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Snow report

Updated: 5.15pm Monday 26 January 2015

Snow depths across the Alps may still be mostly below average, but snow conditions have improved markedly over the last few weeks, especially in the lower resorts of the northern Alps - which struggled so badly earlier the season.

What's more, we are on the brink of a particularly exciting period of weather as a frigid and highly unstable air mass descends upon practically the entire continent later this week, lasting well into next week.

Snowfall totals from this, the most eye-catching storm cycle of the season so far, are hard to predict, but most of the Alps will see substantial snow with the heaviest falls (at this stage) most likely in the northern French and western Swiss Alps.

The areas likely to see the least snow are the Italian Alps, but this is a generalisation and there are often surprises in this kind of set-up.

Austria

Most resorts have seen new snow over the last few days with further falls expected tonight (at least away from the far south).

Snow conditions are therefore pretty good, even if depths are still often quite modest, with 35/90cm of settled snow in **Saalbach** depending on altitude, and 45/55cm in **Ellmau**.

Higher up, it's no surprise that **Zürs** (60/120cm) and **Obertauern** (100/140cm) are in excellent shape (at least on-piste), with lots more snow to come later in the week.



Good conditions in the lower Austrian resorts, with more snow expected both tonight and later in the week. This is Kitzbühel - Photo: kitz.net

France

Light snow is refreshing the pistes across the northern French Alps this evening, especially in the Haute-Savoie where resorts such as **Avoriaz** (100/150cm) and **Flaine** (70/150cm) are offering excellent on-piste skiing on all but a few of the lowest runs.

Not surprisingly, higher resorts such as **Val d'Isère** (55/110cm) are also in pretty good shape, though the off-piste is still variable and often dangerous.

Heavy snow is expected in most regions later in the week, with the greatest

accumulations in the northern Alps.

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Light snow this afternoon in Les Saisies, with heavier snowfalls forecast later in the week - Photo: lessaisies.com

Italy

Italian resorts have only seen a dusting over the last few days but, at altitude at least, conditions are generally good thanks to more significant snowfalls last week.

Cervinia (40/220cm) and **Livigno** (55/165cm) are skiing as good as anywhere in the country right now. Lower resorts such as **Selva** (10/90cm) and **Courmayeur** (20/90cm) are also fine on-piste, but natural cover remains thin with many resorts still reliant on artificial help.

Snow is expected across most Italian resorts later in the week, but probably in lesser quantities than on the northern side of Alps.



Sunny skies today in Livigno, which offers some of the best conditions in Italy right now - Photo: valtline.it

Switzerland

It is snowing across much of the Swiss Alps this evening, with only some parts of the far south missing out.

The heaviest snow is once again across the northern half of the Alps, which is great news for the likes of **Mürren** (45/115cm) and **Engelberg** (35/285cm), which should offer fabulous conditions when skies clear later tomorrow.

Further south, **Zermatt** (10/180cm) and **St Moritz** (50/140cm) will see less snow this time around, but are still in good shape with more widespread snow expected later in the week.



Snowing this afternoon in Verbier, but not a patch on how much is expected later in the week -
Photo: verbier.ch

Rest of Europe

Conditions in the Pyrenees remain reasonable rather than spectacular with some light snow on the northern side of the chain today, including Andorra where **Soldeu** has 40/100cm of settled snow depending on altitude.

Conditions are improving in Bulgaria with new snow over the weekend in **Bansko** (40/160cm) where on-piste conditions are now excellent.

Norwegian resorts also continue to impress, particularly in the west of the country where **Voss** (110/195cm) has picked up another 25cm of fresh snow to add to its already impressive tally this season. Over in Sweden, **Salen** (75/86cm) can't boast as much new snow but is still in good overall shape.

Conditions are highly variable in the Scottish resorts thanks to the ever changing weather, but all five centres have snow. Base depths are 50/80cm depending on altitude in **Cairngorm**.



Light snow in the French Pyrenees today, with more expected later in the week. This is Font Romeu/Pyrénées 2000 - Photo: pyrenees2000.com

USA

Most Colorado resorts have seen little or no new snow in the last few days, but the likes of **Vail** (105cm mid-mountain base) and **Breckenridge** (145cm mid-mountain base) still offer excellent conditions by most standards, especially on-piste.

Jackson Hole (178/203cm) is also in good shape, but the Californian drought continues with **Squaw Valley** (83cm upper base) still heavily reliant on artificial snow.

Canada

Whistler's indifferent season continues with snow depths below where they should be for late January and an unusually mild spell creating spring-like conditions across the mountain. Thankfully it is about to cool down again with a little snow on the upper mountain at least, where the base is 127cm deep.

Further inland, it has also been mild but conditions in **Sun Peaks** (146cm upper base) and **Fernie** (134cm upper base) have generally been more consistent.



Not much fresh snow in western Canada right now but, on-piste at least, conditions remain ok. This is Sun Peaks - Photo: sunpeaksresort.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 29 January 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates