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Snow report - Wednesday 2 January 2013

Most of the Alps have seen a little fresh snow over the last 24hrs and eastern parts (especially Austria) may see a bit more later this week and over the weekend. Further west, a huge area of high pressure will keep things dry and mostly bright for the foreseeable future.

Generally speaking, conditions are still good for the time of year. However, the last couple of weeks have seen wildly fluctuating temperatures resulting in some icy lower slopes, particularly in the northern Alps (where it has also rained). Higher up the snow quality is still excellent just about everywhere, but especially in the northern and western Alps.

Austria

The best conditions are still in the west of the country where **Lech** (100/200cm) and **St Anton** (90/165cm) both have 5cm of fresh and are skiing well at all levels. Lower resorts such as **Söll** (20/120cm) and **Kitzbühel** (40/110cm) have also seen a few cm of snow today and are in excellent shape for the time of year. Further snow showers (above 1000m) are likely on Friday and Saturday, particularly in the east.



Lots of snow in the Austrian Vorarlberg. This is Damüls - www.damuels.at

France

Most French resorts have fresh snow with up to 20cm in **Avoriaz** (180/220cm) where there were fantastic conditions under clearing skies today. Nearby **Morzine** (50/220cm) also has good cover but here the lower slopes are a bit icy. Further south, fresh snow has also fallen in **Alpe d'Huez** (120/245cm) and **Les 2 Alpes** (100-180cm), but the weather is settling down now and all French resorts can expect a lengthy spell of drier brighter weather.

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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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Fabulous conditions at altitude in the Portes du Soleil today - a bit icy lower down. This is St Jean d'Aulps - Photo: Fraser Wilkin

Italy

The best conditions continue to be in the western Aosta Valley where **Courmayeur** (80/160cm) has 10cm of new snow and is skiing superbly. **Champoluc** (30/120cm) has not seen quite so much snow recently, but is still in great shape thanks to the huge falls earlier in the season. Good skiing can also be found further east in **Selva** (25/80cm) though snow depths in the Dolomites are generally more modest and there is no significant new snow on the horizon.

Switzerland

Most Swiss resorts are still in great shape including **Andermatt** (70/370cm) where 5cm of fresh snow has fallen and the upper snow pack is the deepest in Europe. **Verbier** (80/230cm) also has new snow and continues its exceptional start to the season - as does nearby **Villars** (140cm mid-mountain) though here the lowest runs are a little icy. A few snow showers are possible in the north-eastern Alps on Friday and Saturday (above 1200m) but western Switzerland should stay dry and bright for some time now.



Dusk in Zermatt - www.zermatt.ch

Rest of Europe

Most Andorran resorts have had a dusting of new snow and conditions continue to be steady rather than spectacular in **Soldeu** (30/60cm), where some lower slopes are a little icy. Bulgarian resorts haven't seen much snow recently but conditions in **Borovets** (40/90cm) are still reasonable for the time of year. Scandinavia on the other hand has seen fresh snow with superb conditions reported in both **Hemsedal** (85/100cm) in Norway, and **Åre** (30/60cm) in Sweden.

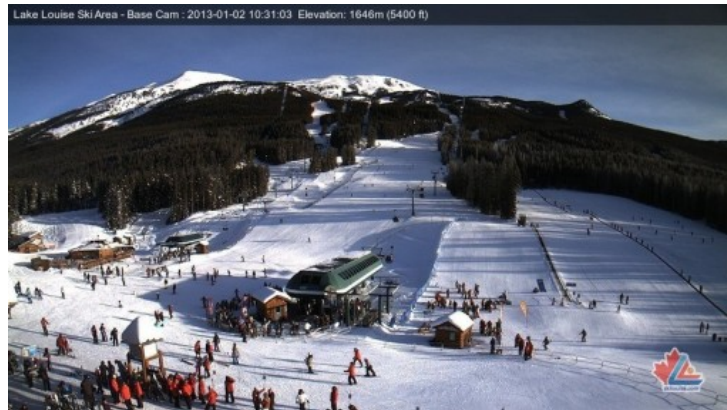
USA

After a sluggish start to the season, Colorado has seen lots of snow over the last couple of weeks with the mid-mountain base now over 1m in **Winter**

Park. Most other western US resorts are also skiing well with the deepest snow in **Mammoth** (California) with nearly 4m up top!

Canada

The excellent early season conditions continue in **Whistler** despite no new snow for a few days. The mid-mountain base here is 176cm deep. The snow pack is also very healthy further inland in **Fernie** with 204cm up top.



Perfect weather and perfect snow in Lake Louise - www.skilouise.com