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Snow report

Updated: Thursday 6 February 2014

On the whole, conditions are pretty good in the Alps, though there remains a stark difference between the incredible snow depths in the south (particularly the south-east) and the north (particularly northern Austria).

Over the next few days a very mobile Atlantic airstream will bring further unsettled weather to the Alps with the bulk of the snow at altitude in the west. It will never be particularly cold, however, and some rain is also possible at low altitudes, particularly in the north-western Alps.

Austria

Rarely have we seen such contrasts in snow conditions in Austria. In the far south, snow depths are exceptional following the recent record-breaking dumps – **Nassfeld** (close to the Italian/Slovenian border) has 410cm of settled snow at altitude. In the far north – especially in the Salzburg area – some of the lower slopes are completely green, and you would be forgiven for thinking it was mid-April, not early February.

Bad Gastein (30/145cm) is one such resort. On the face of it, the figures look fine and to be fair there is still plenty of good piste skiing at altitude. However, as the image below will testify, lots more snow is needed if serious problems are to be avoided later in the season.

Elsewhere in Austria, conditions are generally reasonable, at least if you are not expecting too much off-piste. **Obertauern** has 90/130cm of settled snow depending on altitude, **Lech** 85/100cm.

The medium term forecast is for it to remain relatively mild with "bits and pieces" of snow at times but not much in the lower down where it is most needed.



Bad Gastein, Austria - Photo: gastein.com

France

All French resorts have seen new snow in the last 36 hours, and conditions are generally very good. The heaviest falls have been in the south, with 30-40cm in places, and typically 10-30cm further north. **Avoriaz** has 150/230cm of consolidated snow depending on altitude, **Les Arcs** 100/180cm. However, the most impressive snow cover in the French Alps is in **Isola 2000** (near Nice) with 220/310cm.

Further snowfall is likely across most French resorts in the next few days, though it will never be very cold - which means some rain is also possible at low altitude.

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Fresh snow for parts of the Alps this morning:
tinyurl.com/d9cz7z2



17 Jun

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Val d'Isère - Photo: valdisere.com

Italy

Generally speaking, Italy continues to have the deepest snow in the Alps – too deep in fact in parts of the east, where over 2m of fresh snow fell in places last weekend and some resorts (e.g. **Arabba**) are still struggling to make their ski areas safe.

Where the skiing is open, however, conditions are superb, with base depths of 160/310cm in **Cortina** and 250/400cm in **Madesimo**. Conditions are also excellent further west in **Cervinia** (200/380cm) and **La Thuile** (70/190cm) with further snow to come over the next few days.



Gressoney, Italy - Photo: monterosa-ski.com

Switzerland

All Swiss resorts have seen new snow in the last few days though, generally speaking, in fairly modest quantities. One exception is **Saas-Fee**, close to the Italian border, where depths of 105/335cm are exceptional for this relatively dry corner of the Alps.

Further north, figures are less impressive in **Wengen** (45/115cm) and **Klosters** (45/125cm), but here too there is plenty of good skiing to be found.

The forecast over the next few days is very mixed, with Atlantic storms delivering further snow, heaviest at altitude and in the west, but also the risk of some rain at low altitude.



Juf, Switzerland - Photo: jufferien.ch

Rest of Europe

Conditions remain impressive in the Pyrenees with 130/210cm of settled snow in **Pas de la Casa** (Andorra) and 215/285cm in **Baqueira Beret** (Spain).

Not much new snow has fallen in Bulgaria recently but, on-piste at least, there is still some reasonable skiing to be found in **Bansko** (30/100cm). More snow is needed though.

Over in Scandinavia it's better news for **Hemsedal** (Norway) with fresh snow and consolidated depths of 157/165cm. In Sweden, the best conditions are probably in **Salen**, where all 86 of the area's lifts are open and snow levels are 60/100cm.

A special mention too for Scotland, where snow depths are exceptional (especially in the west) with 120/250cm for **Cairngorm** and 155/330cm for **Glencoe**.

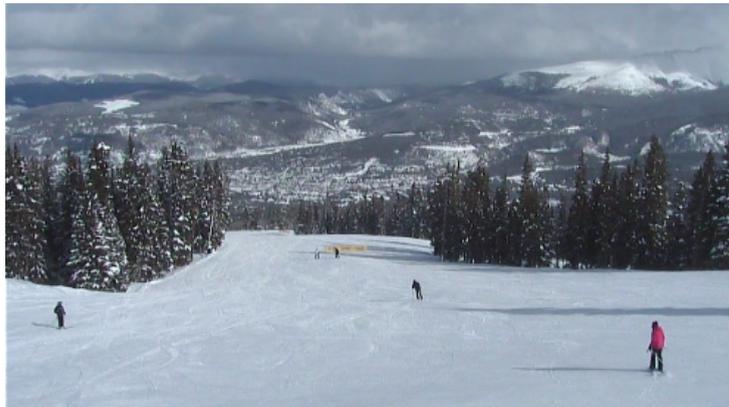


Cairngorm, Scotland - Photo: cairngormmountain.org

USA

Conditions are excellent across Colorado, where huge amounts of snow have fallen over the last week and more is forecast. **Aspen** has 206cm of settled snow at altitude, **Vail** 163cm.

Over in California, conditions are slowly improving after one of their worst ever starts to the season. **Heavenly** reports new snow and base depths of 94cm, but there is still a long way to go before they can claim to be anything like close to par. The forecast is promising however with a "game changing" storm forecast for California over the weekend.



Breckenridge, Colorado - Photo: breckenridge.com

Canada

Whistler has seen no snow for over a week now and, while on-piste conditions are reasonable, options are more limited off the beaten track. Fresh snow is expected to improve the situation early next week.

Further inland new snow would also be welcome (and should arrive next week) though, generally speaking, snow cover remains impressive in the likes of **Fernie** (177cm up top) and **Revelstoke** (145cm).

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 13 February 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates