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## Snow report - Friday 21 December 2012

After seemingly endless snowfall, snow cover remains exceptional across the northern French Alps, the northern and western Swiss Alps and parts of western Austria. In the rest of Austria, south-east Switzerland and most of the Italian Alps, snow conditions are more "normal" but the skiing is still generally good for the time of year.

Temperatures are set to rise this weekend with a spell of rain moving into the northern and western Alps later on Saturday. The rain/snow limit from this storm will rise to 2000m or more in places. It will remain exceptionally mild for the time of year on Sunday and Monday (Christmas Eve) before colder snowier conditions return from the west on Christmas Day (Tuesday).

### Austria

The resorts of the Vorarlberg (e.g. **Lech-Zürs**, **Warth-Schröcken**) have lots of new snow and are skiing superbly right now. Most lifts in **Lech-Zürs** are now open with 20cm of fresh snow and a settled base of 100/170cm depending on altitude.

Conditions are also powdery in nearby **St Anton** (90/140cm) and **Ischgl** (45/110cm), the latter continuing to offer the greatest extent of connected skiing in Austria (182km). Lower resorts are also getting in on the action with fresh snow in **Kitzbühel** (50/95cm) and more to come today.



Snowing in Kitzbühel today - [www.kitz.net](http://www.kitz.net)

### France

Well over 1m of fresh snow has fallen above 1500m in the northern French Alps this week where the avalanche risk is still high, and extreme caution is advised. There is fresh snow in **Val Thorens** (150/230cm) and **Val d'Isère** (125/240cm) which are both skiing superbly right now. Lower lying resorts, such as **Les Gets**, have had some overnight rain, but still have masses of snow with 80cm in the village and nearly 2m up top!

Further south, a few cm of snow has also fallen overnight in **Serre Chevalier** (115/220cm) and **Isola 2000** (115/175cm) both of which also have extraordinary snow depths for the time of year.

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8h

Italian village breaks world 24hr snowfall record!

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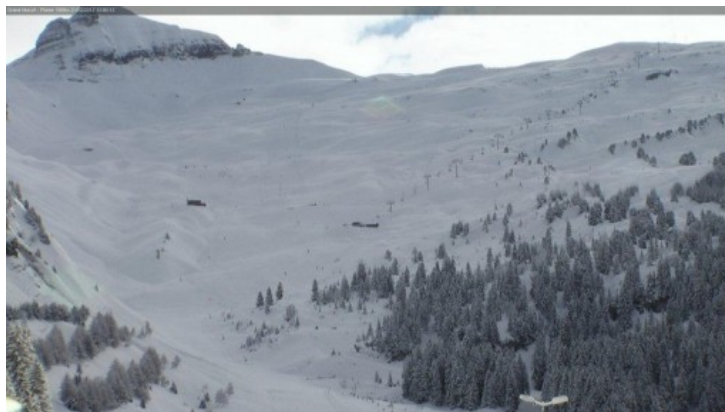
#### Contact us...

Got a burning question about weather or snow conditions in the Alps?

[Contact us](#) and we'll do our best to answer it...

E: [info@weathertoski.co.uk](mailto:info@weathertoski.co.uk)

T: +44 (0)20 3151 3154



Lots of snow and brighter skies across the Grand Massif today - [www.flaine.com](http://www.flaine.com)

#### Italy

Generally speaking, the Italian Alps have not seen much fresh snow in the past couple of days. One exception has been the western **Aosta valley** where **Courmayeur** (90/170cm) and **La Thuile** (35/150cm) can both offer powdery pistes. Further east, snow depths are more modest but conditions in resorts such as **Selva Val Gardena** (20/70cm) are still perfectly reasonable for the time of year.



Mixed weather but mostly dry in Livigno today

#### Switzerland

There is lots of fresh snow across the northern and western Swiss Alps and snow depths remain exceptional in resorts such as **Verbier** (95/225cm) which is arguably enjoying its greatest start to the season ever. **Zermatt** (90/220cm) and **Crans Montana** (60/200cm) are just two other resorts in prime condition right now, but the most impressive figures of all can be found in famously snowy **Andermatt** (85/330cm).

Further east, there is not quite as much snow, particularly in the south-east, where **St Moritz** (15/110cm) is the only major Swiss resort now slightly below par for the time of year.



Masses of snow on the slopes above Champéry (Portes du Soleil) - [www.idelec.ch](http://www.idelec.ch)

### Rest of Europe

New snow has fallen in **Hemsedal** (Norway) where 39 pistes are open and settled snow depths are 65/75cm depending on altitude. It has turned very cold again though, just as it has in **Åre**, Sweden where 43 runs are open and the base is 43cm deep.

There isn't much fresh snow in Andorra but most lifts are open in **Soldeu** (40-80cm) and **Arinsal** (25/50cm) where on-piste, at least, conditions are still very good for the time of year. Bulgaria's season is also well under way with 25/75cm in **Bansko** and good conditions reported on the upper slopes.

Skiing has also been possible in Scotland in recent days but the weather isn't great at the moment and **Cairngorm** is closed today due to high winds. There has been significant new snow, however, so conditions should be good once things improve.



Difficult conditions in Scotland today, but prospects are good once the weather settles - [www.lecht.co.uk](http://www.lecht.co.uk)

### USA

Fresh snow has greatly improved conditions in Colorado in recent days where **Snowmass** now has 86cm mid-mountain. **Jackson Hole** (Wyoming) has also had fresh snow to add to its decent early start. Here the settled snow depths are 130/173cm depending on altitude.

Further west, **Mammoth** (215/245cm) continues to offer the greatest extent of terrain in the US and is expecting another big storm this weekend. The deepest snow of all, however, is in the Pacific north-west where **Mount Baker** (Washington) has had another 76cm of snow in the last 24hrs and the upper base is over 4.5m!

### Canada

The excellent early season conditions continue in western Canada where

**Whistler** has just hit the 5m snow mark (cumulative season total) and prospects are excellent as the weather begins to improve this weekend. Here the settled snow base is now 211cm. Further east there is also masses of new snow in **Fernie** (223cm upper mountain base) and **Big White** (164cm mid-mountain).

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**Next full snow report on Boxing Day (Wednesday 26 December), but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates**