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Snow report

Updated: 2.45pm Thursday 20 February 2014

On the whole, conditions have been very good across the Alps this half term, though it has remained relatively mild with a little spring snow in places - mostly at low altitude and/or on south-facing slopes.

The deepest snow-pack (by far) remains in Italy and the southern Alps where depths have reached 5m or more in places (**Madesimo, Passo Tonale**).

By contrast, most Austrian resorts (away from the south) remain below par with lots of greenery showing below 1000m in the northern half of the country - higher even on exposed south-facing slopes.

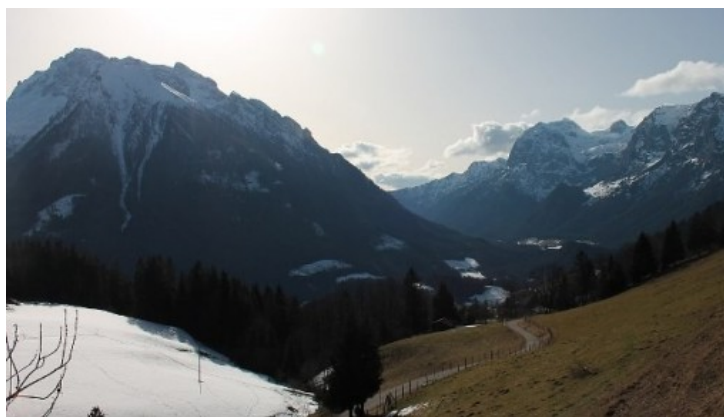
Elsewhere in the Alps, snow levels are (broadly speaking) about where they should be for the time of year.

Austria

The north-south divide continues with exceptional snow depths (450cm) on the upper slopes of **Nassfeld** close to the Italian border. However, the further north you go in Austria, the thinner the snow becomes, with just 35/65cm of snow in **Ellmau**. For now there is still plenty of good piste skiing to be had in these lower Austrian resorts, but more snow is urgently needed to avoid serious problems later in the season.

If you are planning a late holiday this year we would recommend a resort with plenty of skiing above 2000m such as **Obergurgl, Sölden** and **Ischgl**.

Most resorts can expect at least a little snow over the next few days, but still not those game-changing dumps that have proved so elusive this season.



Plenty of greenery showing at low altitude in the north-eastern Alps. This is Berchtesgaden on the Austrian-German border - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

There is plenty of snow across the French resorts right now with generally very favourable conditions this half term - at least on-piste. Off-piste the mild temperatures have contributed to more variable snow quality.


The most impressive snow depths remain in the south - **Serre Chevalier** has 120/295cm depending on altitude, **Isola 2000** has 215-315cm (way above average in both cases).

Further north, snow levels are about what you would expect at this time of year with 130/190cm for **Val d'Isère** and 120/220cm for **Val Thorens**. Only below 1500m are depths a fraction below par, but all in all it's a solid picture for the French Alps with further snow due tonight and tomorrow, heaviest in the north.

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Skiing in June? Yep, there are plenty of good options in the Alps! tinyurl.com/llt6xzy



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Perfect weather, perfect snow on the Grande Motte glacier above Tignes today - Photo: tignes.net

Italy

Snow depths remain above average across the board – exceptional still in parts of the central and eastern Alps. **Madesimo** (in Lombardy close to the Swiss border) has a mind boggling 300/500cm depending on altitude, **Passo Tonale** 80/510cm. Further west, **Cervinia** is also impressive with 105/300cm, and even though 140/160cm for **Sauze d'Oulx** sounds relatively modest, this is still above par for what is one of the drier corners of the Alps.

So Italy's amazing season continues though temperatures have been quite mild this week, so do expect variable snow quality off-piste, particularly at low altitude. Only a little snow is expected from the next storm tomorrow, which will be heavier on the north-western side of the Alps.



Excellent snow cover in Italy's Aosta valley right now. This is Courmayeur - Photo: regione.vda.it

Switzerland

Snow conditions are generally very good across the Swiss Alps, though mild temperatures have meant variable snow quality at low altitude – especially off-piste.

The greatest snow depths remain in the south with 80/330cm in **Zermatt** and 165/215cm in **St Moritz**. Further north, 45/130cm is closer to or a little below average for **Wengen** but here, on-piste at least, the skiing remains very good.

Some fresh snow should further improve things tonight and tomorrow, heaviest across the northern Alps.



The deepest snow in Switzerland is in the south-east. This is the tiny resort of Juf in southern Graubünden - Photo: jufferien.ch

Rest of Europe

It's also been mild in the Pyrenees but, on-piste at least, conditions are still very good with 90/200cm for **Soldeu** above what they would normally expect in late February.

Most Norwegian resorts are also enjoying a good season with 173/178cm for **Hemsedal** and more in the forecast. Sweden's leading resort **Åre** also claims excellent on-piste conditions despite more modest depths of 45/69cm.

There has been no new snow in Bulgaria since last reported, with cover described as patchy in most resorts. By contrast, Scotland has more snow than it knows what to do with, at least at altitude with bases surpassing 4m in the western resorts of **Glencoe** and **Nevis Range**.



Good snow cover in the Pyrenees. This is Soldeu.

USA

There hasn't been a huge amount of snow in Colorado over the last few days, but conditions remain excellent in both **Breckenridge** (218cm upper Mt) and **Vail** (155cm).

Further north, **Jackson Hole** (Wyoming) is also skiing very well right now, with an impressive 228/267cm of snow depending on altitude and plenty more in the forecast.

For the deepest and freshest snow, however, you need head to the Pacific north-west where **Mt Baker** has seen nearly 3m of new snow in the last 2 weeks and boasts an impressive upper base of 4.2m.



It's seriously deep in the pacific north-west right now. This is Mt Baker - Photo: Jason Makowski

Canada

Whistler has seen well over 1m of snow since we last reported, transforming conditions from average to excellent. Here the upper mountain base is 224cm deep.

There has also been lots of snow in the interior, with powdery conditions reported in both **Fernie** (240cm upper mountain) and **Banff/Lake Louise** (114/189cm).

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 27 February 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates

