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Snow report

Updated: Thursday 9 January 2014

A very mild week is taking its toll in some of the lower resorts – especially Austria – but higher up there is still plenty of good skiing to be had, particularly across the southern Alps.

A colder and potentially snowy air mass is set to sweep south across the Alps next week which should improve conditions across the board.

Austria

Snow cover is patchy at low altitude (not helped by the recent warm spell) and more snow is urgently needed to avoid serious problems later in the season.

For now, there is still plenty of piste skiing, even in low resorts such as **Kitzbühel** (30/80cm) and **Söll** (20/50cm) though the snow is often in a spring-like state, particularly in the afternoons.

Higher up, conditions are slightly better though snow depths are still below par and there is no off-piste to speak of in the likes of **Ischgl** (15/65cm), **St Anton** (20/80cm) and **Lech** (60/60cm).

Glaciers aside, the best conditions are in **Obergurgl** (90/195cm) thanks both to its altitude and its proximity to Italy where the heaviest of the recent snow has fallen.

The medium term forecast is more promising with colder and potentially snowy weather arriving next week. It should be said, however, that snowfall amounts at this stage are very uncertain.



Kitzbühel, Austria - Photo: kitz.net

France

At altitude (above 1800m or so) snow depths are about right for the time of year. Below this level, they are generally below average, a situation not helped by the mild conditions experienced this week.

The best conditions right now are in resorts with plenty of skiing above 2500m such as **Val d'Isère** (70/110cm) and **Val Thorens** (100/160cm). By contrast, the likes of **La Clusaz** (25/155cm) and **Megève** (20/90cm) have been experiencing spring-like snow, despite reasonable cover.

Things should improve next week with colder temperatures and new snow forecast.

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



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Saint Gervais, France - Photo: ski-saintgervais.com

Italy

Italy saw the heaviest of the recent snowfall and is still (on average) in the best shape of the main Alpine countries. That said, nowhere has escaped the milder weather this week so the best snow quality is at altitude in resorts like **Cervinia** (55/160cm) and **Livigno** (90/188cm).

Lower down, resorts such as **Courmayeur** (50/110cm) and **Selva** (60/155cm) still have plenty of snow but have been experiencing spring-like conditions, especially in the afternoons.

Colder and potentially snowy weather is expected to return next week.



Livigno, Italy - Photo: valtine.it

Switzerland

The best conditions in Switzerland are in the high resorts in the south of the country such as **Zermatt** and **St Moritz** (105/162cm), both of which have above average snow depths and are skiing superbly.

Further north, conditions are more mixed - not least due to the mild temperatures this week which has meant spring-like conditions on the lower slopes of resorts such as **Wengen** (25/85cm) and **Villars** (20/90cm).

Colder weather with some snow is expected next week.



Val Müstair, Switzerland - Photo: valmüstair.com

Rest of Europe

Snow cover is still excellent across the Pyrenees, though mild temperatures this week have meant freeze-thaw conditions, especially in the lower resorts. **Arcalis** in Andorra has settled snow depths of 100/180cm right now (depending on altitude) with 145/195cm in **Baqueira Beret** in the Spanish Pyrenees.

Snow depths remain more modest across Scandinavia, but on piste at least conditions are described as excellent in both **Hemsedal**, Norway (80cm) and **Åre**, Sweden (45/55cm).

Conditions in Bulgaria are mediocre right now, with some reasonable piste skiing but no significant snowfall for some time. **Bansko** has 10/70cm of snow depending on altitude.



Porté-Puymorens, France - Photo: porte-puymorens.com

USA

Conditions are generally very good in Colorado thanks to fresh snowfalls this week. **Breckenridge** now has 142cm of settled snow on the mountain, **Vail** 102cm, with more snow forecast on Friday – though this time it will be heaviest in the south of the state (e.g. **Wolf Creek**, **Telluride**).

Conditions are also good in the northern Rockies with upper snow depths of 152cm reported in **Big Sky**, Montana (one of the most consistent resorts this season) and 116/144cm depending on altitude in **Jackson Hole**, Wyoming.

The one state to avoid is California where they don't seem to be able to buy a flake of snow right now, and resorts such as Mammoth have limited piste skiing that is largely reliant on artificial snow.

Canada

Whistler (106cm mid-mountain) has endured a distinctly disappointing start to the season with few off-piste opportunities in recent weeks. Things are now looking up, however, with significant snowfall expected over the next few days.

Early season conditions have been better further inland, with the likes of **Revelstoke** (141cm up top) and **Fernie** (166cm up top) in excellent shape right now and further snow falling this week.



Sun Peaks, British Columbia, Canada - Photo: sunpeaksresort.com

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 16 January 2014, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates