) **Verbier**, **Laax**, **Zinal** and **Andermatt**.



Skiing will resume on the Vorab glacier this weekend - www.laax.com

Rest of Europe

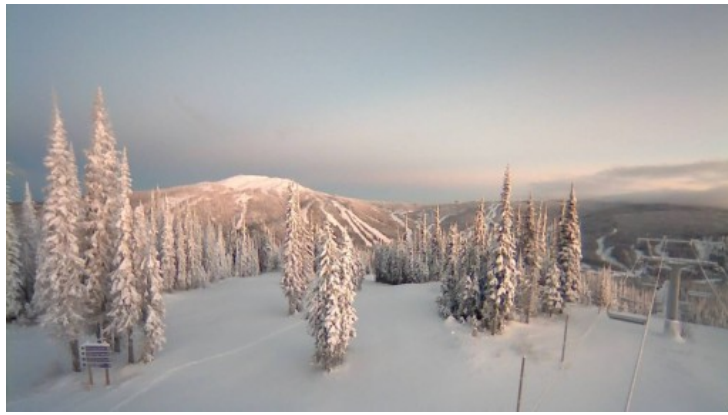
A handful of resorts are open for business in Scandinavia where the best skiing is in **Hemsedal** (Norway) with 20 slopes and a 60cm upper base. In Finland, **Ruka** (10 lifts, 27cm base) is one of the best of several resorts also already open.

USA

California has lots of new snow. Leading the way is **Mammoth** where the mid-mountain base is 91cm deep and 85 runs (35 groomed) are now open. More limited terrain is available in a number of Lake Tahoe resorts including **Kirkwood** and **Heavenly**. Early season conditions are also excellent in Utah where **Snowbird** and **Alta** are both operational, but many Colorado resorts could do with more snow. Several (including **Breckenridge** and **Vail**) are partially open, but cover is thin and artificial help is the order of the day.

Canada

Lots of snow has been falling in western Canada which offers the best conditions in the world right now. **Whistler** is only operating a handful of lifts but received a whopping 127cm of snow last week which has set it up nicely for the Christmas rush. Further inland, more and more resorts are opening including **Sun Peaks** (pictured) but the best skiing right now is probably in **Banff/Lake Louise** where the majority of lifts are running and the upper base is over 1m deep.



Skiing nirvana in Sun Peaks - www.sunpeaksresort.com

Next full snow report on Wednesday 28 November, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates