WE KNOW SNOW



Latest snow report

Latest snow forecast

Season progress report

Who got the most snow 2014-15?

Who got the most snow 2014-15 - N America

The snow quality equation

What is the Foehn?

Avoiding rain

Avalanche awareness

Who got the most snow 2013-14?

Who got the most snow 2013-14 - N. America

Who got the most snow 2012-13?

Who got the most snow 2012-13 - N. America

The winter of 2012-13 in pictures

Archive

2015-16

2014-15

2013-14

2012-13

Snow report

Updated: 3.15pm Monday 2 February 2015

It has been a very snowy few days in the northern Alps, with some places in the north-west (French Haute-Savoie) seeing 1.6m or more since Wednesday night. The southern Alps have also seen some snow, though accumulations have (generally speaking) been much more modest.

With temperatures set to remain low for the rest of the week, snow conditions are potentially as good as they have been all season, but remember that off-piste remains <u>dangerous</u>, especially (but not exclusively) in the north.

Bearing in mind the current dangers off-piste, the deepest freshest snow right now stretches in an arc from the western French Alps (e.g. **Alpe d'Huez**), through the Haute-Savoie (e.g. **La Clusaz, Avoriaz**), into the northern Swiss Alps (e.g. **Gstaad, Wengen, Engelberg**) and into north-western Austria (e.g. **Lech**). These are just examples of resorts that have exceptional snow conditions right now, but there are many more across the northern Alps, and one or two in the southern Alps as well (e.g. **La Thuile**, close to the French border).

Austria

Conditions are excellent across most of Austria with between 40 and 100cm of new snow since Thursday – a bit less in parts of the south (Carinthia).

Lech (110/280cm) in the far west has some of the deepest powder right now but, with temperatures remaining frigid, conditions are also excellent in low resorts such as **Kitzbühel** (55/80cm) and **Söll** (75/95cm).



Beautiful weather in the southern Austrian Alps this afternoon. This is Astental - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

Most French resorts have seen significant snowfalls in recent days – as much as 1.6m since Wednesday at altitude in parts of the Haute-Savoie, such as the Aravis and the northern end of the Chamonix valley (**Le Tour, Grand Montets**).

Snow conditions are therefore excellent in low resorts such as **Morzine** (90/230cm) and higher up in the likes of **Val d'Isère** (103/170cm).

On the whole, snowfalls have been slightly less extreme in the southern Alps, but you can still count on great skiing in both **Serre Chevalier** (40/150cm) and **Montgenèvre** (80/120cm).



plenty of good options in the Alps! tinyurl.com/llt6xzy



31 May



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Huge snow depths in the western French Alps right now. This is Alpe d'Huez - Photo: facebook.com/alpe.huez

Italy

On the whole, Italian resorts have again missed the heaviest of the recent snow, though there have been exceptions. For example, La Thuile (50/130cm) for example, close to the French border, saw 50cm on Friday.

Generally speaking though, 10-20cm was more the norm, which has freshened $\,$ things up in the likes of Selva (20/100cm) and Sauze d'Oulx (60/80cm) even if conditions remain less spectacular here than on the northern side of the Alps.



Less snow in most Italian resorts than on the northern side of the Alps, but good pistes nevertheless in Sestriere - Photo: vialattea.ch

Rest of Europe

The Pyrenees have also seen huge snowfalls – as much as 2m in places since Friday - with several resorts cut off over the weekend, including **Gourette** (180/270cm) and Cauterets (250/290cm) in France. Needless to say avalanche danger is also extremely high here – 5/5 today in the above mentioned resorts.

Bulgarian resorts are mostly back on track after a relatively indifferent start to the season, with 125/160cm of settled snow for Borovets.

Up in Scandinavia, the best conditions remain in Norway, with the deepest snow in western resorts such as **Voss** (110/240cm).

Last but not least, Scottish resorts also have plenty of snow (though variable weather), with the deepest cover at altitude in ${\bf Glencoe}$ (60/170cm).



Massive snowfalls in the Pyrenees. This is Baqueira Beret in Spain - Photo: Richard Visick

Switzerland

Most Swiss resorts are wallowing in the white stuff right now – the exception being the far south, where snowfalls in resorts such as $\bf St \ Moritz \ (55/145cm)$ and $\bf Saas-Fee \ (65/260cm)$ have been much more modest.

The heaviest of the recent snow has been in the north-west, where Leysin (95/120cm) has seen 40cm+ in the last 24 hours alone. Generally speaking, the western Alps have had 80-130cm of new snow since Thursday.

With temperatures remaining low, it goes without saying that snow conditions will be fantastic this week, but extreme caution is still needed off-piste where there have been a number of fatalities in recent days.



Excellent snow conditions across Switzerland at the moment. This is Zinal - Photo: valdanniviers.ch

USA

Colorado resorts have seen a few cm of new snow here and there but nothing significant since our last report. Conditions in **Vail** (99cm mid-mountain base) and **Aspen** (124cm mid-mountain) remain good, however, especially on-piste.

It's a similar story in Wyoming and Utah where **Jackson Hole** (193cm) and **Alta** (163cm) have seen bits and pieces of snow, but no significant dump for a while.



Excellent piste skiing still in Breckenridge, Colorado - Photo: breckenridge.com

Canada

Whistler's (133cm mid mountain) relatively disappointing season continues. A little new snow has freshened the pistes up, but it's been a while since they have

had a major dump and the off-piste remains highly variable.

Conditions are more consistent inland with 161cm of settled snow up top in $\bf Big$ $\bf White$ and 131cm in $\bf Kicking\ Horse.$

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 5 February 2015, but see <u>Today in the Alps</u> for daily updates

