

[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: 9.15am Thursday 2 April 2015

It has been an eventful week of weather in the Alps - to put it mildly! The wind has been the dominant feature, particularly at altitude, with lift operations severely affected in many resorts.

Rain was also a nuisance earlier in the week, particularly below 1600-1800m and in the northern and western Alps. Needless to say, there has also been plenty of snow, most of which initially fell above 1800m in the northern French and Swiss Alps. However, the snow has since moved east into Austria and, with a big drop of temperature, fallen to increasingly low altitudes.

With some exceptions (such as the northern and western Aosta valley), the southern Alps have seen the driest and brightest weather this week, but even here the wind has been problematic at times.

In short, there is lots of fresh snow across the northern Alps, particularly (but not exclusively at altitude), the freshest of which is across Switzerland and Austria. However, with so much wind this week, this has been very unevenly distributed with a high risk of avalanche off-piste.

Austria

Away from the far south, many Austrian resorts have seen significant snow over the last couple of days, even at relatively low altitudes.

Wind permitting, conditions are therefore excellent for the time of year with base depths of 70/220cm in **Lech** and 140/180cm in **Obertauern**. Even low-lying resorts such as **Kitzbühel** (62/106cm) look wintry again, with further snow in the forecast.





Winter is back in Austria. This is Kitzbühel - Photo: kitz.net

France


There has been plenty of snow in the northern French Alps over the last few days - initially only at altitude (with rain below 1800m) but, with the colder weather mid-week, some has also fallen lower down. The wind has been the big talking point, closing many of the higher lifts, and it could remain strong until Friday.

With so much weather going on, it is no surprise that snow conditions are highly variable and off-piste remains dangerous. **Val d'Isère** has 100/195cm of settled snow depending on altitude, while **Avoriaz** has 140/290cm.


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Snow hanging on in Les Gets - Photo: lesgets.com

Italy

Weathertoski has been in **La Thuile** (30/145cm) this week where, like many other Alpine resorts, the wind has been an issue allowing only a fraction of the area to open. Though, with the arrival of much colder air on Wednesday, the snow is now firmer – remaining “wintry” on north-facing slopes even at quite low levels.

Further east, **Livigno** (31/177cm) also offers excellent piste conditions, despite missing out on most of the recent snow.



Decent snow conditions in La Thuile for the time of year, despite the green looking valley - Photo: weathertoski.co.uk

Switzerland

The Swiss Alps have seen plenty of snow showers over the last couple of days, including to relatively low levels following the big drop in temperature on Wednesday. The wind has been an issue, however, especially at altitude where the likes of **Saas-Fee** (70/350cm) have seen very limited lift operations this week.

All in all though, conditions are potentially pretty good for the time of year (once the weather settles down) with settled snow depths in **St Moritz** of 26/158cm, and 55/211cm in **Davos**.



Heavy snow in eastern Switzerland today. This is Amden - Photo: amden.ch

Rest of Europe

There is still plenty of snow in the Pyrenees, though spring conditions are the order of the day in **Soldeu** (90/150cm).

Norwegian resorts have seen some fresh snow this week, with excellent conditions still reported in **Hemsedal** where the mid-mountain depth is 108cm.

Scottish resorts can also offer some fantastic late season conditions following days of heavy snowfall – especially in the west, where base depths in **Glencoe** are 95/230cm.



Excellent snow cover in western Scotland. This is Glencoe - Photo: winterhighland.com

USA

Colorado resorts have seen little or no snow in the last week, with spring conditions firmly in place. **Vail** has 113cm of snow packed down on its upper pistes, while **Breckenridge** has 170cm. It's a similar situation in Utah, where **Snowbird** reports 178cm of settled snow.

Canada

Conditions in **Whistler** (188cm mid-mountain base) remain mixed, with some reasonable skiing on offer up top (where some new snow is forecast) but spring firmly in charge lower down.

Further east, the **Banff/Lake Louise** area has 164cm of settled snow up top.



Good snow cover still in the Banff/Lake Louise area - Photo: skilouise.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 9 April 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates