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Snow report

Updated: 1.20pm Thursday 15 January 2015

Conditions in the Alps remain mixed in this week's snow report, with the best skiing currently at altitude across the northern Alps - which saw between 10 and 30cm of new snow mid-week. Lower down, snow cover remains thin or patchy, especially (but not exclusively) across the Italian Alps, where it hasn't dumped properly for weeks now and many resorts have been reliant on artificial help.

In short, there is some decent skiing around (mostly on-piste), but snow depths remain below where they should be - way below in many cases - and more snow would be very welcome.

The good news is that there is snow on its way for everyone over the next few days, heaviest this time in the southern Alps (particularly in the central and eastern Italian Alps). What's more it will turn colder - very cold perhaps later next week. All in all then it's an improving picture...

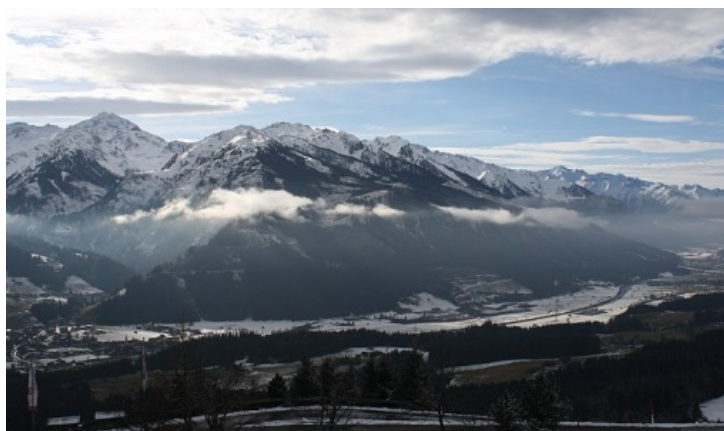
Across the pond the best conditions are now in Utah, while Californian resorts continue to struggle.

Austria

On balance, Austria has seen the best conditions in the Alps over the last couple of weeks, even if yo-yoing temperatures have still prevented some of the lower resorts from forming convincing bases. **Söll**, for example, only has 30/40cm of settled snow depending on altitude, while **Saalbach** has 30/60cm.

That's not to say that many high resorts look that impressive either - **Ischgl** has just 65cm up top, for example - but here the extra altitude means that snow depths are much more stable.

The good news for everyone is that snow is on its way, with the heaviest falls this weekend in resorts close to the Italian border - e.g. **Obergurgl** (35/130cm) and **Nassfeld** (15/40cm).



Generally speaking, there is snow down to lower levels in Austria than elsewhere in the Alps. This is Pass Thurn near Kitzbühel - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

There was new snow across the northern Alps on Wednesday - up to 20cm at altitude - which has freshened up the pistes nicely in the likes of **Val Thorens** (90/130cm) and **Tignes** (46/100cm).

Lower down, cover is still precarious in **La Clusaz** (10/95cm) and **Megève** (15/85cm), but things have improved higher up, and there is further snow forecast later on Friday and into Saturday.

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



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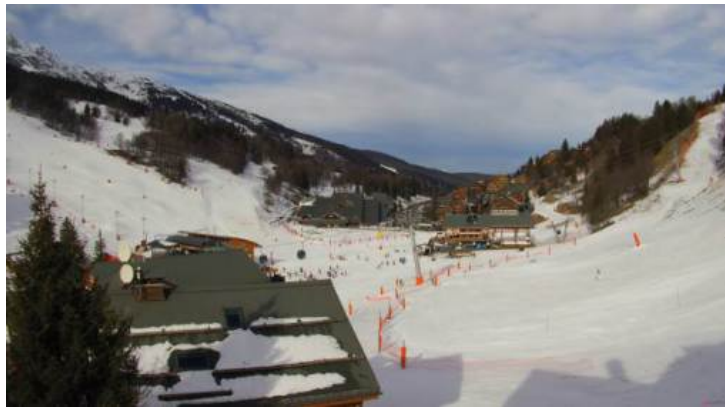
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Got a burning question about weather or snow conditions in the Alps? [Contact us](#) and we'll do our best to answer it..

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Thin cover low down in Méribel, but higher up there is some decent skiing to be had - Photo: meribel.net

Italy

Some Italian resorts close to the border regions, such as **Cervinia** (30/130cm), **Courmayeur** (10/70cm) and **Clavière** (30/60cm), have seen a little light snow this week but most places missed out and there hasn't been a big dump for some weeks now.

The lower Dolomite resorts such as **Selva** (5/55cm) have had a particularly lean time of it, relying heavily on artificial snow until now.

Fortunately, snow is on its way to all Italian resorts – heaviest in Lombardy and the Dolomites, where resorts such as **Livigno** (27/117cm) and **Cortina** (5/80cm) could see 50-80cm of fresh by the end of the weekend!



Little new snow at low altitude in the Italian Alps, but this should change over the weekend. This Kronplatz - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

Switzerland

Most Swiss resorts saw at least a little snow on Wednesday, with up to 20cm at altitude in parts of the west where, on-piste at least, resorts such as **Verbier** (5/95cm) and **Zermatt** (8/190cm) are skiing quite well.

Low resorts such as **Gstaad** (5/60cm) and **Wengen** (5/55cm) are also improving, but it will take several big dumps to get the season back on track.

The good news for everyone is that snow is on its way, heaviest this weekend in the south and east (e.g. **St Moritz** - 8/100cm).



St Moritz is one Swiss resort that should do well from the forecast snow this weekend - Photo: stmoritz.ch

Rest of Europe

The Pyrenees haven't seen much snow recently with some lower slopes looking worn. For the best conditions you need to aim high, and there is decent piste skiing available in both **Soldeu** (50/100cm) in Andorra and **Baqueira Beret**

(55/130cm) in Spain.

The most impressive recent snowfalls have been in western Norway, where **Voss** reports a massive 130cm of new snow over the last week with superb top to bottom conditions. Unfortunately these storms have had less of an effect in Sweden, with only a dusting of snow in **Åre** where settled snow depths are a more modest 40/45cm depending on altitude.

Scottish ski resorts have been severely affected by the weather this week – a combination of blizzards and high winds - but prospects are good once things settle down.

Bulgarian resorts are skiing ok with a dusting of recent snow refreshing pistes in **Bansko** (30/110cm).



Stormy conditions in the Lecht in Scotland, but conditions should be great once the wind calms down! - Photo: lecht.co.uk

USA

Utah resorts seem to have bagged the most snow over the last week or so – around 60cm in **Snowbird** where the mid-mountain base stands at a respectable 188cm.

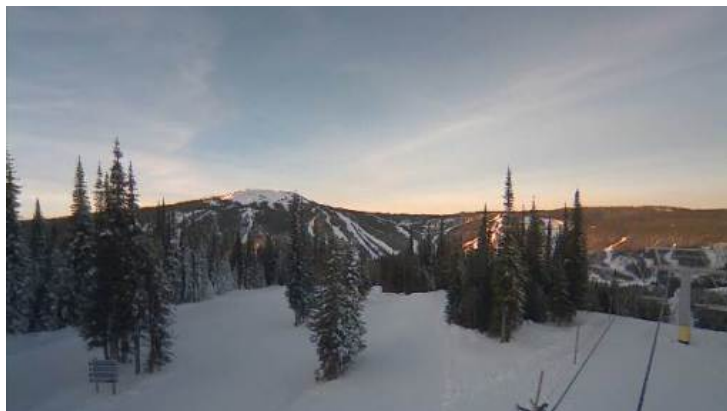
There hasn't been as much snow in Colorado recently but, on-piste at least, conditions are still very good with upper mountain depths of 124cm in **Aspen** and 132cm in **Breckenridge**.

Over in California, conditions are not so great. **Heavenly** reports 81cm mid-mountain but is reliant on considerable artificial help, and off-piste is very limited.

Canada

There hasn't been a huge amount of snow in **Whistler** in recent days so off-piste conditions are variable. On-piste, however, there is some decent skiing, particularly at altitude where the base depth is 124cm.

Not much new snow either further inland in **Fernie** (144cm upper base), but here too on-piste conditions are described as excellent.



Good snow cover in Sun Peaks - Photo: sunpeaksresort.com

Next full snow report will be on Monday 19 January 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates

