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Snow report

Updated: 2.45pm Monday 23 February 2015

Following a glorious spell of weather over half-term, it turned unsettled again over the weekend with snow for many southern and western parts of the Alps.

The heaviest snow was in the northern Aosta, Piedmont and Lombardy regions of Italy, as well as central southern Switzerland and the extreme western edge of the Dolomites. These regions saw 50-70cm of new snow.

The rest of Switzerland, Italy and the French Alps saw more like 10-40cm of snow, though only 5cm for some central and eastern parts of the Dolomites. Most Austrian resorts also saw no more than a dusting.

Today (Monday) another storm is affecting the north-western Alps. It will turn briefly milder this afternoon with rain to 1400-1600m in some exposed north-western resorts (e.g. **Portes du Soleil**), before any snowfall descends to low levels again tonight.

Tonight and tomorrow (Tuesday) snow showers will become more frequent further east, affecting much of the northern half of the Alps. Southern regions will see bits and pieces of snow but, generally, speaking nothing too significant.

Overall then, conditions should be excellent in most resorts once skies clear (hopefully on Wednesday and Thursday) with more snow possible later in the week.

Austria

Austrian resorts missed the heaviest of the weekend snow but should do better this week, especially on Tuesday.

Conditions are still generally pretty good, particularly at altitude, with 45/195cm of snow bedded down in **Obergurgl** and 85/150cm in **Lech**.

Lower resorts are also offering decent skiing, though snow quality is a little more variable in the likes of **Söll** (50/70cm).



Mostly dry today in the central/eastern Austrian Alps. This is Pass Thurn near Kitzbühel - Photo: foto-webcam.eu

France

All French resorts saw snow over the weekend - typically 15-25cm, but locally 40cm+ in the south. Further snow (and at low altitude a little rain) has reached the northern French Alps today, but snow will fall to low levels again tonight as colder air digs in from the north.

So, with plenty of fresh snow (particularly in the northern half of the Alps), conditions look set to remain excellent for the foreseeable future, especially

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when the weather clears mid-week.

Further south there will be less new snow, but depths are generally still impressive. **Isola 2000** has 100/150cm of settled snow, while **Val Thorens** has 110/165cm and **Avoriaz** has 170/290cm.



Snowing this afternoon in Les Saisies (Savoie) - Photo: lessaisies.com

Italy

Snow conditions are nothing short of fantastic in the central and western Italian Alps, where up to 70cm of new snow fell at the weekend. **Cervinia** now has 110/350cm of settled snow on its pistes, while **Madesimo** has 200/480cm.

Further south, **Sestriere** (140/180cm) is also in great shape, but more snow would still be welcome in the far east (central and eastern Dolomites). **Selva** (20/110cm) can still offer excellent piste skiing but has not seen a serious dump for quite some time, meaning off-piste opportunities are limited.



Still bright on the south-eastern side of the Alps. This is Alta Badia - Photo: altabadia.org

Switzerland

All Swiss resorts saw some snow over the weekend – generally 10-30cm but as much as 70cm in some parts of the far south (Ticino).

Snow conditions are therefore good, with further snowfall in the north and west later today spreading further east tomorrow. Just watch out for a temporary rise in the rain/snow level in some exposed north-western resorts (e.g. **Villars** - 40/125cm) this afternoon.

Andermatt (85/480cm) has some of the most impressive snow depths in Alps right now, with **Davos** (45/155cm) and **Zermatt** (15/300cm) also skiing superbly.



Snowing at altitude in the Portes du Soleil. This is Champéry/Les Crosets - Photo: idelec.ch

Rest of Europe

The Pyrenees have also seen new snow and, with further massive dumps expected this week, the second half of the season looks very promising indeed. **Baqueira Beret** (Spain) has 215/310cm of settled snow and **Pas de La Casa** (Andorra) 150/200cm.

Bulgarian resorts haven't seen a great deal of snow in the last week but, on-piste at least, conditions remain good with 60/22cm of settled snow in **Bansko** depending on altitude.

Scottish ski areas are largely stormbound today, but conditions look promising once the weather clears with lots of new snow at **Nevis Range** (40/140cm).

Western Norway remains the place to be in Scandinavia, at least if it's powder you want, with lower/upper bases of 110/195cm in **Voss**, and more snow in the forecast. Over in Sweden, they have only had bits and pieces of new snow recently, but on-piste conditions are perfectly decent in **Åre** (45/56cm).



Big snowfalls again expected in the Pyrenees this week. This is Les Angles in France - Photo: lesangles.com

USA

Snow has been falling in many western US resorts freshening up pistes in **Alta** (188cm mid-mountain) and **Aspen** (163cm upper mountain), with plenty more in the forecast.

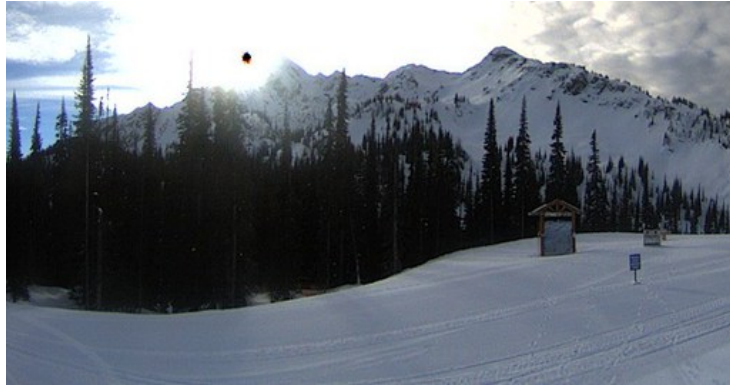
A little snow has also fallen in California, but not nearly enough to get their difficult season back on track. **Mammoth** has an upper base of 107cm, but much of this is man-made.

Canada

Whistler's (143cm mid-mountain) frustrating season continues with virtually no snow in recent days and very little in the medium term forecast. On-piste conditions are ok on the upper half of the mountain, but lower down snow quality is highly variable and off-piste opportunities are limited.

As has been the case for much of this season snow conditions are more consistent inland. **Big White** has 200cm of snow packed down on its upper

slopes, while the **Lake Louise/Banff** area has 157cm.



Better snow conditions inland in western Canada in resorts like Revelstoke (pictured), than closer to the coast - Photo: revelstokemountainresort.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 26 February 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates